Social Sustainable Decarbonisation
A Quick-Guide to Just and Inclusive Transitions
In this Quick-Guide

- Why we need to act
- Key social issues
- What must be done
Why we need to act

A **pressuring climate crisis** leads to an acceleration of the green transition

Green transition and decarbonization efforts may **engrave existing social inequities**

**Social sustainability is not systematically addressed** as part of the green transition

⇒ the **environmental AND the social** contract of society must be revisited as part of **one just transition** that **leaves no one behind**
Key social issues in the green transition

Vision for a just and inclusive transition

On equal footing, all European citizens should influence, shape, have access to and benefit from the transition to a decarbonised built environment.

Key issues to get there

- Jobs and labour market
- Affordable housing and energy
- Health
ISSUE 1

Jobs and labour market

OPPORTUNITIES

• New jobs and new skills are needed
• The green transition can strengthen circular economy and a locally based labour market

CHALLENGES

• Do we see a skills mis-match and how may it be described? Can new jobs be filled by the existing work force? Who is left behind?
• Skills mis-match and cost savings may entail a risk of shifting (some) jobs from local to global
• There is a need for regulation and for ensuring accountability in global supply chains
• We need to enforce labour rights to protect migrant and other vulnerable workers with deprived working conditions in the construction sector
ISSUE 2
Affordable housing and energy

OPPORTUNITIES
- Community mobilisation models e.g. Community Land Trusts (CLT) may be a lever for **socially inclusive and accessible housing**
- The ‘15-minute City’ as a model which is **socially accessible for all**

CHALLENGES
- Decarbonization may **increase costs of housing** - meaning that low income residents have less access to buy and keep their own property - particularly in attractive cities
- Green renovations may be lead to social exclusion and in worst case **renovictions**
- Decarbonization may increase **energy poverty** as low income groups cannot afford or have low access to energy renovations
- **Green policies and do NOT address** social inequities arising from policies
OPPORTUNITIES

• Green renovations lead to a healthier built environment

CHALLENGES

• Decarbonization increases existing health inequalities as the green and healthier built environment is more expensive and thus not accessible for all
• Deprived areas may be less likely to receive green renovations
### Drivers for change

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<td>Development of a common language, awareness and knowledge base</td>
<td>A holistic and inclusive approach to decarbonising the built environment</td>
<td>Multi-stakeholder collaboration and commitment</td>
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Building of a common language and facilitating a common understanding of the key challenges and issues at stake. This concerns something more than the coordination between stakeholders and initiatives, but rather a common approach to the field.

A social equity lens has to be systematically integrated across the full lifecycle of the building in the decarbonisation process: From design to end-of-life. Also, citizens’ needs must at the heart of the design, and decision-making must explore preferences of different citizens across gender, age, ethnicity etc.

There is a need for strong multi-stakeholder collaboration and commitment to ensure that social equity is considered, driven and implemented as part of the decarbonisation process. This requires a number of different tools depending on stakeholders, sectors and the character of the intervention.
# What must be done

Below is a list of to-the-point recommendations for the four most important stakeholder groups that are all key to a successful, just and inclusive decarbonisation of the built environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY MAKERS</th>
<th>FINANCE</th>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>COMMUNITY AND END USERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Integrate social equity dimension in policies and programmes</td>
<td>• Adopt internationally recognised social equity standards</td>
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<td>• Organise and build networks</td>
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<td>• Include citizen groups in decision making</td>
<td>• Comply with national policy requirements</td>
<td>• Include citizens in design</td>
<td>• Use existing platforms and networks to advocate.</td>
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<td>• Strengthen knowledge base</td>
<td>• Commit to socially responsible investments</td>
<td>• Comply with national policy requirements</td>
<td>• Integrate theme in lobby and advocacy</td>
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<td>• Set standards and requirements</td>
<td>• Monitor social impacts</td>
<td>• Monitor the impact on social sustainability and equity of efforts</td>
<td>• Build and spread evidence and knowledge</td>
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<td>• Develop certifications</td>
<td>• Demand and monitor supply chain accountability</td>
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<td>• Promote campaigns</td>
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<td>• Create economic incentives</td>
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<td>• Commit to socially responsible investments</td>
<td>• Set the good example</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Protect and enforce labour rights</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Demand and monitor supply chain accountability</td>
<td>• Promote best practice.</td>
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