

BRAVE – Developing new financing solutions to scale local energy solutions out of the "pilot trap"

Between early-stage R&D and large-scale energy infrastructure, mid-scale local clean energy systems fall into an investment "valley of death" as they fail to find scalable financing solutions.

To bridge this "business readiness" gap, BRAVE brings together six European cities and regions to co-develop lasting public-private investment models, connecting local energy systems with scalable finance solutions.

BRAVE – OVERVIEW

- 12 organisations
- 6 countries (FR, NL, BE, SE, DN, NO)
- 6 regional ecosystems
- €150m mobilised
- 2024 – 2028

Energy systems explored:

- Rooftop PV
- EVs for public transport
- Industrial hydrogen
- Energy communities
- Residential heat pumps



Challenge

Local energy systems in Europe suffer from low business readiness, unable to attract external financing and reliant on continued public subsidies – leaving them stuck in the "pilot trap".



Concept

New partnership, finance, and business models between public authorities and private energy investors are needed to de-risk and scale up investment in Europe's local energy sector.



Approach

12 organisations from 6 European countries will create regional investment ecosystems – mobilising a combined €150m of new investment into local energy systems to find scalable public-private approaches.



Unlocking €150m+ in local energy investment across six European regions



Developing Rotterdam's next-gen Smart Energy Systems Programme

📍 Rotterdam, NL € 10m

The City of Rotterdam will build on its flagship regional start-up subsidy programme with €10m of new investment, in partnership with InnovationQuarter and ICOS Capital.



Scaling finance for a €130m low-carbon public transport fleet

📍 Amiens, FR € 130m

Pôle MEDEE and CD2E will roll out replicable investment and partnership models for Amiens' €130m low-carbon (EV and biodiesel) public bus fleet.



Building a business case for a €30m industrial hydrogen hub

📍 Brabant, NL € 30m

Business support organisation BOM will identify the business and market conditions required to crowd-in €30m in investment to scale up an industrial hydrogen hub.



Building the investment case for urban energy communities

📍 Malmö, SE € 5m

The City of Malmö will work with social housing developers to identify business models to scale-up >€5m smart local energy system investments.



Building the business case for heat pumps in low-income homes

📍 Antwerp, BE € 2m

Flanders cluster Flux50 will work with the City of Antwerp and local ESCOs to build a €2m investment case for residential heat pumps for low-income homes.



Financing Europe's largest municipal PV guarantee scheme

📍 Aarhus, DK € 13m

The City of Aarhus will test private loans and public guarantees for a €13m investment in 70,000m2 of rooftop solar.

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Want to learn more or get involved in financing Europe's local energy sector?

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