10TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS

Mobile workshops

Aalborg, Denmark  |  October 1-3 2024
Mobile Workshops

There are 15 mobile workshops to choose from at Aalborg2024, and they are all taking place on the morning of Thursday, 3rd October.

All mobile workshops set off centrally in Aalborg and include lunch.
Urban transformation through sustainable public transport

8.30-13.00

Tour through the city and hop on board the Bus Rapid Transportation system (BRT)

Denmark's fourth largest city has been working on the implementation of a Bus Rapid Transit system since 2017. The project was inaugurated in September 2023 and was the first BRT-system in Denmark. The BRT system is commonly referred to as PlusBus and is seen not only as a sustainable mobility project, but as an integrated urban development project shaping a sustainable city. Urban planning, urban design and traffic planning go hand in hand to provide the best service for PlusBus passengers, and to create close interaction with the city for the benefit of all.

The tour covers a 12km-long route on the new electric buses, and starts with a general introduction to the project, its motivations and information about the bus system. There will be several stops along the way, where we will look at individual urban development projects that are directly linked to the PlusBus. There will also be stops at newly constructed urban spaces and important bus stops.

The tour guides are employees who have been closely involved in all phases and facets of the project.

Local bus trip/maximum 15 participants
Innovating the local food system

9.00-13.00

Countryside tour to visit local green deal partners

On this tour, you will travel to the countryside in the western part of Aalborg municipality. Here you will visit one of Aalborg Municipality’s Local Green Deal partners, which is a large, modern and organic broiler chicken producer and operator of 1,800 hectares of land. The partners also run their own slaughterhouse and make heat exchangers for agriculture and industry. These heat exchangers are a climate technology producing up to 80% energy savings.

The next stop on this tour is an agricultural school, where you will learn how the school educates the Danish farmers-of-the-future to work with sustainability and enables them to support the green transition, in which this industry is a major player.

Finally, you will stop off at another Local Green Deal partner where you will have a light lunch with a twist, as well as an opportunity to talk about this unique place and the journey towards local and sustainable food.

Bus trip / maximum 40 participants
Using nature to support climate goals

9.00-13.00

Tour through the countryside to visit nature-based projects

The first stop on this tour is Hals Mose, 25 km northeast of Aalborg, a restored bog now thriving after centuries of drainage and agriculture. This project combines climate-lowland management and nature restoration, featuring new recreational paths and significant greenhouse gas reductions by halting carbon decomposition.

On our way to Ny Vrå, we'll pass Store Vildmose, once Europe's largest raised bog at 64 km² with peat layers up to 5 metres thick. Today, it is known for sphagnum production and the famous Vildmose potato. From 2015 to 2023, the EU LIFE project focused on restoring this bog, implementing measures like Denmark's largest membrane, over 3 km long, and additional dams and barriers to maintain high water levels and support bog restoration.

Ny Vrå is our final stop, located near Tylstrup, 20 km north of Aalborg, where willow fields provide a sustainable compost alternative to peat moss. This family-run, organic business has been innovating since 1989. Enjoy presentations on bog restoration benefits and engage in discussions on sustainable practices.

Join us to see impactful projects advancing climate action and biodiversity.

Bus trip / maximum 40 participants
Lowering climate footprint from constructions through Local Green Deals

9.00-13.00

Visit to different stakeholders in the value chain of Aalborg Municipality's construction projects

On this tour, you will learn how Aalborg Municipality lowers the climate’s footprint in construction through partnerships with local stakeholders – the innovative approach of Local Green Deals. It is vital to work with the whole value chain of a sector to make a successful green transformation. Construction and buildings are large sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, we will support and facilitate the developing process of greening the sector.

On this tour you will meet different stakeholders in the value chain and will learn how the municipality engages in collaborative partnerships to ensure local transformative actions and commitment. This includes a visit to Løvvangen InBetween, which enjoys emission-free working machines, Klarup Kindergarten, a DGNB certified kindergarten and Gistrup School, a renovation project with a focus on recycled materials.

Bus trip / maximum 30 participants
Hydrogen – the corner stone for Power-to-X products

9.00-13.00

Tour to discover the future of the energy and transport sector in North Jutland

Hydrogen is the foundation for Power-to-X products. It is hence fundamental for the future energy and transport sector to have a robust and efficient value chain for hydrogen. This is being developed in the North Jutland region, as the area is quite unique.

On this tour, you will learn about Denmark’s hydrogen production on a visit to the hydrogen production facility, HyBalance, in “Hydrogen Valley”.

On the trip to Hydrogen Valley, you will also visit one of Denmark’s two gas storage facilities at Lille Thorup, which is the only facility involving salt caverns. Simultaneously, you will learn about Denmark’s hydrogen plans regarding a national and a transnational transmission system for clean hydrogen.

Regional bus trip / maximum 50 participants
Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage in Aalborg

9.00-13.00

Tour through Aalborg Portland and the Port of Aalborg

Carbon Capture will be one of the most key technologies in the realization of climate neutrality. But how do we capture it and what becomes of the carbon afterwards? This tour will enlighten you with both capture technology, further utilisation of carbon and underground storage potentials.

You will start the tour at a cement production facility, Aalborg Portland, which is the largest single point emitter of CO₂ in Denmark. Here you will see carbon capture technology in action, which is being tested through the projects ConsenCUS and GreenCEM.

You will then continue to the Port of Aalborg where you will gain insights about carbon storage and the role of European ports regarding CCUS. This will be followed by a visit to a methanol fuel cells manufacturer, Blue World Technology, where you will get an introduction to the port’s symbiosis test area, which includes a pilot methanol production facility.

Local bus trip / maximum 50 participants
District heating/cooling and CCUS at Aalborg Utility and Nordværk

9.00-13.00

Tour to visit key players in the green energy sector

Denmark has one of the most efficient heating systems in the world, where more than 60% of the Danish population is supplied with district heating. On this tour, you will learn about the district heating and cooling network of Aalborg Municipality. This includes the out-phasing of coal at the combined heat and power plant, the utilisation of surplus heat from Aalborg Portland and waste incineration plant, Nordværk, as well as the largest sea water heat pump in the world.

The tour also includes an introduction to Norbis Business Park, which is a test and demonstration site for new green energy technologies. Here you will also learn about a future project called Fjord PtX, which seeks to supply the aviation sector with a sustainable propellant, for which the project will utilize CO₂ from Nordværk to produce methanol as a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (e-SAF). The domestic aviation route from Aalborg to Copenhagen will fly on e-fuels from 2025.

Local bus trip / maximum 50 participants
Get Up Close to the World’s Largest Offshore Wind Turbines

8.30-13.00

Tour of one of Denmark’s two national test centres for large wind turbines

Visit one of Denmark’s two national test centres for large wind turbines located in Østerild, in the region of Thy. During the tour, you’ll have the opportunity to challenge your sense of scale as you get up close to the turbines, with their blades whooshing right over your head.

The wind turbines tested in Østerild are offshore wind turbines, and with their impressive tip heights of 200-240 metres, they stand up to 100 metres taller than the wind turbines you typically see elsewhere in the Danish landscape.

These national test centres create better conditions for research and development of various types of wind turbines, and contribute to maintaining Denmark’s leading global position in wind turbine development and production.

Along the way to the test centre, we’ll focus on Denmark’s national goal of quadrupling renewable energy production by 2030, as well as the local perspectives when translating these plans into concrete projects in the local communities.

Bus trip/maximum 50 participants
GreenLab Industrial Symbiosis Park – home of tomorrows green technologies

8.30-13.00.

Tour of a unique, green and circular industrial park

This tour takes you to the GreenLab Industrial Symbiosis Park located near Skive, where you will learn the story of how an ambitious idea turned into a full-scale business park. GreenLab is a unique, green and circular industrial park. It generates sustainable energy, supplies it to the businesses located there, and transforms it into heat, electrofuels, and other green products.

In the industrial park, everything will be connected by the SymbiosisNet – an intelligent grid of energy and data that will let companies share their surplus energy and resources, in accordance with their scale up demands.

On the bus back, we will discuss test sites and their importance in renewable energy development.

Regional bus trip/maximum 50 participants
Utilisation and circulation of resources

8.30-13.00

Tour of local companies at the forefront of Aalborg’s circular economy

On this tour, you will learn how Aalborg recycles and reuses its resources.

The tour starts with a visit to local waste management company, Nordværk. You will learn how the company further processes the municipality’s sorted waste. First, you will visit Verdis’ sorting plant that sorts plastics, metal and beverage and food cartons by magnetism with the Eddy Current technology and with NIR scanners. Next you will visit Melgaard’s new optical sorting plant based on colour coding. Green bags with food waste collected in the same bin as residual waste in black bags, are sorted based on the colour.

Following this, you will hear a talk about resources: the sorting and recycling of fractions. Additionally, the Danish Environmental Agency will present the national Statutory Order on Waste, as the Danish implementation of European legislation.

We will end the trip at Råt&Godt, a socially responsible company with a focus on recycled and residual materials, whose primary purpose is to help young people who have struggled in traditional education and employment, offering them a new way back into the labour market. Here you will learn about Råt&Godt’s socio-economic business model and see their renewable products.

Local bus trip/maximum 20 participants
Urban spaces in Aalborg downtown, from the urban ecology project in the 90s to new BRT-spaces

9.00-13.00.

Walking tour through downtown Aalborg, the historic centre and the harbour front

This tour starts at AKKC, from which you will walk downtown via the tunnel to John F. Kennedy Plads—the heart of Aalborg's newly inaugurated BRT project, '+Plusbussen'. Learn about the Plusbus-project, an urban development and mobility initiative, complemented by high-quality street design.

Continue through the historic city centre, exploring the inviting green courtyards established during the 'Urban Ecology Project' of the 1990s. Next, discover recently renovated urban spaces, including Budolfi Square and Nytorv, where a dedicated path for cyclists now weaves through the vibrant shopping area.

The tour ends at the harbour front, with a visit to the Utzon Centre for a glimpse into the internationally acclaimed architect Jørn Utzon's legacy. Take in the breathtaking view of the Limfjord as you conclude your exploration of Aalborg's urban evolution.

Optional: Dive deeper into Jørn Utzon's story with a visit inside the Utzon Centre.

Enjoy lunch at Algade pocket park and playground, once a bustling parking lot.

City walk/maximum 30 participants
Transforming Aalborg's waterfronts - climate, cultural heritage and urban spaces for all

9.00-13.00

Walking tour to discover both sides of the Aalborg fjord

Discover Aalborg's waterfront transformation on this guided tour, starting with an overview of the city's fjord connection and rich history. We'll begin with a glimpse into Musikkens Hus, a cultural landmark, before walking through the Eastern Harbour area. Here, you'll see the revitalization of industrial heritage, adaptive reuse of buildings, and strategic temporary adaptations.

Next you will stroll along the Aalborg Waterfront to enjoy views of Musikkens Hus, Nordkraft, Utzon Center, Aalborghus Castle, and Jomfru Ane Parken. Hear about Nørresundby's development, including the Stigsborg area, as we explore both sides of the fjord. Our journey concludes at Spritten, where you will gain insights into ongoing projects, including the Cultural Bridge and Fjordmark area. Learn how climate adaptation and preservation of industrial heritage have shaped these projects.

The tour wraps up with a lunch and a brief presentation at Cafe Fair, a social enterprise.

City walk/maximum 30 participants
Opening of Østerå - a Nature Based Solution to urban challenges

9.00-13.00

Walking tour of Aalborg’s waterways

This tour starts with an exploration of the area surrounding the Musikkens Hus and Østre Havn, where the river meets the fjord. Discover the transformed Nordkraft cultural centre, once a heat and power plant. Next you will walk through the Østerå project area, which is an example of a major construction and transformation project in Aalborg, which is about climate adaptation, environmental improvement and urban development.

Østerå formed the basis for Aalborg as a trading city from the Middle Ages, where the river and harbour were central to the city’s development. For the past 125 years, the water has flowed east of the central city, in the last almost 100 years, it has done so in pipes underground. The project, to open the river through former industrial areas and a park, is ambitious and is a so-called "Nature Based Solution" to several challenges.

This project enhances Aalborg’s blue and green structure, bolstering resilience to climate change-induced rainfall. By restoring the river’s natural flow, we improve the aquatic environment and create recreational corridors from waterfront to Østerådalen.

City walk/maximum 30 participants
Kickstart Aalborg East: New European Bauhaus - winning project 2023 in the category

"Prioritizing the places and people that need it the most"

9.00-13.00

Tour a completely transformed, and prize-winning community

On this tour, it is possible to get an in-depth impression of how, since 2005, local forces have succeeded in transforming a very socially vulnerable neighbourhood into a winning project in the form of a completely transformed community, which in 2023 was awarded a prize by the European Commission. The local housing association, Himmerland Boligforening, is hosting the tour.

The establishing of innovative partnerships between different public administrations, private companies and the local social housing organisations has been a unique approach to success. You will learn about new housing types, a health and neighbourhood house, the extensive renovation of buildings, new infrastructure and urban spaces, social initiatives aimed at children and young people, sustainable energy supply and finally, you will learn about how residents have contributed to the project's many positive results.

Local bus/maximum 30 participants
Stigsborg – state of the art city planning of a new urban district

9.00-13.00

Walking tour of Stigborg, one of Denmark’s largest coastal urban transformation projects

See how Aalborg is transforming a vulnerable neighbourhood into a winning project. Stigsborg is one of Denmark’s largest coastal urban transformation projects and a brand-new district in Aalborg/Nørresundby, with room for 7-8,000 inhabitants in the long term.

A catalog of initiatives has been drawn up for Stigsborg based on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Here we focus on environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The ambition is that “together we strive to create a green and strong district where people thrive”.

On a walk around the area, you will see examples of the solutions that have already been made. This includes “the mixed city”, sustainable mobility solutions, recreative urban spaces, a school, a kindergarten, and nursery, a “community centre”, green rainwater solutions and much more.

Along the way, there will be presentations on the plans for the development of the Stigsborg area. Here, too, Aalborg Municipality has taken a new approach. A new urban development company has been established, where private players and the municipality work together to develop the area.

City walk/maximum 30 participants
Any remaining questions?
Contact us at: aalborg2024@iclei.org