



Concept Note

COP28 Side Event at the SDG Pavilion

Local Leadership in the Renewable Energy Transition and Green Hydrogen Economy

17:45-19:00, 6 December 2023, Expo City, Dubai, UAE – Blue Zone

Venue: Thematic Arena 3, space TA3-210

Led by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in cooperation with UN HABITAT and the Green Hydrogen Organisation, this event will explore how local leaders can ensure a just transition to renewables and advance a hydrogen economy to ensure a sustainable and low-carbon urban future for all. Globally, 70 million tonnes per year of grey Hydrogen (from fossil fuels), results in 830 million tonnes of CO² emissions, equivalent to emissions of Indonesia and the United Kingdom combined (GGGI, 2022). Ensuring a renewable energy transition through a green hydrogen economy will be critical to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, cities are at the forefront of efforts to mitigate climate change, ensure a just transition and provide renewable energy for all. Due to their concentration of population, economic activity, and energy consumption, local governments can have a substantial impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions if they transition to renewables and are at the forefront of green hydrogen adoption. Hydrogen can be a key technology to help decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors such as urban transport and an increasing number of national and local governments are implementing hydrogen transition at city level from Asia to the Americas. However, more than 95% of current hydrogen production is still based on fossil fuels ([REN21, 2023](#)).

A green hydrogen economy at the local level requires short to long term planning, finance, capacity and collaboration between governments, industry, and the public. While complex, the transition to a hydrogen economy is already occurring and this event will profile leading initiatives, challenges and recommendations to accelerate energy for all.

Co-Organizers: UNOSD, Green Hydrogen Organization, UN-Habitat

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro de Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Welcome Remarks

- Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD
- Ms. Ines Marques, Director, Green Hydrogen Organisation - Publication launch "Green Hydrogen and Local Value Creation"

Technical Dialogue

- Mr. Duk Woo Jun, Circular Economy Lead, Global Green Growth Institute
- Mr. Rohit Sen, Head, Sustainable Energy, ICLEI
- Mr. Vincent Kitio, Lead - Urban energy, Urban Basic Services, UN-Habitat and UN-Energy representative



Guiding questions

- Which cities are leading the way in a green hydrogen transition?
- What is the importance of a sub-national or local level focus for a hydrogen economy?
- What steps can local leaders take for a green hydrogen transition at local level?
- What costs or benefits can we see at the local level in the green hydrogen transition?
- How can local and national leadership ensure positive impacts from the green H₂ transition?