

UNFCCC COP26 – Glasgow, UK
Collaborative UN system side event

Climate-neutral housing – Decarbonizing the housing stock in an inclusive and affordable way

4 November 2021

13:15—14:30 GMT (local Glasgow time)

Venue: [Lomond Auditorium](#), Scottish Event Campus, Glasgow, UK

Languages: English only

Format: both in-person and online participation are possible

Short description

Buildings have the largest potential for improving energy efficiency and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Decarbonizing the housing stock is very costly and creates a financial burden on inhabitants, often causing “energy poverty” among lower-income population. In the UNECE region, which includes most of the “rich” countries in the world, almost 42 million face arrears on their utility bills and more than 52 million people cannot keep their homes adequately warm. There is a need for implementing large-scale housing renovation programmes that are affordable for all. Such programmes are essential to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and related SDGs.

This side event will present the UNECE-Housing Europe-UN-Habitat study “[#Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region](#)” containing a toolkit on affordable climate-neutral housing to demonstrate its use in mitigating potential negative social impacts of decarbonization strategies on vulnerable sections of society, particularly young people. The #Housing2030 study and an online platform at www.housing2030.org were launched on 6 October 2021 at the [UNECE Housing Ministerial Meeting](#). The side event will also inform about the “[Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes](#)” which builds on conclusions of the #Housing2030 study¹, as well as other relevant tools and practices, including the [UNECE High Performance Buildings Initiative](#).

The event is organized with the support of the city of Glasgow.

Organizers:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with Housing Europe, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

For more information on this side event, please contact: Gulnara Roll, Secretary to the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, at Gulnara.Roll@un.org with cc to Melanie Steinkemper at melanie.steinkemper@un.org.

¹ “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes” was endorsed by the UNECE Ministerial Meeting on urban Development, Housing and Land Management on 6 October 2021.

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Draft agenda

13:15-13:30	<p>Opening and side event objectives Moderator: David Orr, Co-Chair, #Housing2030 Initiative, UK</p> <p><i>Welcome</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Councillor, Glasgow, UK (in-person) <p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE (in-person) • Mr. Bent Madsen, President, Housing Europe (online) • Mr. Robert Lewis-Lettington, Chief of Section, UN-Habitat (online)
13:30-13:35	<p>Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal (online)</p>
13:35-14:00	<p>Presentation of the #Housing2030 study and “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Julie Lawson, Hon. Associate Professor, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia (online) • Prof. Holger Wallbaum, Professor in Sustainable Building, Chalmers University, Sweden (online) • Prof. Brian Evans, City Urbanist, Glasgow City Council; and Director of the UNECE Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities (in-person) <p>Launch of the film by the city of Glasgow “Living in Glasgow: A pathway to 2030”</p>
14:00-14:25	<p>Best practices on affordable climate-neutral housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sally Thomas, Director, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, UK (in-person) • Mr. Santiago Saura Martínez de Toda, Councillor for International Affairs and Cooperation, Madrid, Spain (online) • Mr. Jonathan Duwyn, Programme Officer, Buildings and Construction, Cities Unit, Energy and Climate Branch, UNEP (online) • Ms. Vivian Loftness, FAIA LEEDAP, Paul Mellon Chair in Architecture University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, USA (online) • Ms. Jessica Grove-Smith, Senior Researcher, Passive House Institute, Darmstadt, Germany (online)
14:25-14:30	<p>Conclusions by the Moderator Mr. David Orr</p>