



## Climate Alliance

### Press release

Brussels, 18 September, 2013

### Local governments - the undisclosed resource for Europe's green economy

During a meeting with Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, the Board Members of [Climate Alliance](#) affirmed their willingness to create a lasting partnership with the European Commission in achieving ambitious climate objectives for the post 2020 period.

The Commissioner Hedegaard highlighted the role of the local authorities to help her ensure *"the strong level of ambition needed to achieve the major transition we are all living today"*, not only in relation to emission reduction, but also in reducing energy poverty, creating local jobs and ensuring higher return on investment.

Climate Alliance's Board Members could immediately provide evidence for the positive economic and social impacts of climate action: According to a back-casting study, €9 million will stay in the city of The Hague's budget for each % of energy saved, highlighted deputy Mayor Rabin Baldewsingh. The city of Munich (DE) has been funding energy efficiency in private and commercial buildings for several years. Subsidies cover a wide range of measures such as building insulation, heat generation and solar thermal systems. The private investments triggered by the programmes are ten times higher than the subsidy input, affirmed Joachim Lorenz, city councillor from Munich and the President of Climate Alliance. And finally, according to Camille Gira, Mayor of Beckerich (LU), the municipality generates itself 90% of its low-tension electricity and 30% of its heat demand. In 2012, Beckerich raised €500, 000 euros by selling heat. Local energy production is important also from an economic point of view: money stays in Beckerich, benefits the local economy and creates local jobs.

In order to implement the necessary actions, strong support from the European Commission is required. Simona Arletti, City Councillor from Modena (IT) highlighted that *"When adopting our Sustainable Energy Action Plan we were serious. Now we need support for the implementation"*. She called the Commission to provide financial support for the investments needed to implement a continuous and long term climate policy at the local level.

Climate Alliance calls for binding and ambitious targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions in light of the 2030 framework on climate and energy policies. The members of Climate Alliance offer their support in achieving ambitious climate objectives in Europe and ask in return a solid policy framework with adequate financing.

[Climate Alliance Resolution on the EU climate and energy policies in light of the 2030 framework](#)  
[Climate Alliance's response to the public consultation on the Green Paper](#)  
[Learn more about our members' activities](#)

Contact:

Monica Sirbu, Communications and Policy officer, [m.sirbu@climatealliance.org](mailto:m.sirbu@climatealliance.org)