

World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

"Energy transition now – fast, smart, resilient!" This was the motto of the World Sustainable Energy days 2024. The conference showed how to realise the high policy ambitions of the upcoming EU legislation and strengthen the clean energy markets. The event was held from 5 to 8 March 2024 in Wels/Austria. The whole energy transition community met in Wels – over 650 experts from 60 countries participated in the conference.



The conference programme

The World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) are a leading conference on the energy transition and climate neutrality. In 2024, the WSED offered delegates the following complementary events:

- European Pellet Conference
- Young Energy Researchers Conference
- European Energy Efficiency Conference
- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Workshop "Cities and regions – drivers for climate neutrality"



World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



European Pellet Conference

The energy price crisis, climate crisis and threats to energy security urge us to act like never before. As a CO₂-neutral fuel, sustainable bioenergy is a key component in climate protection. The 2024 edition of the conference showed how the acceptance of pellets as an important element in the clean energy transition can be regained, and how the positive contribution of pellets to circular economy can be increased. The event presented latest trends in markets, policies, technologies and innovations, helping the participants stay on top of developments in the pellet and bioenergy world.

With more than 400 participants each year, the European Pellet Conference in Wels/Austria is the largest annual pellet event worldwide.



The European Pellet Conference 2024 took place on Wednesday, 6 March, and started with the strategy session "Pellets – smart and sustainable!", which provided updates on policies and markets and gave an outlook for the next year. The second session presented how trust and acceptance for sustainable bioenergy can be restored through positive narratives and how pellets can be positioned as an important element of the energy transition.

Other highlights of the European Pellet Conference were the "Pellet Innovation Session", which showcased cutting-edge developments and R&D results in the pellet and bioenergy sectors, and the "World of Pellets Session", where international experts offered up-to-date information on pellet markets around the globe.

World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



European Energy Efficiency Conference

No time like now for energy efficiency! Price fluctuations, geopolitical instabilities and the climate crisis make the role of energy efficiency in the energy transformation evident. New EU targets require a strong push for energy efficiency in all sectors.

In 2024, the European Energy Efficiency Conference took place on 7 – 8 March and showed how to realise the high policy ambitions and how to strengthen energy efficiency demand and markets.



The event featured an update on the new EU directives and funding, presented key innovations for the industrial energy transition and informed about smart e-mobility. Experts from all over the world discussed latest research results, successful energy efficiency policies and programmes, and presented innovative best practice examples.

The European Energy Efficiency Conference 2024 offered a comprehensive package of five specialised events:

- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference
- Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Workshop "Cities and regions – drivers for climate neutrality"



World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

The Energy Efficiency Policy Conference started with the session "Energy efficiency policies in choppy waters!", which presented the ambitious new European energy efficiency legislation and how it can be implemented. This was followed by the session "How the energy transition can work – examples from different sectors", highlighting different initiatives which empower energy consumers and support key policy areas on their shift to sustainable energy.

This conference was organised in the context of the Life project "Energy Efficiency Watch 5": www.energy-efficiency-watch.org



Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference

Decarbonising industry is one of the main challenges in the energy transition. Transforming industry quickly is imperative for economic survival. The Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference on Thursday afternoon started with the session "Policies and programmes to transform industry", which featured the key topics of the industrial transformation from competitiveness to digitalisation and innovation. The following session "Pathways to net-zero industries" presented innovations to accelerate and upscale energy efficient and sustainable transformation pathways. Finally, the session "Best practice examples" shared inspiring examples from Austria and other countries showing how decarbonising industrial sites can be successfully tackled.

World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



Smart E-Mobility Conference

The major role of e-mobility in achieving climate targets is obvious. The Smart E-Mobility Conference took place on Friday, 8 March. The first session "E-Mobility – next level!" offered an overview of policies and innovations that drive e-mobility to the next level.



The session "Smart charging and more" provided an update on the latest R&D developments and solutions around smart charging – from bi-directional to automated – and battery integration.

Young Energy Researchers Conference

Every year, the Young Energy Researchers Conference presents the work and achievements of young energy researchers in the fields of biomass and energy efficiency. Young researchers from all over the world were invited to take part in a Call for Papers. More than 110 papers from over 40 countries were submitted, and a high-level international scientific committee selected papers for oral and poster presentations. These were presented by the young energy researchers in two conference sessions – biomass and energy efficiency – as well as in the context of a poster presentation. The Best Young Energy Researcher Awards were presented to:

- Best Young Biomass Researcher: Michalis-Alexandros Kougioumtzis and Vasileios Filippou for the paper "Evaluation of pellets produced from coffee residues mixed with biomass residues"
- Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher: Antoni Bosch Pons for the paper "Management of electric vehicles to provide energy flexibility under uncertainty"



World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



Workshop "Cities and regions – drivers for climate neutrality"

This workshop was targeted at regional and local energy agencies as well as representatives of cities and regions. It presented best practice examples of a wide range of energy transition investments with different financing solutions, and provided a platform for inspiration, networking, and exchange for this community.



Poster presentation

A poster presentation was an integrated part of the WSED. Around 70 companies and organisations took this opportunity to showcase their energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This also included the poster presentation of selected young energy researchers.



World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



Voting

As interactive element, "the voting" allowed to gather feedback from conference participants. During the sessions, the audience was invited to answer questions regarding their opinions on various conference topics.



Energiesparmesse

The "Energiesparmesse", a leading tradeshow on energy efficiency and renewable energy, took place in parallel to the World Sustainable Energy Days. Austrian and international companies presented their latest product innovations to the 82,000 visitors.

The OÖ Energiesparverband presented its comprehensive services at a large exhibition stand in Hall 20 where energy advisers were available to offer advice and information on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources to the general public, municipalities and businesses. It also organised two special exhibitions: "Energy Communities" and "Insulation Materials".



World Sustainable Energy Days 2024

5 - 8 March 2024



See you next year in Wels/Austria!



The next edition of the World Sustainable Energy Days will be held from **5 – 7 March 2025** in Wels/Austria. The deadline for the Call for Papers is 10 October 2024.