

World Sustainable Energy Days 2026

24 - 27 FEBRUARY 2026, WELS/AUSTRIA

ENERGY TRANSITION = ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2026

"Energy transition = energy independence" This was the motto of the World Sustainable Energy days 2026. The conference presented and discussed solutions to practically implement the energy transition quickly. The event was held from 24 to 27 February 2026 in Wels/Austria. The whole energy transition community met in Wels – over 700 experts from 63 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 2026, the WSED offered delegates the following events:

- European Pellet Conference
- Young Energy Researchers Conference
- European Energy Efficiency Conference
- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Transition Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Workshop Energy Communities



European Pellet Conference

25 February 2026, Wels/Austria

PELLETS – ENERGY AND MORE!

European Pellet Conference

Europe must urgently reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports. Pellets can play an expanding role in this transformation! While facing challenges such as increasing electrification, reluctance to invest or policy uncertainties, opportunities are emerging from new applications such as BECCUS, biochar and biomaterials.

The European Pellet Conference 2026 took place on Wednesday, 25 February. With more than 400 participants, it was the meeting place for the global pellet community. Leading international experts showed how bioenergy is driving decarbonisation, energy security and the circular economy for a climate-neutral Europe.



The European Pellet Conference started with the **Pellet Update Session** which presented new EU policies, provided insights into the latest market developments and offered a strategic outlook for pellets in Europe and globally. The **Discovery Session** was dedicated to the conference motto "Pellets - Energy and more!". It highlighted emerging opportunities from new applications such as biochar, BECCUS or biomaterials. It also emphasised why energetic use of biomass will continue to make sense in the future.

Another highlight of the European Pellet Conference was the **Pellet Innovation Session**, which covered heating and electricity solutions, standardisation as well as certification. It showcased new technologies and implemented real-life projects across the pellet and bioenergy value chains. Finally, the **Pellet Planet Session**, offered latest market insights, trends and outlooks on European and global pellet markets – with a focus on Asia.

European Energy Efficiency Conference

25 - 27 February 2026, Wels/Austria

ENERGY EFFICIENCY = ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



European Energy Efficiency Conference

Geopolitical instabilities, high energy prices and growing global competition make one thing clear: Europe must urgently increase its energy independence. Energy efficiency is a key asset in this transformation: It reduces energy demand, stabilises prices and makes Europe more resilient. In 2026, the **European Energy Efficiency Conference** took place from 25 to 27 February and presented policies, technologies and business models which increase competitiveness and make energy more affordable.



The event featured policy updates, focused on the role of digitalisation in the energy sector, presented energy communities as a driving force in the energy transition, showcased key innovations for the industrial energy transition and informed about innovation in the field of 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 2026 offered a comprehensive package of five specialised events:

- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Transition Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Workshop Energy Communities
- Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference



European Energy Efficiency Conference

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Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

The Energy Efficiency Policy Conference started with the session "**Policy Session: Energy independence through clean and affordable energy**", which demonstrated that the energy transition is the best pathway to affordable energy and energy independence. This was followed by an **Innovation Session** which showed how our energy systems can become more dynamic and intelligent. It explored how energy flexibility, digitisation and artificial intelligence could enable more energy efficiency and a better integration of renewables.

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



Industrial Energy Transition Conference

The Industrial Energy Transition Conference began with the session "**The Clean Industrial Deal for a resilient and competitive European industry**", which presented up-to-date information on policies and funding programmes. The following session "**Pathways for industry transformation – today and tomorrow**" explored how industry can turn the challenge of decarbonisation into a competitive advantage. It presented key transformation pathways, such as electrification, green hydrogen, and energy efficiency, that are opening new opportunities for sustainable growth. Finally, the session "**Leading technology examples from industry from Austria and Germany**" showcased how companies are already turning innovation into action by reducing emissions, improving efficiency, and strengthening their competitiveness.

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Smart E-Mobility Conference

The **Smart E-Mobility Conference** kicked off with a session dedicated to the key issues of electric mobility. It highlighted market developments in Europe and globally, presented the latest advances in battery technologies, and offered insights into successful electric mobility policies from different countries.

This was followed by the **Innovation Session** on scaling up EV charging which demonstrated how infrastructure and grids can be adapted to meet the growing demand from electric vehicles. The conference concluded with the session "**Electric trucks on the rise – examples from Austria**", which showcased real-life examples for fleet conversion, presented by logistics companies at the forefront of the transition.

Workshop Energy Communities

Putting citizens at the centre of the energy transition is no longer an empty slogan: Thousands of Energy Communities across Europe already demonstrate how collective action can accelerate the deployment of renewables, increase acceptance, and deliver local benefits.



The first session of the workshop with the title "**Communities: a driving force for the energy transition**" offered insights into enabling policies, support programmes, innovative financing, the interaction with DSOs and the use of digital innovation for Energy Communities.

The following session "**Beyond Theory: Success stories from Energy Communities across Europe**" presented successful real-world examples from different countries and showcased how energy sharing and other related community-based approaches are implemented on the ground. Speakers from across Europe highlighted key success factors, common challenges, and practical lessons learned that can support replication and scaling in other regions.

The workshop was held in the context of the ManagEnergy Initiative and the LIFE Project Power-E-Com and in cooperation with FEDARENE.

Young Energy Researchers Conference

24 February 2026, Wels / Austria

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & BIOMASS



Young Energy Researchers Conference

Every year, the Young Energy Researchers Conference presents the work and achievements of young 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 135 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 two best contributions were honoured with the awards "Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher" and "Best Young Biomass Researcher" and received 1,000 Euro each as prize money.



Best Young Biomass Researchers: Jessica Di Mario and Alberto Maria Gambelli for the paper "Co-digestion of brewer's spent grain pulp and duckweed: methane (CH₄) yield and CO₂ savings"



Best Young Energy Efficiency Researchers: Diogo Couceiro and Joao Costa for the paper "A decision-support dashboard for energy community optimisation"

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Poster presentation

A poster presentation was an integrated part of the WSED. Around 80 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.



Voting

As interactive element, the Slido 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.



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Tradeshow

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".



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See you next year in Wels/Austria!

The next edition of the World Sustainable Energy Days will be held from **2 – 5 March 2027** in Wels/Austria. The deadline for the Call for Papers is 9 October 2026.

See you back at the

World Sustainable Energy Days 2027

2 – 5 March 2027
Wels/Austria



Call for Papers
9 October 2026

