

## EVENT

Workshop  
Cities  
Climate  
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Mobility

# Re-imagining Urban Spaces - ELEEP-POCACITO Workshop on Post-Carbon Cities



[1]

Cities are dynamic and never "finished." It takes time, but they can be reimagined and redesigned.

Under the auspices of the POCACITO project and the ELEEP program, Ecologic Institute and the Atlantic Council convened a workshop on post-carbon cities and the reimagining of urban spaces in Washington, DC. A group of experts working on different aspects of urban design and sustainability gathered to discuss current urban trends in the US and the EU (as well as globally). This group also considered examples of cities in the US and the EU that are making efforts to re-imagine what a city can be and to provide their citizens options for a high quality of life with lower environmental impacts. Max Grünig, Senior Fellow at Ecologic Institute, presented the POCACITO project. The presentation slides are available for download.

### **High Quality of Life with Lower Environmental Impacts**

Cities reflect cultures and the needs and intentions of those living there. It takes time, but they can be re-imagined and redesigned. Cities can be built to provide a high quality of life and a smaller environmental impact.

[Peter Engelke](#) [2], Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, welcomed the group and provided introductory, guiding remarks for the workshop. He spoke of the ever-changing nature of cities, and how motivated citizens, business leaders, and politicians have the capacity to reshape cities. In many parts of the world, these efforts are translating into improved livability (through better access to walking, biking, and public transportation) and increased wealth generation, while not increasing impacts on the natural environment.

[Prof. Anthony Bigio](#) [3], of The George Washington University, delivered a keynote presentation on his previous work at the World Bank on fostering resilient cities and the ways in which city leaders can improve welfare and environmental performance. Peter then moderated a question and answer session with Prof. Bigio.

### **Best Practices in Urban Development from the US and the EU**

Following the first session, [Dominic Marcellino](#) [4], Program Director at Ecologic Institute US, moderated a panel discussion on the identification and exchange of best practices in urban development. The panelists were

- [Max Grünig](#) [5], Senior Fellow at Ecologic Institute Berlin,
- [Dale Medearis](#) [6], Senior Environmental Planner at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), and
- Danielle Fidler, Attorney and Adviser at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Max Grünig gave a presentation and overview of the [POCACITO project](#) [7] and its intention to assess how a variety of European cities are pursuing policies and measures to improve livability and

decrease environmental impacts. Dale Medearis discussed work at NVRC to foster goal-focused, outcome-oriented interactions between local and regional policymakers from the US and the EU. Danielle Fidler, a Member of the [ELEEP Network](#) [8], gave a presentation synthesizing what has been learned at two ELEEP study tours on transportation and urban development and the ways in which the ELEEP Network has identified and disseminated best practices.

[View the full image](#) [9]



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4 March 2014  
Washington, DC  
**Attachments**

 [Presentation\\_Max Grünig\\_Post-Carbon-Cities](#)

**Main Link**

[Workshop Website: Home Post-Carbon Cities - Linking Visions from Europe and the United States](#)

**Ecologic Related Websites**

- [ELEEP website](#)

## Ecologic Related Articles

- Transatlantic Sister City and Media Dialogue: Local Initiatives in Climate Protection and Renewable Energies in Germany and the US
- I-CITE: Transforming Economies through Community
- ELEEP Sustainable Transportation and the Evolution of Mobility Study Tour
- Energy Efficiency in the UK - ELEEP Study Tour
- ELEEP Study Tour: American Perspectives On Natural Gas and Renewable Energy Policy
- ELEEP Network: New Funding and Plans for 2013
- ELEEP Network - Emerging Leaders in Environmental and Energy Policy
- Ecologic Institute Receives Robert Bosch Stiftung Grant to Continue ELEEP Network
- ELEEP Budapest Study Tour - EU Energy and Environmental Issues: a Central European Perspective
- Climate Change Negotiations and the German Energiewende - Warsaw-Berlin-Hamburg - ELEEP Study Tour
- Post-Carbon Cities in Europe: A Long-Term Outlook (POCACITO)

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### Funding

Robert Bosch Foundation, Germany  
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Ecologic Institute, Germany  
Ecologic Institute US (EIUS), United States

### Team

Dominic Marcellino  
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25

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### Links

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- [2] <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/about/experts/list/peter-engelke>
- [3] <http://uccrn.org/who-we-are/steering-group/anthony-bigio/>
- [4] <https://www.ecologic.eu/node/2479>
- [5] <https://www.ecologic.eu/node/2027>
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