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SUSTAINABLE AND SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS for Europe's Cities and Rural Areas

HANSER

Schlüter/Bernabé-Moreno
**Sustainable and Smart Energy Systems
for Europe's Cities and Rural Areas**

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Foreword by Fabrizio Rossi

Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

We live in exceptional times, where changes happen at a pace just not imaginable only a few decades ago. The constant movement of transformation across Europe we are witnessing reflects trends and innovations often coming from other parts of the world, sometimes being conceived and developed in our continent. This great transformation has modified the way we interact and communicate, move people and transport goods, make payments, produce and stock energy. And in turn, this silent revolution has become increasingly evident in the space we live in, our cities, towns, villages.



If today there is an element that more and more unites large metropolises with small rural centres, it is precisely this transformation. All our communities want to be smarter in the way they use their resources and provide services to their citizens. This is a silent revolution not only because electric buses produce less noise pollution than petrol ones or because an e-mail is less noisy than fax! It is silent because through a transversal approach, we are transforming our economies and, therefore, our communities.

In fact, being a smart city or a smart rural area today means trying to obtain an integrated approach to services. It is a triple gain if it improves the quality of life of citizens, increases the competitiveness of our economies, and pave the way for a sustainable low-carbon economy. The local transport system cannot ignore the way the energy necessary to make it work is produced, just as public buildings or the house in which we live must respect energy criteria that are growingly attentive to sustainability, and productive activities are reconverting towards a model with a lower impact on the environment and natural resources. And all this would be impossible without the ability to store, analyse and manage huge amounts of data

that allow us to optimise production processes and provide more accurate and rapid services to citizens.

The role of municipalities has therefore become crucial to manage and steer a change that is as profound as it is irreversible. A good local administration is, in fact, what can make the difference between a territorial development without order and growth for the benefit of all. For these reasons, the book edited by Alexander Schlüter and Juan Bernabé-Moreno represents a rare opportunity to learn more about the state of the art of this transformation in Europe and how the municipalities across the continent face this great challenge.

All people living in the European territory today should enjoy what Henri Lefebvre called the ‘right to the city’, which perhaps today we should call the ‘right to the community’, since cities and rural areas are united by similar problems and solutions. The right to the community is, therefore, not only the right of every person to access the resources and services of their own territory but also, and possibly above all, to contribute to this transformation so that it takes place in a way that is respectful of all. In fact, no change can make sense for European municipalities if not aimed at the well-being of their citizens, the inclusion of disadvantaged ones, the development of everyone's potential. This is probably the real and pivotal challenge that awaits all of us, both citizens and public administrators.

Brussels in February 2022

Fabrizio Rossi

Foreword by the Editors

Congratulations! You are one of the few people who read and pay attention to forewords. For this book, it makes sense to do so because we explain how you can use it most effectively to your advantage. This is because we don't just want to report on technologies and challenges but encourage you and give you tangible recommendations for action.

But who are we – over 40 established international experts – actually writing this book for? It is, of course, intended for all those interested in smart cities and rural areas. We are directing it in particular to those responsible in cities, towns, villages and districts. They are crucially important to ensure that further development in energy, mobility and digitalisation succeeds. They have begun to gather experience in their local areas. We want to supplement this with scientific insights and forecasts while explaining technical terms and contexts in detail. Our aim throughout these chapters is to make you realise the challenges and take interesting approaches on board to enrich the lives of residents. Your municipality can contribute to the success of the energy transition while benefiting from it at the same time. Of course, experts in the field, students and those in the issues covered are invited to advance their education by reading this publication.

But what makes the transformation into a smart municipality worthwhile at all? It's because smart municipalities permit a more sustainable way of living and are therefore an answer to the major challenges, such as climate change, facing our society. Our environment is changing at an extraordinarily rapid pace – unfortunately, to our disadvantage. The systematic destruction of our planet worsens living conditions and increases the risks to human health, entailing high economic and social costs and leading to species extinction. We are currently living through some of the dangers that face us when the relations between humans, nature and wildlife are thrown off balance – for example, an increased risk of pandemic.

Wouldn't it be clever to combine the necessary changes with an improvement of our quality of life? And that's precisely what smart city projects are all about. In this book, we start off with the basics and encourage you to create your own vision and strategy for your smart municipality of the future and to understand your own

role and responsibility in shaping it. After that, you will read about the numerous challenges and opportunities presented by energy systems and digitalisation. For the focus areas you will have formulated on this basis, we will point you toward selected funding and subsidy options.

Last but not least, we want to thank all those involved in this project, which has been driven and implemented with great enthusiasm right from the start by E.ON internally as well as by the many external authors. We hope you enjoy the book and the subsequent implementation.

Munich in spring 2021

Alexander Schlüter and Juan Bernabé-Moreno

■ Foreword to the European Edition

The feedback on the first book has shown that we seem to have hit the spot with the subject and type of presentation. For this reason, and in response to further climate-linked disasters, we have decided to publish an English edition to cater for a European framework. Compared with the first book, which contained many examples and data from Germany, we have replaced these with references to Europe and the European Union in this edition. And of course we have updated the information in general wherever possible. What's more, the team has been expanded, and Greenwich, London has made itself available for interview. We are very grateful for this. OK, enough of the foreword. Now it's time to read, plan and act!

Munich in February 2022

Alexander Schlüter and Juan Bernabé-Moreno

Contents

Foreword by Fabrizio Rossi	V
Foreword by the Editors	VII
Foreword to the European Edition	VIII
Editors and Authors	XVII
Editors and Authors	XVII
Authors	XVIII
I Fundamentals and Strategic Planning	
1 First Steps towards Smart Municipalities	3
<i>Alexander Schlüter</i>	
2 Vision of a Sustainable Digital Future	7
<i>Matthew Timms, Laura Färber</i>	
2.1 Climate Change and its Consequences	7
2.2 Digitalisation and Municipalities	10
2.3 Literature	12
3 How to Make Your Municipality Smart and Sustainable	15
<i>Alexander Schlüter</i>	
4 Strategic Planning of the Transformation Process	19
<i>Diana Khripko, Nicky Athanassopoulou, Imoh Ilevbare, Rob Phaal</i>	
4.1 Background on Strategic Roadmapping	20
4.2 Scoping, Design and Planning	22
4.3 Strategic Roadmapping	24

4.4	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	31
4.5	Literature	31

II Integrating Renewable Energy Systems

1 Renewable Energy – Unleashing the Full Potential 37

Jens Weibezahn, Alexandra Krumm, Pao-Yu Oei, Laura Färber

1.1	Introduction	37
1.2	Techno-economic Aspects	39
1.2.1	Electricity Sector	40
1.2.2	Heating Sector	44
1.2.3	Mobility Sector	45
1.3	Socio-economic, Regulatory, and Political Aspects	46
1.4	Applications of Renewable Energies	48
1.4.1	Major Cities: Photovoltaic Potential in Berlin and Urban Heat Transition in Hamburg	50
1.4.2	Towns and Districts: The EC's Platform for Coal Regions in Transition and Steinfurt's Masterplan	52
1.4.3	Rural Areas and Villages: Developing and Exporting 100% Green Electricity in Schönau and Samsø	54
1.5	Tenant Electricity: a German Renewable Energy Product	55
1.5.1	The Principle Underlying Tenant Electricity	56
1.5.2	Roles in the Tenant Electricity Model	57
1.5.3	Technologies, Legal Requirements, and Incentives	58
1.5.4	Metering and Technical Requirements	59
1.5.5	Why Tenant Electricity is Attractive	59
1.6	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	60
1.7	Literature	62

2 Electricity Grids: Moving towards the Smart Grid 65

Vincenz Regener, Simon Köppl

2.1	Basic Principles of Electricity Grids	65
2.1.1	Physical Aspects – How Does Power Get from A to B?	65
2.1.2	What Does Europe's Grid Infrastructure Look like?	66
2.1.3	What are the Beginnings of Electric Power Transmission?	67

2.1.4	What Are the Functions of Grid Operators?	68
2.1.5	What Are the Challenges the Energy Transition Poses to the Grid?	69
2.2	How Can the Electricity Grid Be Turned into a Future-capable Smart Grid?	70
2.2.1	New, Digital Grid Operating Resources and Networking	71
2.2.2	Transparency for Households: What Do Smart Meters Do?	72
2.2.3	Flexibilisation of Generation and Consumption: to Support, or at Least Be Compatible with the Grid!	73
2.3	Microgrids: Innovative Districts as an Individual Solution	74
2.4	Best Practice for the Use of Smart Grids	75
2.5	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	76
2.6	Literature	77
3	Thermal Grids	79
	<i>Hagen Braas, Markus Bücherl, Janybek Orozaliev, Peder Berne</i>	
3.1	Status of the Heating Transition in the EU	80
3.2	Heating Grids Now and in the Future	83
3.3	Modern District Heating	84
3.4	Case Studies	87
3.4.1	100% Renewable District Heating in Marstal	87
3.4.2	Combination of Different Infrastructures in London	88
3.4.3	Malmö's District Heating System	89
3.4.4	ectogrid™ in Medicon Village, Lund	92
3.5	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	94
3.6	Literature	96
III	Using Energy More Efficiently	
1	Preparing the Ground with Energy Efficiency	101
	<i>Ron-Hendrik Hechelmann, Florian Schlosser, Henning Meschede, Alexander Schlüter</i>	
1.1	Energy Efficiency Based on the Onion Layer Model	103
1.2	Energy Efficiency in Cross-cutting Technologies	105
1.2.1	Lighting	106
1.2.2	Ventilation Systems	107

1.2.3	Heat Provision and Waste Heat Utilisation	109
1.2.4	Cooling	113
1.2.5	Compressed Air	114
1.2.6	Electromechanical Drives	115
1.3	Literature	116
2	Saving Energy in Industry and Commerce	119
	<i>Florian Schlosser, Ron-Hendrik Hechelmann, Henning Meschede, Alexander Schlüter</i>	
2.1	What Can Industry and Commerce Do in Concrete Terms?	119
2.2	Where Does Energy Efficiency in the Industry Reach its Limits?	124
2.3	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	125
2.4	Literature	127
3	Operating Buildings More Energy Efficiently	129
	<i>Garance Emmerich-Bundel, Manuel Lindauer, Rita Streblov, Alexander Schlüter</i>	
3.1	Background	129
3.2	Main Energy Consumption Factors	132
3.2.1	Building Shell	133
3.2.2	Heating, Ventilation, Air-conditioning Systems for User Comfort	135
3.2.3	Lighting	138
3.3	The Role of Digital Technologies	139
3.4	Regulations for Energy Efficiency of Buildings	142
3.5	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	145
3.6	Literature	146
IV	Linking Sectors and Storing Energy	
1	Sector Coupling and Storage are Crucial for Green Energy ...	151
	<i>Henning Meschede, Diana Khripko, Alexander Schlüter</i>	
2	Storage Systems for Increased Flexibility	157
	<i>Matthias Philipp, Alexander Jäger, Andreas Kießling, Egon Westphal</i>	
2.1	Demand for Storage in the Electrical Energy System	157

2.2	Technologies	162
2.3	Areas of Application	163
2.3.1	Battery Systems	163
2.3.2	Thermal Storage Systems	165
2.4	Practical Example: “Werksviertel Mitte” in Munich	166
2.5	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	169
2.6	Literature	171
3	Using More Hydrogen and Green Fuels	173
	<i>Eugenio Scionti, Matteo Genovese, Christoph Pellingner, Petronilla Fragiaco, Alexander Schlüter</i>	
3.1	Underlying Drivers	173
	<i>Katherina Reiche</i>	
3.2	Introduction	174
3.3	Current Status and Outlook	175
3.4	Production	180
3.5	Transmission, Distribution and Storage Infrastructures	183
3.6	Application in Energy-intensive Industries	185
3.7	Application in the Power Sector	187
3.8	Application in Buildings	189
3.9	Application in Agriculture	191
3.10	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	192
3.11	Literature	194
4	Preparing for More Sustainable Mobility	197
	<i>Alexander Schlüter, Matteo Genovese, Petronilla Fragiaco</i>	
4.1	Challenges for the Sector	197
4.2	Technologies and Outlook for Electric Vehicles	202
4.3	Charging and Flexibility Options by Connecting to the Energy System	209
4.4	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	211
4.5	Literature	214
5	Making Energy Demand More Flexible	217
	<i>Diana Khripko, Henning Meschede, Eva Meschede</i>	
5.1	Identifying Load Shifting Potentials	219

5.2	Practical Examples of a Flexibilisation in the Industrial and Tertiary Sectors	222
5.2.1	Converting Electrical Energy into other Energy Forms	222
5.2.2	Adjusting Demand by Switching the Energy Source	224
5.2.3	Flexibility in Operational Planning and Control of Electrical Facilities	226
5.2.4	Focus: Commercial Water Supply	227
5.3	Practical Examples of Flexibilisation in Households	228
5.4	Conclusion and Options for Action for Smart Municipalities	232
5.5	Literature	235
V Digitalising Municipalities and Energy Systems		
1	Digitalisation: The Issue of Our Time	241
	<i>Victoria Ossadnik</i>	
2	Local Energy Transition: Digitalising Municipalities	243
	<i>Matthew Timms, Laura Färber</i>	
2.1	Digitalisation as Key Element of the Energy Transition	243
2.1.1	Digitalisation of Energy Systems	244
2.1.2	Digitalisation of Energy Consumers	245
2.1.3	Tipping Points for Significant Changes in Energy Systems ...	247
2.2	Technologies Accelerating the Transition	248
2.3	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	251
2.4	Literature	252
3	The Rising Role of Prosumers in the Energy System	255
	<i>Svetlana Ikonnikova, Alexander Schlüter, Bernadette Brandner</i>	
3.1	Energy Transition through Digitalisation	257
3.2	Role of Network Effects Enhanced through Digitalisation	259
3.3	New Opportunities to Generate Added Value	262
3.4	Setting Up Data Centres and Using Blockchain	265
3.5	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	267
3.6	Literature	269

4 The Foundation of the Digital Transformation: Data and IoT .. 271

Giorgio Cortiana, Nicholas Ord

4.1	Growth and Potential of the IoT	273
4.2	Data beyond Specific Domains	274
4.3	Data from and to IoT Devices for Controllable Remote Operation	275
4.4	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	278
4.5	Literature	279

5 Artificial Intelligence – Enabling Smarter Municipalities 281

Juan Bernabé-Moreno, Theodoros Evgeniou

5.1	Introduction	281
5.1.1	Definition of AI and Intelligent Systems	284
5.1.2	Prerequisites and Limiting Factors for AI: It's All about Data ..	285
5.1.3	Types of Problems and AI Tools	286
5.2	AI Makes Our Municipalities Smart	287
5.2.1	Smart Manufacturing	288
5.2.2	Smart Buildings	289
5.2.3	Smart Mobility	290
5.2.4	Smart Energy Systems	292
5.2.5	Smart Logistics	293
5.2.6	Smart Farming	294
5.2.7	Smart Waste Management: towards a Circular Economy	296
5.2.8	Smart Police and Emergency Services	297
5.2.9	Smart Healthcare and Sustainability	298
5.3	The Adoption Path	300
5.3.1	Ecosystem for Services Development	301
5.3.2	Processes and Governance	302
5.3.3	Data and Technology Readiness	302
5.4	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	303
5.5	Literature	304

VI Becoming Concrete

1 Integrating Interests and Finding Optimal Financing 311

*Maria Garbuzova-Schlifter, Jakob Kulawik, Philipp Bugs, Kuldip Singh,
Aaron Praktiknjo*

1.1	Introduction	311
1.2	Financial Stakeholders	313
1.3	Fundamentals of Municipality Project Financing	316
1.4	Selected Financing Options	317
1.4.1	Debt Financing	320
1.4.2	Equity Financing	322
1.4.3	Hybrid Financing	324
1.5	Selected Funding Options	326
1.6	Selected Partnership Models	329
1.6.1	Public-Private Partnership	329
1.6.2	Joint Venture	331
1.6.3	Citizens Participation Schemes	332
1.7	Conclusion and Courses of Action for Smart Municipalities	333
1.8	Literature	335

2 Interviews 339

2.1	Nicolas Lahovnik, Wunsiedel, Germany	339
2.2	Thomas Bugl and Dr. Götz Brühl, Rosenheim, Germany	341
2.3	Sarah Butler and Trevor Dorling, Greenwich, London, United Kingdom	343

3 We Must Act – Now! 347

Alexander Schlüter, Juan Bernabé-Moreno

List of Abbreviations 349

Index 355

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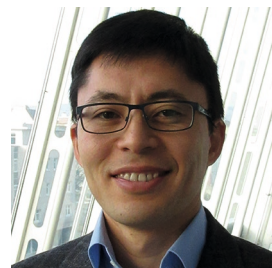
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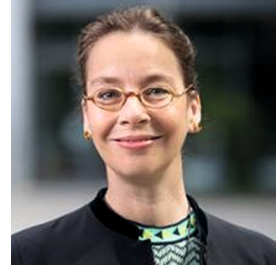
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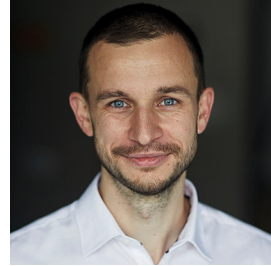


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Fundamentals and Strategic Planning

