

## **A Call for Action: Bringing Sustainable Heat and Cold to the Heart of Our Cities!**

As has been widely documented in recent years, people in Europe and all over the world are increasingly leading urban lives. The more we urbanize, the more our energy related challenges and opportunities will be found in our cities. Since more than half of the energy in our cities will be used for thermal comfort, the question of sustainable heating and cooling supply to cities is of fundamental importance to Europe's wider ambition to carry out a transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to argue that just as there can be no energy transition without sustainable cities, there can be no sustainable cities without green heating and cooling.

With the goal of helping transform this ambition into a practical reality in the coming years and decades, a broad coalition of actors from cities, academia and industry have come together to build on the network and knowledge base established by the CELSIUS network and its 72 constituent cities, in order to broaden its scope and deepen its impact. Despite the natural diversity of our circumstances and views, we are united by the following basic convictions and our commitment to translating them into practice:

- 1. Sustainable heating and cooling must be a key feature of any serious plans for the energy transition:** As was made clear in the European Commission's 2016 Strategy, heating and cooling is the largest source of energy demand in Europe and is expected to remain so. This means that by definition, any strategy for an energy transition, whether global, European, national or local must explicitly address this sector.
- 2. Cities must lead:** The inherently local nature of heating and cooling supply means cities must play a leading role in developing and implementing strategies for their decarbonization. Moreover, as set out above, the natural concentration of energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in urban environments means that what happens in cities will, to a large extent, determine our success or failure in carrying out the energy transition.
- 3. Solutions already exist:** Bringing robust, reliable and sustainable heating and cooling to the heart of our cities is far more than a vague aspiration - it is a basic and entirely achievable necessity. By exploiting the potential of existing technologies such as efficient district heating and cooling networks, heat pumps and others, we can move away from dependence on imported fossil fuels and towards reliance on the mix of renewables and waste heat and cold that are available in every community across Europe. In so doing, we can make an orderly and highly cost-effective transition to a full decarbonized heating and cooling sector by 2050, creating smarter, greener, more liveable cities along the way.
- 4. Bottom up must meet top down:** Although cities can and must show leadership in this area, their efforts will only have the desired impact if they are complemented by compatible regulatory frameworks and investment environments established at European and national level.

On behalf of the CELSIUS Network of 72 cities, I hereby adhere to this call for action and will work to the best of my abilities with CELSIUS to help accelerate the energy transition in cities.

**Ulf Kamne**

Deputy Mayor of Gothenburg