

## **The Linkage of Urban and Energy Planning for Sustainable Cities: The Case of Denmark and Germany**

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**Abstract :** The reduction of GHG emissions in buildings is a focus area of national energy policies in Europe, because buildings are responsible for a major share of the final energy consumption. It is at local scale where policies to increase the share of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures get implemented. Municipalities, as local authorities and responsible entity for land-use planning, have a direct influence on urban patterns and energy use, which makes them key actors in the transition towards sustainable cities. Hence, synchronizing urban planning with energy planning offers great potential to increase society's energy-efficiency; this has a high significance to reach GHG-reduction targets. In this paper, the actual linkage of urban planning and energy planning in Denmark and Germany was assessed; substantive barriers preventing their integration and driving factors that lead to successful transitions towards a holistic urban energy planning procedures were identified.

**Keywords :** energy planning, urban planning, renewable energies, sustainable cities

**Conference Title :** ICEEUA 2016 : International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Urban Area

**Conference Location :** Lisbon, Portugal

**Conference Dates :** April 14-15, 2016