

Session: 'Energy sufficiency, a game changer to achieve resilience and sustainability after the crisis'

Date: 24th of June, 2020 at 2pm, Brussels

Organisers: eceee, Inforse Europe, University of Oxford, négaWatt - with the support of the International research network on sufficiency (ENOUGH).

1. Description

In the recovery from COVID19, national governments and the EU as a whole will have to make difficult choices about where to put effort and investment. There are many calls not to go back to business as usual. Sufficiency thinking - focusing on what people really need and ensuring everyone's basic needs can be met, while limiting the impacts of our consumption on the planet and other populations- can help us consider which sectors and activities are priorities, which new activities should be supported, and which allowed to decline.

Looking at the Green deal as a key policy driver in the post-crisis recovery, this session will discuss why it is important to consider demand-side measures based on societal change as one of the three pillars of EU energy and climate policy, together with the development of supply-based and efficient technologies. It will look at how sufficiency can be a game changer to secure mitigation targets together with energy efficiency policies (e.g. how to avoid efforts in the efficiency of products being outgrown or counterbalanced by more emitting consumption and behavioural patterns).

Transforming our economies through sufficiency also calls for the definition of decisions-making criteria based on sustainability, resilience and robustness. It implies a distinction between needs and wants, contrary to our current economic model. Can this distinction help us develop a new, more sustainable economy?

In this session, speakers from various fields (researchers, scenario builders, NGOs, policy makers, youth organisation activists) will share knowledge and experience to demonstrate that not only are EU citizens showing signs of change when it comes to more 'sufficient' lifestyles, but that there is also an increasing amount of interest and expertise in how sufficiency can take a more important role in climate strategies. The session will target energy and environment specialists, policy makers, companies involved in developing lower impact products and services, citizen representative groups, NGOs and researchers.

The session will be chaired by Joanne Wade, Vice-president of European council for an energy efficient economy (eceee).

2. Programme: 'Energy sufficiency, a game changer to achieve resilience and sustainability after the crisis'

Moderator: Dr Joanne Wade, Vice-President of eceee

- Introduction: Recovery after the crisis: why consider sufficiency and efficiency as a priority? (15')
 - Lessons learnt from the crisis
 - The concept of energy sufficiency and its benefits: a way to address the root causes of rising energy consumption
 - A game changer to secure mitigation results of energy efficiency measures
- Speakers: Joanne Wade, eceee and Yves Marignac, négaWatt.**

First interactive time with the audience (15')

- Short online quiz: what does sufficiency mean for you?
- Questions & answers with participants
- Panel 1: Transforming our society and our economy in line with a sustainable approach: is sufficiency still a taboo? (25')
 - Testimony from a citizen organisation's representative on how lifestyle changes can be perceived.

Speaker: Sandy Olivar Calvo from Alternatiba Paris and ex-Youth for Climate France

 - Sufficiency implies a distinction between needs and wants, contrary to our current economic model. Can this distinction help us develop a new, more sustainable economy?

Speaker: Tina Fawcett, University of Oxford

 - Testimony from an MEP on enablers and barriers in implementing sufficiency policies

Speaker: MEP Marie Toussaint (Greens, FR – member of the ITRE commission)
- Panel 2: How can we give more weight to sufficiency in the Green deal and EU climate strategy? (25')
 - Sufficiency as a driver to define decision-making criteria based on resilience, sustainability and robustness

Speaker: Yves Marignac, négaWatt

 - What role can energy and climate scenarios play to support stronger consideration for sufficiency policies and measures? Examples from the European sufficiency scenario network and the Nordic-Baltic region initiatives.

Speaker: Gunnar Boye Olesen, Inforse Europe

 - What can policies do to support sufficiency? What role can the Green deal play in this sense?

Panel discussion with Marie Toussaint (Greens, FR)
- Q&A with the audience and panellists (15')