The industry network for future energies

RENEWABLE ENERGY HAMBURG

Annual Report 2025

Renewable Energy
Hamburg

Foreword

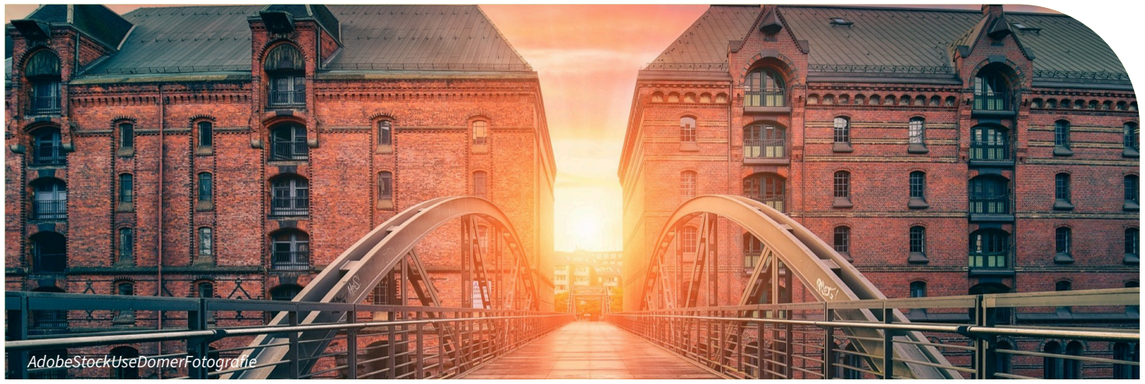
Our 15th year of the cluster was marked by very important milestones. We were delighted to welcome our 300th member mid-year. We started in autumn 2010 with 57 founding members. Many of them still belong to our network.

Several new projects have been launched or approved. KLIMAready should be the first mentioned. Together with six other clusters, the EEHH cluster was particularly successful in implementing the first cluster bridge in Neuallermöhe for the decarbonisation of logistics companies based there. Two further cluster bridges are already in the preparation stage.

The EEHH cluster, Hitech e. V. at the University of Hamburg, and Hamburg Aviation are working on AI solutions for clusters in the new KAIROS for Clusters project. Personnel acquisition methods are the focus of TALENTready, a joint project of several Hamburg industrial clusters.

At the Hamburg city level, the future-shaping decision was made to set the goal for Hamburg to achieve climate neutrality as early as 2040, rather than 2045. Many cluster members will contribute with great motivation to achieving this challenging goal.

Top: Snapshotfreddy;
Right: Marcel Schröder and Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Siechau of the Hamburg City Cleaning Department and Environment Senator Katharina Fegebank (Stadtreinigung HH)



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At the federal level, many legislative projects have been rather sluggish, but our industry expects important impulses in the coming months with regards to energy regulation, which will provide real orientation for the further implementation of the energy transition. Industry sentiment in renewables is definitely mixed in this regard: while the onshore wind energy industry can look back on an all-time high, offshore wind energy records a failed round of tenders, and the solar market is stagnating due to the sharp shrinkage in the private housing segment.

In the hydrogen segment, some important projects have also been implemented in Hamburg, whereas the regulatory framework for the hydrogen market continues to be unsuitable due to its overcomplexity.

The booming battery market currently appears to be the glimmer of hope on the horizon.

An all together mixed picture in the various segments of our cluster. Together with our members, we want to tackle the tasks of the energy transition and realise new opportunities this year as well!

Jan Rispens
Managing Director EEHH GmbH

INTERACTIVE, RESPONSIVE, AND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY:

Read the EEHH Annual Report 2025 as an online magazine on your smartphone, tablet, or desktop PC. Simply scan the QR code or enter the link in your browser.

https://content.erneuerbare-energien-hamburg.de/en/annual-report-2025/start

EEHH Managing Director Jan Rispens and host Andrea Thilo (EEHH GmbH)

GERMAN RENEWABLES AWARD

Inspiring the Energy Transition with Boldness and Creativity

More efficient heating networks, the use of wastewater as a heat source, compact hydrogen storage – there were few limits to the ingenuity of this year's applicants for the 14th German Renewables Award. The topic of the heating transition dominated this year. The two expert juries received more than 60 entries in five categories. The EEHH Media Prize, in particular, stood out in 2025, with many entries and trophies for "Print" and "Audiovisual", which were shared this time.

"This year's German Renewables Awards once again send a strong signal for innovation and commitment in the field of renewable energies. By honouring outstanding projects and personalities, Hamburg promotes the development of sustainable technologies and underlines its role as a driving force for the energy transition in Germany and Europe. A warm congratulations to the award winners. With their ideas and commitment, they are all making an important contribution on the path to climate neutrality and independence from fossil fuels."

Katharina Fegebank,
Hamburg's Senator for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture

Product Innovation of the Year

“We are investing every degree in the heat transition. The energy transition will only succeed with a successful heat transition,” says **Patrick Hollstein**, Technical Solutions Manager of “Product Innovation” winner Kingspan-LOGSTOR. He and his team developed the innovative PIR insulation, which, in the district heating variant, allows a constant temperature of 159°C without degradation. Advantage: temperature loss is reduced, which makes it possible to supply larger heating networks with smaller pipe diameters. This leads to lower heating costs for individual consumers.

Another entry was Amperecloud with a fully integrated, AI-powered platform that combines all renewable energy plant types and operational processes into one central system. The company has been optimising PV, wind power and battery storage systems since 2024. Enviria took part in the competition with its pioneering Peakhive energy solution. At the heart of this product is an innovative dual battery storage architecture: two physically separated storage systems with clearly defined roles optimise self-consumption. The jury of experts selected the winner from a total of seven entries.

Project of the Year

Juror **Prof. Dr Martin Oldeland**, Baum e. V., described Naturstrom AG’s Project of the Year as a “blueprint and standard for the future”. The company’s concept for the Cologne residential district of Lück, in which municipal wastewater is used as an energy source, crossed the finish line as the winner. The Lück district’s energy supply is completely fossil-free through the use of wastewater heat and solar energy.

The second entry by Flensburg University of Applied Sciences also focused on the heating transition. In the CERO2 project, the university developed scenarios for an emissions-optimised energy supply for the city with the help of modelling software in Python. The concept of its charging infrastructure was submitted by Stadtreinigung Hamburg as an entry. The municipal company intends to become climate neutral as early as 2035. The optimal charging infrastructure includes AC and DC charging stations as well as hydrogen filling stations. In this category, the jury of experts evaluated a total of six entries.

Andrea Thilo and Patrick Hollstein, Logstor (EEHH GmbH)

Andrea Thilo and the team of Naturstrom AG (EEHH GmbH)

Hydrogen Innovation of the Year

“Climate change is not a national, but rather an international issue,” emphasised **Prof. Dr Julian Jepsen** from the Helmholtz-Zentrum hereon GmbH. The Smart Energy Transform Box is particularly suitable for use in developing and emerging countries. Together with the Helmholtz-Zentrum hereon GmbH, the Helmut Schmidt University – University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg earned the German Renewables Award 2025 in the category “Hydrogen Innovation of the Year”. The holistic, H2-based energy system enables a balance between energy supply and demand by coupling different energy sectors in a compact, mobile unit.

A complete hydrogen ecosystem was the focus of the entry from HY.City.Bremerhaven. Green electricity from a wind turbine feeds a 2 MW electrolyser that produces up to 800 kg of green hydrogen per day. The hydrogen is transported to a public hydrogen filling station via mobile storage systems. Hamburg Airport, however, is currently testing a specially converted baggage tug with hydrogen propulsion. The prototype is being put through its paces under real conditions on the airport apron – with best prospects for the future. A total of five companies took part in the “Hydrogen Innovation of the Year” category.

Student Thesis of the Year

Of all the applicants, he went into the most depth by far and shed light on the details, said juror **Prof. Dr Torsten Faber**, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, of **Jan Segura Schreiber**, TU Hamburg. The winner in the category “Student Thesis of the Year” investigated “Entropy production mechanisms in a sorption wheel” in his master’s thesis. This is a method in which entropy sources can be calculated differently for air drying and by source. In sorption plants, energy sources such as waste heat can be exploited. Air drying is a very large energy consumption factor in battery production.

Nikolaus Hellner, TU Hamburg / German Aerospace Center, looked at “Bidding strategies in renewable energy auctions”. The findings show that a dynamic strategy which takes into account previous auction results is most successful in the long term. **Jeremy Strätling**, TU Hamburg / morEnergy GmbH, used an

innovative measurement concept in his bachelor's thesis to determine the symmetrical component impedance of photovoltaic systems. As the share of converter-based generation plants increases, the stability of the grid is faced with new challenges. Three graduates submitted their final dissertations in the "Student Thesis of the Year" category.

Winners of the "Hydrogen Innovation of the Year" award: Hereon, Helmut Schmidt University and Hydac / Photo: EEHH GmbH

Lifetime Achievement

"Three things should always be at the forefront of the expansion of wind energy on land and at sea: public acceptance, vigilance against circulating disinformation, and the competitiveness of the European supply chain," emphasised the winner in the "Lifetime achievement" category, **Giles Dickson**. The Briton steered the fortunes of the European wind scene in a creative and highly effective way for ten years. From 2015, he headed the European umbrella organisation WindEurope, formerly EWEA, which includes 400 stakeholders in the wind industry.

According to industry experts, he has made a significant contribution to the ramp-up of wind energy in Europe. The umbrella association says that wind power currently covers 20 per cent of Europe's electricity consumption. The industry currently employs around 450,000 people; by 2030, an increase to 600,000 jobs is expected. The wind industry's contribution to European economic output is 52 billion euros per year. After his career in the wind industry, the trained Japanologist will return to his home country of Great Britain next year and work there as a teacher to "give something back to the society I come from".

Jan Sigura Schreiber, TUHH, and Andrea Thilo (EEHH GmbH)

Giles Dickson, WindEurope, and Bärbel Heidebroek, BWE (EEHH GmbH)

FOCUS ON SOLAR

EEHH activities on behalf of the German Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture (BUKEA)

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Solar activities in 2025

EEHH undertook several activities and measures on behalf of the BUKEA to accelerate photovoltaic (PV) expansion in Hamburg. These were divided into the following measures:

1. Solar on commercial roofs
2. Agrivoltaics
3. Solar carports
4. Attracting solar engineers

Solar on commercial roofs

As early as 2024, the EEHH cluster published the first information materials such as PV guidelines and two case studies on PV systems installed on commercially used real estate. The documents are available for downloading free of charge at www.eehh.de and serve as a basis for users and owners of commercial and logistics properties wanting to install a PV system. In July 2024, the cluster organised the first of two information and networking conferences with around 70 participants.

In 2025, EEHH awarded the contract for a further feasibility study on a rooftop PV system for a commercially used property in Hamburg's Hammerbrook district. Publication is planned for the end of the first quarter of 2026. A second information event with over 60 participants also took place.

Photo: EEHH

Solar carports

Elantas GmbH's solar carport system was the focus of a case study in 2024. In 2025, 50 people heard all about this topic at an information event.
Another case study for a solar carport system at Gut Wulksfelde was also commissioned in 2025. Its publication is planned for the end of the first quarter of 2026.

Attracting solar engineers

In 2024 and 2025, EEHH participated with its own joint booth at the Intersolar trade fair in Munich. Members such as 8.2, Teos Energy and Berenberg Bank were also present. Together with the Hamburg Invest economic development agency, the EEHH cluster, in cooperation with AHK Italy and AHK Poland, approached companies for possible settlement in Hamburg.

Agrivoltaics

With agrivoltaics, focus was on another current topic, for example in the context of an information event and an excursion to the Steinicke agrivoltaic plant in Lüchow. The family-run company has been operating the system with an output of 750 kWp since 2022. A total of twelve people took part in the excursion. A follow-up report is available at www.eehh.de

Read follow-up report

Intersolar 2025/ Photo: EEHH

Intersolar 2025/ Photo: EEHH GmbH

Knowledge Sharing at the Wind Forum (EEHH GmbH)

FORUMS

The Heart of Networking: Forum Overview 2025

Discussions on current issues, establishing contacts, and cross-industry collaboration the EEHH forums provide the ideal setting for networking within the EEHH cluster.

Financing & Law Forum

In November 2025, the 36th session of the Financing & Law Forum spotlighted the topic “Profitability of large-scale battery storage systems”. As part of the event, speakers from the German Energy Storage Systems Association (BVES), Luxcara and CFP-Flexpower reported on the current framework conditions and marketing strategies for large-scale battery storage projects.

Learn more

Sector Coupling Forum

The topic “Real applications of AI in the energy industry” kicked off the year at the Sector Coupling Forum in January. The event included topics from the fields of innovation management, generative AI, AI-based site identification, machine learning in electricity forecasting, and digital twins of the city. In the second forum this year, the “Impact of dynamic grid charges” was considered.

Learn more

Sector Coupling Forum Session (EEHH GmbH)

Solar Forum

The EEHH cluster held three events in 2025 as part of the Solar Forum. In a digital session in January 2025, attorney Dirk Legler from the Rechtsanwälte Günther law firm presented the ECJ’s decision on the customer system.

In May 2025, there was an excursion to an agrivoltaic system at Steinicke GmbH in Lüchow.

The working group on public buildings met in June. Representatives of HGV, HKE and BUKEA reported to the participants on progress being made and established processes for PV expansion on public buildings.

In November 2025, an event was held on the topic “Carport PV for Hamburg”, focusing on the various challenges and their solution concepts for carport PV systems.

Learn more

Heat Forum Session (EEHH GmbH)

Heat Forum

At the 26th meeting of the Heat Forum in April 2025, the focus was on the various and innovative possibilities for using heat pumps efficiently and in a future-oriented way even in larger existing buildings. During this meeting, the topic of special heat pump solutions in existing buildings with four to 100 residential units was discussed.

In May, EEHH organised a field trip to southern Denmark in cooperation with the Royal Danish Consulate General in Hamburg and the Danish Board of District Heating. As Denmark is a European pioneer in the heating transition, the trip centred on the desire to learn from our neighbouring country.

In September, the 27th Heat Forum looked at the use of waste heat from data centres. The topic was considered from a variety of perspectives in four fascinating lectures: from the potential of low-calorific process heat to the local use of waste heat for an algae farm.

In a webinar in October, the most important implications of the new law to accelerate the expansion of geothermal plants, heat pumps and heat storage systems were discussed.

Learn more

Wind Forum

In addition to the combined session of the Hydrogen & Wind Forums described below, the speakers from GWEC, Luxcara and the Offshore Wind Foundation, in combination with the International Forum, provided a “view of global wind market development and what this means for the German wind industry”. At this meeting, they shed light on the developments being made in international wind markets and the current discussion on the use of Chinese-made wind turbines in Europe.

Learn more

Wind Forum Session (EEHH GmbH)

Battery Meet-Up (from 2026: Battery & Storage Technologies Forum)

Intelligent sensor technology in batteries, a battery innovation park in the Hamburg metropolitan region and a potential analysis of the regional battery industry – these were the topics of the second EEHH Battery Meet-Up.

Following two successful events in Hamburg, 25 battery enthusiasts were drawn to Brunsbüttel and Itzehoe in the autumn to take a look at the battery economy in practice. They were given an insight into various value creation steps at four stations: from production to operation to recycling.

Learn more

Hydrogen Forum

The Hydrogen Forum met seven times in 2025, twice in combination with other forums of the EEHH cluster.

The first was a joint forum on wind and hydrogen in January, which focused on the possibilities of offshore hydrogen production directly in the offshore wind farm at sea in comparison with offshore power generation and onshore electrolysis.

In March, EEHH and en2x hosted a joint forum on the topic “Methanol – the hidden champion”. Methanol can, for example, be an alternative to fossil fuels in shipping, but also in aviation – and unlike ammonia, it is non-toxic, meaning it is less dangerous to humans. However, a biogenic CO2 molecule is required for a climate-neutral fuel.

The June forum with DLR and with the support of ZAL offered lectures as well as guided tours of the research institutions’ fuel cell laboratories. Summary: In many applications, such as in the field of coastal shipping or industrial trucks, fuel cells can already be used seamlessly today. Research and development regarding use in commercial aircraft or oceangoing vessels is still needed, however.

The forum discussed “Electricity or hydrogen – or both?” in July. Hamburg’s energy networks presented their plans for the expansion of the electricity and hydrogen networks and addressed heat pumps as a new electricity consumer. A study by the HSU looked at future consumption in mobility by all modes of transport on a district-by-district basis. Tesa presented its plans for future climate neutrality. Summary: The company will use both electricity and hydrogen to defossilise its processes. The discussion made it clear that energy requirements and grid capacities must be considered together in the future if climate neutrality in trade and industry is to be achieved.

The topic of costs was the focus in October. In addition to energy trading, the speakers also explained new ideas, such as Hydrogen as a Service, which provide new financing models for electrolysers and reduce the cost of the hydrogen produced.

The Hydrogen Forum was also “on tour” in 2025. On the agenda: the hereon with its microgrid, a joint project with HYDAC.

A joint forum on international affairs and hydrogen rounded off the year. The focus here was on the import routes of hydrogen from production abroad to transshipment in the port and into the hinterland to the consumers.

Mehr erfahren

Hydrogen Forum Session (EEHH GmbH)

KLIMAready

KLIMAREADY

Developing Solutions for Climate Protection together

KLIMAready
Cluster-Brücken für Hamburgs Zukunft

KLIMAready is a cross-cluster project that supports companies in taking concrete steps towards climate neutrality. The focus is on subprojects (i.e. cluster bridges) of practical relevance, on knowledge transfer and on the development of sustainable networks. Through a continually growing knowledge hub, events and numerous publications, KLIMAready provides practical support services for climate protection in everyday business.

Cluster bridge 1: Energy sharing in the Allermöhe industrial estate

The first cluster bridge addresses the topic of energy transformation in the Allermöhe industrial park, with four companies actively contributing to the methodical development of possible measures. To this end, the Kreativgesellschaft Hamburg invited participants to an eight-day series of workshops in the form of the Cross-Innovation-Lab. Participants developed solutions using design-thinking methods and taking specific company needs into account.


Introductory workshop KLIMAready

The companies showed particular interest in the implementation of measures for energy generation and sharing in order to cooperate in terms of energy supply and benefit from added value. The idea came about for a joint pilot project, involving several local companies, which pursues the joint generation and use of energy. The project management also tendered a feasibility study for the joint generation and use of energy in the Allermöhe industrial park. The aim is to efficiently network local potential – for example from renewable energies – to cut costs and reduce carbon emissions. The study will run until the beginning of 2026 under the authorship of Bürgerenergie Bille eG.

Cluster bridge 2: E-charging infrastructure for heavy loads

The second cluster bridge focuses on the development of an e-charging infrastructure for heavy-load traffic around Hamburg Airport. The six local companies held a kick-off workshop in which they collected initial needs and ideas. In another exchange format, key stakeholders such as hySOLUTIONS, Economic Development and Technology Transfer Schleswig-Holstein (WTSH) and others came together to discuss needs, opportunities and challenges as well as the next steps. An accompanying company survey shall systematically record the requirements. The aim is to create added value for the companies located in the proximity of the airport and to bundle costs by taking a joint approach.

KLIMAready

Summary

With the cluster bridges, KLIMAready demonstrates how specific, transferable solutions for energy, mobility and climate protection can be created through close cooperation.

NORTHERN GERMAN LIVING LAB

Advancing the Energy Transition

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Siechau, Marcel Schröder, Hamburg City Cleaning Department, with Senator for the Environment Katharina Fegebank (Stadtreinigung HH)

The energy transition joint project Northern German Living Lab (NRL) brings together more than 50 partners from science, the energy sector, industry and politics who collaborate closely to identify together new paths to climate neutrality. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) is funding the six-year project (April 2021 to March 2027). The EEHH cluster has taken on the B2B Transfer (TV 3.2) task package, which includes, in particular, communication on the cluster's communication channels and presence at (cluster-owned) events. Tim Zeige has held the position of PR officer for the NRL since May 2025.

Project obstacles impact communication

Since the start of the project, the NRL has been confronted with multiple crises, including the energy crisis as a result of the Ukraine war, but also ongoing uncertainties in hydrogen legislation and the sluggish market ramp-up. These framework conditions forced some subprojects to scale down or discontinue, meaning that there were significantly fewer opportunities for communication in 2025 than in previous years.

Hydrogen-powered vehicles at Hamburg Airport (Hamburg Airport)

Prof. Dr. Hans Schäfer, Mike Blicker, HAW Hamburg with Tim Zeige, EEHH GmbH (NRL)

TV 3.2: B2B transfer – 2025 results

Despite these obstacles, the 2025 NRL achieved significant communication successes. Readers of the EEHH blog were able to enjoy seven articles on the NRL. Its LinkedIn channel posted 42 posts with a total reach of 32,322 impressions.

The NRL appeared in the **film for Hydrogen Week, presented by the Renewable Energy cluster**. In the cluster's own **podcast, "New Energy from Hamburg"**, Julian Klaaßen (Hamburg Airport) reported on the NRL and the conversion of a baggage tug to hydrogen. The Tagesspiegel newspaper wrote a feature on this episode.

To the film

To the podcast

Regional Hydrogen Conference in Hamburg (NRL)

The NRL was a sponsor at the “Energy Systems in Transition” and “Unconference” cluster events and attracted attention with roll-ups, posters and flyers. The NRL was also represented at the Hydrogen Technology World Expo and at the Husum Wind at the EEHH cluster stand and made direct contact with industry stakeholders.

Project coordinator Mike Blicker presented the NRL at the **dena-Regionalkonferenz Nord**, organised by the EEHH cluster, and was also part of the panel discussion at the hydrogen symposium held by the Business Association for Southern Hamburg.

In addition, Tim Zeige presented the NRL in a poster session at the North German Science Ministers’ Conference in Berlin.

The commissioning of the electrolyser by Stadtreinigung Hamburg at Bützberg was the communications highlight of 2025. **Marcel Schröder** reported on the subproject as a guest at the EEHH event “Green Hydrogen Sofa”. Together with **Tim Zeige**, he also presented the concept at the REGWA Symposium in Stralsund. In the blog, **Marcel Schröder** talked about the project in an in-depth **expert interview**. A white paper on the topic “Power-to-Gas” will be published in 2026.

dena Regional-konferenz Nord

To the expert interview

Regional Hydrogen Conference in Hamburg (NRL)

KAIROS Project Team (EEHH GmbH)

PROJECTS

Support Services for Project Initiation and Cooperation Projects

The EEHH cluster supports its members in the initiation of cooperation projects by accompanying them in the search for funding and cooperation partners and by helping with individual enquiries as needed. Should a potential project begin to take shape, we are happy to provide feedback on project outlines and applications upon request.

In addition to a one-on-one exchange of ideas, we also offer members the opportunity to bring their own concerns to the network via a special format. After submission, the cluster team looks at opportunities for networking and pitching project ideas in our forums and at the “Problem seeks solution – solution seeks problem” matchmaking event.

The EEHH cluster services

KAIROS for Clusters

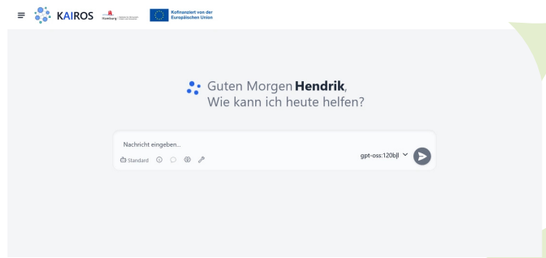


Foto: EEHH

“Kairos” is an ancient Greek term describing the “right time” for a decision – a window of opportunity that, if missed, may be disadvantageous. We should seize this opportunity with artificial intelligence, too. For this reason, since summer 2025, the EEHH cluster has been working with the Hamburg Aviation cluster and HITeC e. V. in the KAIROS for Clusters project to develop data-protection-secure solutions for knowledge management tasks for clusters and their members.

In KAIROS, the clusters gain experience in the field of AI and build up skills that they can pass on to their members and other Hamburg clusters via guidelines and live demonstrations. The prototypes developed are then tested by the other clusters. Subsequently, companies can also test them free of charge and take their investment decisions based on the initial concrete experience with the prototypes customised for their company.

The project is funded by Hamburg’s Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Innovation (BWAI) and is co-financed by the EU’s European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Hamburg | Behörde für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Innovation

Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

FROM HAMBURG TO THE WORLD

International Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energies and Hydrogen

A delegation from Hamburg led by Finance Senator Andreas Dressel at EXPO 2025 in Osaka, Japan (EEHH GmbH)

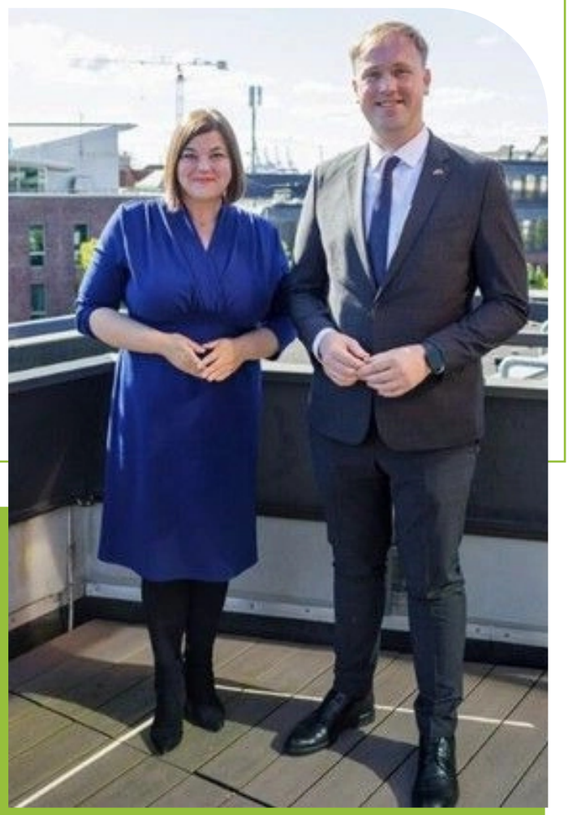
EEHH trip to EXPO 2025 in Osaka

On the occasion of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, the EEHH cluster travelled to Japan at the end of June together with the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW), Hamburg Invest and Hamburg Marketing. The talks focused on a possible cooperation in the field of renewable energies and hydrogen. In Hamburg's twin city of Osaka, the delegation learnt about the development of the liquid hydrogen supply chain at Kawasaki Heavy Industries and was given a guided tour of the German Pavilion at the World Expo. At the EEHH Renewables Night, the Hamburg network met with colleagues in Tokyo. The trip concluded with a visit to the Fukushima region to expand research cooperation.

Visit to FREA in Fukushima (EEHH GmbH)

Strengthening wind energy cooperation with the Baltic States

Cooperation with countries bordering the Baltic Sea is a central component of the internationalisation strategy of the EEHH cluster with a focus on wind energy. In the field of offshore wind energy, Latvia is one of the countries in the Baltic States with the greatest potential for expansion. According to the EU's estimates, up to 14.5 GW could be installed off the Latvian coast. A high-level delegation led by Latvia's Minister for Economics, **Viktors Valainis**, travelled to Hamburg in September. To mark the occasion, the EEHH cluster hosted the German–Latvian Renewables Roundtable, also in September, which provided a special platform for expert exchange and the exploration of business opportunities between leading companies from both countries.



World Hydrogen Summit in Rotterdam in May

The discussions regarding the trade in hydrogen and its derivatives have made it clear that global trading structures as well as decentralised production sites and associated value chains are expanding steadily. Producers, in particular, presented numerous projects that can already produce hydrogen and its derivatives in larger quantities in the short to medium term. The initial hydrogen hype may have evaporated, but it is becoming increasingly evident which projects and locations are actually making progress. The negative impact on the hydrogen market of the strict EU regulations in the Delegated Act on RED II was heard, as were possible adjustments to encourage the market ramp-up.

Prof. Dr. Hans Schäfers explains Hamburg's energy transition (EEHH GmbH)

Heat excursion to Denmark in May

Denmark is considered a European pioneer of the heating transition. A policy decision was made back in the 1970s regarding the heat supply network, which stipulates mandatory heat planning for all cities. Today, around 70 per cent of households in Denmark are connected to district heating. In May, a delegation led by EEHH travelled to southern Denmark. The group was impressed by the strong collaborative culture and the organisation of the heating transition in the form of cooperatives. The integration of a wide range of technical solutions plays an important role in the success of the Danish heating transition.

Heating excursion to southern Denmark (EEHH GmbH)

Judge Monika Rössiger (EEHH GmbH)

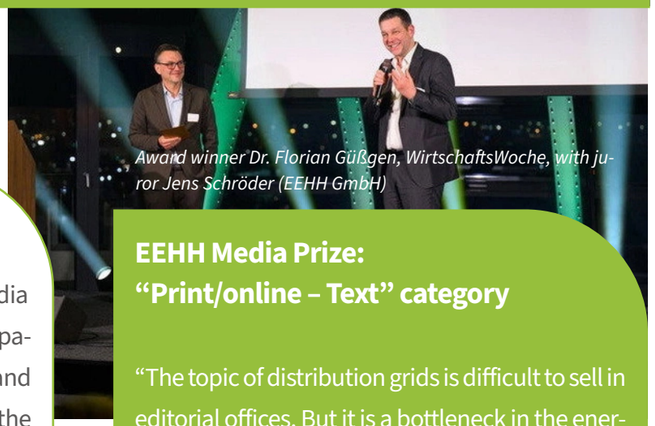
MEDIA

The EEHH Cluster in the Public Eye

Focus on crisis communication

What to do in an emergency? In the first Media Forum of the year, critical infrastructure companies such as Hamburger Energienetze and Greenplanet Energy provided a look behind the scenes. The topic was so well received by the participants that the EEHH cluster took up the topic again more extensively at the second unconference in June. The impulse was provided by communications expert Eva Werner. The guests worked intensively on the topic in a kind of World Café, with keynote speeches in order to compile the perspectives and experiences of several companies in a guideline.

Award winner Susanne Brahms with judge Monika Rössiger and host Andrea Thilo (EEHH GmbH)



Award winner Dr. Florian Güßgen, WirtschaftsWoche, with juror Jens Schröder (EEHH GmbH)

EEHH Media Prize: “Print/online – Text” category

“The topic of distribution grids is difficult to sell in editorial offices. But it is a bottleneck in the energy transition. Renewables are currently in a crisis, but it is absolutely essential that they continue,” urged winner **Dr. Florian Güßgen**, WirtschaftsWoche. In his article “Die Sonnenflut” (The Sun Flood), together with co-author **Stefan Hajek**, he describes the soar in solar energy and the resulting challenge for energy grids. In second place: Aline Pabst with “Windkraft, einfach Nein? Von Abrissbirnen und Vogelflüsterern im Saarland” (Wind power, simply no? Wrecking balls and bird whisperers in the Saarland), published in the Saarbrücker Heften. Third-place winner **Hanno Böck** explains “Was aus der E-Fuels-Produktion in Chile wurde” (What became of e-fuel production in Chile), published in Golem.

EEHH Media Prize: “Audiovisual” category

Winner **Susanne Brahms** was especially “sensitive” in depicting the conflict of goals between climate and nature conservation in offshore wind farms, says juror **Monika Rössiger**. In her television report “Windparks im Meer – Chance oder Risiko für die Natur?” (Wind farms in the sea – opportunity or risk for nature?), which was broadcast by Arte and NDR, she examines the pros and cons of offshore wind energy in an impressive and balanced way. With her entry, she placed above both **Dirk Asendorpf** with his contribution “Windkraft auf dem Meer” (Wind power at sea), a broadcast on DLF Kultur, and **Nils Naber**, NDR, with “Strom wegwerfen statt nutzen” (Throwing electricity away instead of using it). With more than 40 entries, the EEHH Media Prize broke all records since being awarded for the first time in 2018 – the jury of experts awarded prizes for the first time in the “Audiovisual” category.

EEHH Unconference 2025 (EEHH GmbH)

Press trips with EEHH participation

In September, the EEHH cluster organised a press trip with the destinations Hamburg Green Hydrogen Hub, the gas pressure control system of the hydrogen industrial network and MB Energy’s New Energy Gate import terminal. Fifteen trade journalists participated. In addition, EEHH supported Hamburg Marketing with the accompanying press trip to the Hydrogen Technology World Expo in October.

EEHH blog and “New Energy from Hamburg” podcast

With the article “Die Zukunft von Energysharing” (The future of energy sharing), the EEHH blog set a new record of views – around 13,500. The EEHH editorial team published nearly 90 interviews and reports on an enormous variety of topics in the course of the year. Ten interviewees were interviewed for the “New Energy from Hamburg” podcast.

Podcast host Astrid Dose with studio guests Florian Zastrau (ad fontes), Tabea Hartmann, and Freddi Lange (admi kommunal)

Outlook

Hamburg City Hall (Julia Schwendner)

The year 2026 will be an exciting one for EEHH in many respects. Firstly, the climate and energy policies in Hamburg, in Germany and in the EU will continue to develop; and secondly, the electrification of society will also mean a thematic expansion for our cluster. Last but not least, the strategy of the EEHH cluster will also be readjusted.

Many changes in energy legislation are already appearing on the horizon. These were already announced in 2025 in consultation procedures, draft laws and initiatives, and are expected to lead to significant results in 2026 and subsequent years. As well as a switch in the funding methodology for renewable energies stipulated by the EU from 2027, an amendment in the grid fee system, which aims at more flexibility in the electricity grid, and new rules for the construction and operation of large and small batteries, the introduction of the ETS II CO2 certificate trading system from 2028 is one of the most important transitions. This will change the energy market considerably. All industry players will have to adapt; the changes are essential for the next level of the energy transition. As a cluster, we want to offer orientation in this phase and are looking forward to this process!

Having successfully implemented the majority of the EEHH 2025 strategy (developed during the pandemic) by the end of 2025, further development of our cluster strategy is on the agenda for this year. We are looking at which topics have taken a different course than planned, which new topics are being added, and how overarching social and political issues affect our work. We are also taking into consideration how the sharp increase in the number of members and the expanded range of topics in the cluster will be reflected in the future in our measures.

We are looking forward to this process, with the intensive involvement of our members and stakeholders, so that an updated cluster strategy can be developed and implemented in the second half of 2026!

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IMPLEMENTATION

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