MEET THE SPEAKERS

Oliver Rapf, BPIE

Since 2011, Oliver Rapf is Executive Director of BPIE, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, a Brussels based think-tank with a focus on energy and the built environment. Before joining BPIE, Oliver worked for the global conservation organization WWF in various roles, including as Head of the Climate Business Engagement unit of WWF International, managing strategy and partnership development with the private sector.

Maarten De Groote, BPIE

Head of Research at the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) with close to 15 years’ experience in energy performance and sustainability of buildings. He is leading several of BPIE’s projects on building performance policies, innovation in the construction sector and smart buildings.
As strategic policy officer at the Flemish Energy Agency, he coordinated the Flemish nZEB action plan and the Belgian quality scheme for installers’ renewable energy systems and joined both Concerted Actions EPBD and RED.

**Hugo Jansen, DEERNS Group**

Driven by a passion for high tech, real estate and sustainability, Hugo graduated at Technical University Delft in the field of Sustainable Housing Transformation. His knowledge was put into practice during his career as a Consultant at DEERNS where he specialized in the field of smart building. Currently Hugo is also commercially responsible for the bGrid Smart Building solution developed at DEERNS and is involved with smart building projects consultancy in different countries.

**Sarah Bogaert, VITO**

Sarah Bogaert is an environmental economist by background and works as a project manager in the Energy District Design Unit of VITO, the Flemish institute for technological research. She coordinates projects in the field of Smart cities & Sustainable Built Environment for the European Commission. She
is project manager of the Support Study for setting up a Smart Readiness Indicator for Buildings for DG Energy (https://smartreadinessindicator.eu). Also for DG Energy, she manages the Smart Cities Information System project (http://smartcities-infosystem.eu) and the FP7 Smart Cities project Cityzen (www.cityzen-smartcity.eu).

Dr. Stephan Kolb, eu.bac

Stephan is the Head of Industry Affairs Heating at Danfoss since 2016. Prior to Danfoss he worked for Statkraft and CECED in Brussels on energy-related regulatory issues. He also worked as a Policy Officer at the European Commission, within DG Energy, tackling topics such as eco-design, energy labelling and buildings’ performance. He also has experience at the German Energy Agency, supporting the Ministry of Economy in EU affairs and energy efficiency projects.
As Team Leader of Technology Policy and Modelling in E.ON’s global Solution Management organisation, Marco is focused on driving multi-region market development ahead of B2C energy products and services. Marco is currently leading E.ON SE’s participation in the EU funded Energy Efficient Mortgage Action Plan (EeMAP) project.

Karlis is the Counsellor on Energy policy for the Ministry. He is following and directing the EU legislative process in the areas of Energy Policy and Infrastructure Funding. Previously, he carried out similar tasks in the areas of Transport (Land, Intermodal, Maritime, Aviation, Space, Infrastructure Funding) and Competitiveness and Growth (Consumer Rights Intellectual Property Rights, Industrial Policy). Karlis also acted as an expert of Estonian national industrial policy.
Jan Willem Eising, Alliander

Jan Willem Eising is an experienced project manager responsible for strategic and innovative business transition projects for Alliander. Since 2013 he is involved, as project manager, in several energy storage projects within Alliander, thereby driven by a desire to help the energy transition succeed. Currently he is, as project manager, responsible for Virtual Power Plant in the European programme CityZen. Jan Willem has a Master in Innovation management from the Utrecht University.

Pierre-Antoine Vernon, European Commission

Pierre-Antoine Vernon is responsible for H2020 Energy Efficiency projects on smart buildings at the European Commission Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), where he works as Project Advisor. He joined EASME in 2015 after four years as Policy Officer in the field of energy at the European Commission DG Research and Innovation. Pierre-Antoine holds a Master in European Studies of the College of Europe and a Master in Political Science from Sciences-Po, Paris.
Jukka Aho, Leanheat

Jukka Aho is the CEO and co-founder of Leanheat. He has over 10 years’ experience in leading software businesses. Idea of Leanheat was born in 2011 when there was a growing need to optimize heating in centrally heated buildings. Currently Leanheat manages over 30,000 apartments in district heating networks producing tangible benefits for residents, building owners and district heating operators. Jukka holds MSc from Tampere University of Technology.

Dr. Andreas Hermelink, Ecofys

Dr. Andreas Hermelink studied Business Economics (Dipl.-Kfm.) and Civil Engineering (Dipl.-Ing.), and holds a PhD on Sustainability Evaluation of Buildings (Dr.-Ing.). The certified consultant for rational use of energy in buildings has 17 years of professional experience in the fields of energy related user behaviour, environmental life-cycle assessment, cost-benefit-analysis and application of passive house philosophy in new and existing buildings and neighbourhoods.