



## Association “ City for people”



### Summary

The association "City for People" was established in January 2016 to help create a good urban environment in Riga and other cities in Latvia. The team and supporters include specialists in various fields – programmers, architects, communication, and urban environment specialists. The goals of the association are to create people-oriented, high-quality public outdoor spaces where everyone is safe, to promote convenient and safe mobility opportunities in the city and beyond for everyone, regardless of age and health status, and to promote environmental protection.

### Why is it a case of energy citizenship?

Sustainable mobility has a direct role in energy transition and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The transition towards low-carbon energy systems is part of energy citizenship since conventional mobility planning approaches have changed toward sustainable smart mobility. This is aimed at guaranteeing the participation of all social groups and reducing the impacts of transport, such as energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, air quality, wasted space in the streets, and impacts on public health.



MOBILITY



URBAN



COLLECTIVE



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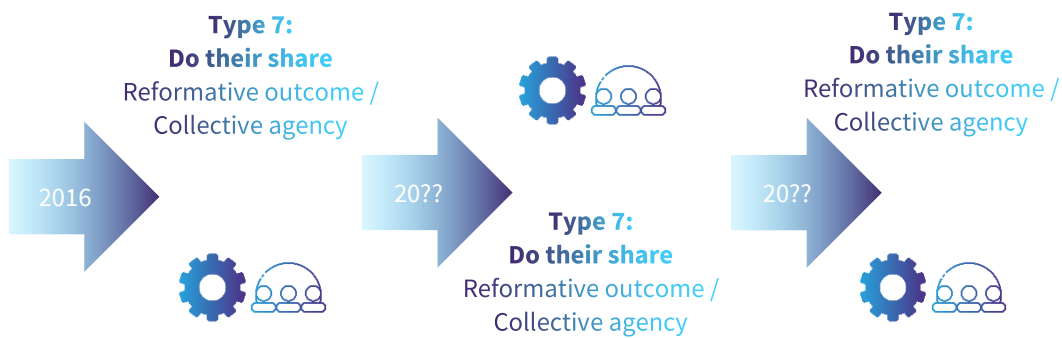
## Goals

1. Promoting alternative modes of mobility and improving their safety
2. Improving urban air quality and reducing noise pollution
3. Increasing public awareness of mobility and urban sustainability

## The story and the typology

The Association "City for People" was established in January 2016 to promote a good urban environment in Riga city. The team and over 100 voluntary members and supporters include specialists in various fields.

The case is categorised as a collective, citizen-based and hybrid “Do their share” ideal type. There were no changes in the classification of the energy citizenship ideal type in the period 2016-2023, i.e., during its operation, but in terms of organisational development, the case can be divided into three phases.



## Case history summary



For the summary methodology, click [HERE!](#)



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## Phase 1: Awareness raising activities, 2016-2018

The association “City for People” was launched in 2016 as a voluntary movement – the majority of contributions were voluntary and unpaid. The case started with initially fragmented informal awareness-raising activities. The aim was to raise public awareness about current unsustainable urban practices and planning. These activities took many forms: campaigns, petitions, street festivals and smaller technical solutions.

The association may be qualified as a Collective citizen-based and hybrid ENCI case, more precisely:

type 7 “Do their share”. Awareness-raising activities have been present throughout the history of the case.

	Individual			Collective	
					
 Reformative	1. Do their bit (in the household)	3. Do their bit (within organizations)	5. Make their voice heard	<b>7. Do their share</b>	9. Do the job
 Transformative	2. Do their own (in the household)	4. Do it their way (within organizations)	6. Make their vote count	8. Go ahead	10. Make their claims

### Main type: Do their share

Reformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency

## Phase 2: Organisational development, 2019-2022

The case's organisational capacity increased after it received a grant (EEA and Norway grants) in 2022 to recruit staff and develop a website and communication strategy.

In this phase, the case grew from a few volunteers into a highly professional organisation with members with diverse educational and social backgrounds – all having a synergetic positive impact on the functioning of the whole.

Their professionalism is essential in ensuring the democratic functioning of the organisation, as the professional opinions (backed up with support from diverse areas of knowledge) are used to lobby for necessary improvements in the urban mobility system.

The case aimed to unite like-minded people through workshops, public debates, and local days – empowering local communities to tackle urban problems, find solutions and represent their needs to municipal decision-makers.

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### Phase 3: Expansion of operational areas, 2023-

In the last phase, there has been an expansion in the areas of operation and the impact on local decision-making has increased. Participation in public hearings and consultation mechanisms has been strengthened, and broader public recognition and visibility have been achieved – the case has become a 'voice' for some areas of sustainable urban governance.

So far, the main achievements of the case are achieving organisational visibility and recognition in the public sector and among decision-makers at the

municipal level, as well as making practical improvements in the quality of public spaces and alternative mobility modes (cycling and walking).

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**Main type: Do their share**

Reformative outcome / Citizen-based and hybrid agency



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## The aspects of energy citizenship

**Citizens have the right to take part in decision-making by submitting their proposals to the municipal administration, which is obliged to consider them, though not act on them. Nevertheless, the number of citizens' actions adds weight to the importance awarded to problems, and this pressure should be followed up by the necessary reactions from the municipal council.**

Citizen power/control  
**Citizens can express their views, but their views are not necessarily taken into account**



Activities include awareness raising about available bicycle routes, control of the technical conditions of the city's bicycle paths and relevant proposals for improvements submitted to the city administration, including proposals for city re-planning and improvements with an eye on bicycle mobility. **The goal of reducing the carbon footprint is also indirectly articulated through activities that promote green public space.** Activities include campaigning against carparking and planning trees along streets.

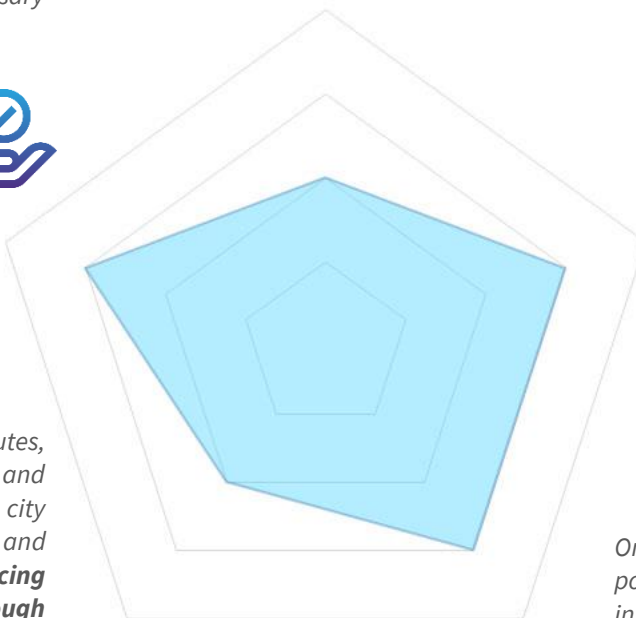
Carbon limit  
**Implicit recognition of the carbon limit**



Energy democracy is considered a positive value supported by the democratic participation of citizens. However, **the democratic energy future that is envisioned remains limited to formal energy democracy** (democratic procedures). A significant part of City for People activity is lobbying through participatory mechanisms based on compulsory requirements defined for municipalities by national legislation with respect to stakeholder involvement in decision-making.



Democratic energy future  
**Energy democracy is considered as a positive value, but the vision does not really address it**



In this case there is a limited focus on goals of equity and justice. **It is indirectly intended that equal access to safe and diverse modes of mobility have to be available for anyone** regardless of social and geographical restrictions (with preference to environmentally friendly modes of travel). The issue of equity is relevant as economic income is related to social equity and this drives mobility choice.



Equity and justice  
**Equal access is granted, but limited by various criteria**

One of the goals is improving urban air quality and reducing noise pollution. A contribution to environmental and climate goals is made in several ways: **by promoting better transport and alternative infrastructure that reduces transport-related pollution**, thus contributing to the city's air quality and emission reductions and climate goals.



Environmental sustainability  
**Environmental sustainability is part of the process, energy remains the main focus**



## Further information



[facebook.com/PilsetaCilvekiem](https://facebook.com/PilsetaCilvekiem)



[www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/](http://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/)



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## References

- Information available on various aspects of the case on the case website (Accessed 30.09.2023):
  - <https://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/announcement/atbrivots-kronvalda-parks-no-automasinam/>
  - <https://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/announcement/ideju-hakatons-atdivini-brivibas-ielu/>
  - <https://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/announcement/ietves-centra-tiek-tirtas-centralizeti/>
  - <https://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/kadai-but-maskackai/>
- Interview with a case participant
- Vadovics, E., Szöllőssy A., and Vadovics K. (2023). Introduction and Methodology for the EnergyPROSPECTS Detailed Case Summary Reports. EnergyPROSPECTS (PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy Citizenship Transformation). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10075408>



## Source of images

[facebook.com/PilsetaCilvekiem](https://facebook.com/PilsetaCilvekiem); [www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/](http://www.pilsetacilvekiem.lv/)



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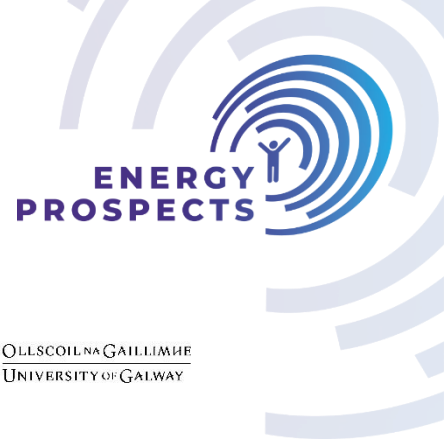
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