# Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Positive Energy Districts

Adopted by the Steering Group on

6 March 2026

The IWG Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in this technology area. The IWG PEDs aims to support the development, planning, deployment and replication of Positive Energy Districts. PEDs are an integrative approach to energy systems in cities and urban areas that include technological, spatial, regulatory, financial, legal, environmental, social and economic perspectives, actively involving the real estate sector, building owners and developers, energy and water utilities and other urban infrastructure providers as core enablers of planning, investment and long-term operation. The IWG works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g., Joint Secretariats (CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

**The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a 1) Thematic Vision (TV), a 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). The old Implementation Plans and SRIAs may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise. In this context, the IWG shall:**

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology area** of Positive Energy Districts, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

*The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with industry, policy, research and innovation stakeholders, including representative of the real estate and construction sectors (property owners, developers, social housing providers) energy and multi-utilities (electricity, heat, gas, water, waste and digital infrastructure operators) ETIPs (ECTP), the co-funded Partnership Driving Urban Transitions, Mission Cities the EERA JP Smart Cities, and other stakeholders (e.g., ERRIN, Eurocities, Energy Cities, etc.) by 15 May 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to: technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.*

*The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.*

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

*The IWG will entrust the development or update of a SRIA to industry and research stakeholders, represented by the ETIP ECTP, by 15 October 2026.*[1] *The SRIA should explicitly address the role of real estate owners, developers and utilities in the PED value chain, including research and innovation*

[1] In some rare cases, IWGs might not have corresponding ETIPs. In these specific situations, the IWG can involve other stakeholder organisations involved in the SET Plan (i.e., partnerships, industrial association, dedicated technical sub-group of the IWG) to act as an ETIP, until a formal ETIP is set up and endorsed by the Steering Group or another structure is formally tasked to act as such by the Steering Group.

*priorities related to new business models, risk-sharing mechanisms, contractual arrangements, ownership and operation models for energy-positive buildings and districts, as well as the integration of utilities as long-term operators and investors in local energy systems. The SRIA shall identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals.*

*Where appropriate, the SRIA should also include in particular, regulatory and fiscal frameworks affecting real estate development, property ownership, energy services provision, and the role of regulated and non-regulated utilities, as well as standardisation aspects relevant for district-scale energy infrastructures and building portfolios and recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and market uptake (e.g. regulatory, fiscal, standardisation) that should accompany and help realise the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CETPartnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the European Energy Research Alliance, etc.*

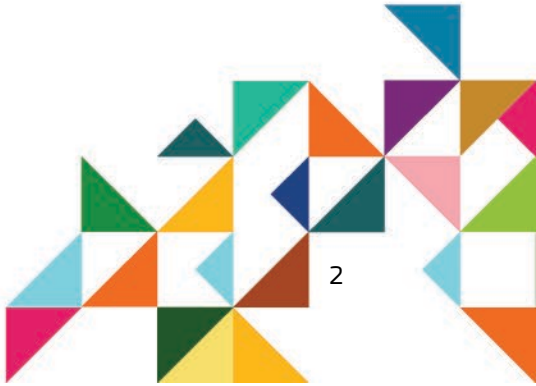
*The resulting SRIA shall be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.*

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

*The IWG will organise and steer the discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organisations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA by Q1 2027. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.*

*In this context, particular attention should be given to the investment commitments and implementation roles of real estate actors (public and private building owners, developers, housing companies) and energy and multi-utilities, as key private partners for the large-scale deployment, operation and replication of Positive Energy Districts.*

*The successful deployment and replication of Positive Energy Districts critically depends on the early and sustained involvement of real estate actors and utilities, ensuring alignment between urban planning, asset development, energy infrastructure investment and long-term operation.*

**Monitoring and reporting** on the progress of the **Common Implementation and Investment Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.