



Building Power

Reducing Building Emissions and Energy Use

SLOVAKIA: BRATISLAVA & KOŠICE

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure

Key Terms

Energy management | Municipal buildings | Energy Management Teams | Community of Practice | Private sector engagement | Energy poverty | Building retrofit | Data systems | Capacity building

Levers of Change

Data and Digitalisation | Democracy and participation | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation |

Description of the Pilot Activity

Slovakia's two largest cities joined forces with ETP Slovakia, a nonprofit focused on vulnerable groups, to tackle building emissions through a comprehensive approach: implementing energy management in municipal buildings, engaging the private sector in reducing commercial building energy use, preventing energy poverty, and sharing best practices with other cities. The project recognises that effective energy management requires not just technical systems but institutional transformation — breaking down silo mentalities, creating new professional roles, and building communities of practice across municipal structures.

Year One Highlights

In Year 1 both cities focused on building the institutional infrastructure for energy management by creating dedicated Energy Management Teams (EMTs). Once in place, the EMTs addressed a key challenge: the fragmented and uncoordinated state of information on city-owned buildings, with data and responsibilities scattered across multiple departments without clear ownership. Through building mapping exercises, the teams created inventories (nearly 150 buildings in Bratislava, approximately 1,500 supply points across 167 facilities in Košice) and launched procurement for smart energy data management systems. ETP Slovakia developed a tailored mapping tool for identifying populations at risk of energy poverty. A joint study visit to three Czech cities provided valuable insights on energy management. Communities of Practice were established in both cities, bringing together city hall departments and municipal enterprises for regular exchange. Bratislava also built a new model of long-term partnership with companies through the Bratislava Mayor's Climate Challenge. The programme launched in 2025 as a voluntary, two-year cooperation model moving beyond simple one-off commitments toward regular dialogue and shared learning. The first cohort brought together 10 companies across 12 buildings and around 250,000 m² of floor area. It has already helped catalyse more than 3.5 MWp of new solar capacity, around 1 GWh of real energy savings, and more than €10 million in investments. Košice is in active negotiations with the European Investment Bank on financing under the Just Transition Mechanism.

Innovation Highlights

The core insight from both cities is that energy transition in municipalities requires cultural change before technical change. Energy has traditionally been understood as a procurement and billing function; shifting it to a strategic governance function required new roles, new conversations, and new cross-departmental relationships — not just new software. The parallel two-city structure, with regular joint exchanges, creates a built-in peer learning mechanism: both cities are tackling the same challenge through different methods, generating comparative insight. The Bratislava Mayor's Climate Challenge demonstrates that meaningful private sector engagement is achievable through voluntary partnership design rather than regulation, provided the programme is co-designed with participants from the start.

Key Insight

Setting up energy management teams was only the beginning — the real work was changing how energy is understood across municipal structures, from a cost to be managed to a system to be governed.

