

How to do it!

BOOSTING COOPERATION BETWEEN HOUSING COMPANIES AT CHAIRPERSONS' CLUBS

Regular meetings between the chairpersons of housing companies along a street or in a neighbourhood – club nights for chairpersons – establish a network and enable functional cooperation between neighbouring housing companies. This kind of collaboration can also boost energy renovations and renewable energy in the neighbourhood. On club nights, experienced housing company chairpersons and board members can share their experiences and new chairpersons can receive peer support for their own activities. For other operators, such as the city, these clubs serve as a good communication channel with housing companies.

1 First, establish contact with the chairpersons of a couple of housing companies. Propose the idea of a chairpersons' club and make sure that the first meeting will be attended by at least a few members from interested housing companies.



2 Pick a location for the meeting that is situated in the neighbourhood and easy for everyone to access, such as the cabinet of a local café.



3 Send an invitation to all the chairpersons in the neighbourhood either directly or through building managers.



4 Arrange for something small to eat and drink at the meeting, such as a savory pie or other tasty snacks.



5 Make sure that everyone has the chance to introduce themselves at the start of the evening. Prepare an agenda for the first meeting, but reserve plenty of time for free discussion. Finally, ask for feedback and suggestions on topics that the participants would like to discuss during the next meeting. If you are unable to convene the meeting yourself, everyone should agree upon a responsible person who will convene the meeting regularly.



When should you set up a chairpersons' club?

There are always good reasons to set up a chairpersons' club, as having a good neighbourhood network is a positive thing and it allows the chairpersons to learn from each other. A chairpersons' club is particularly beneficial if the building stock in the neighbourhood is about the same age and of a similar type, as this makes it easier for companies to compare their experiences, and the same solutions are suitable for many.

A chairpersons' club is an excellent channel for influencing the decisions made by the housing companies in the neighbourhood. If a project intends to influence the energy efficiency of apartment buildings in the neighbourhood, for example, the chairperson's club should convene. Anyone can convene the club.