

TURNING RISK INTO OPPORTUNITY: DECARBONISING STRANDED ASSETS AT A NEIGHBOURHOOD SCALE



Sabine Georgi Executive Director, ULI Germany



Vicki Odili Associate Director, TP Bennet



Lisette van Doorn CEO, ULI Europe



Maria Vassilakou Founder, Vienna Solutions



Haris Piplas Director, Drees & Sommer

16 APRIL 2025 | 12:00 - 13:00 GMT+1



THE MISSION OF THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE Shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide







50,000 members globally

Active across the value chain: investors, developers, architects, city planners, etc

Thought leadership & education

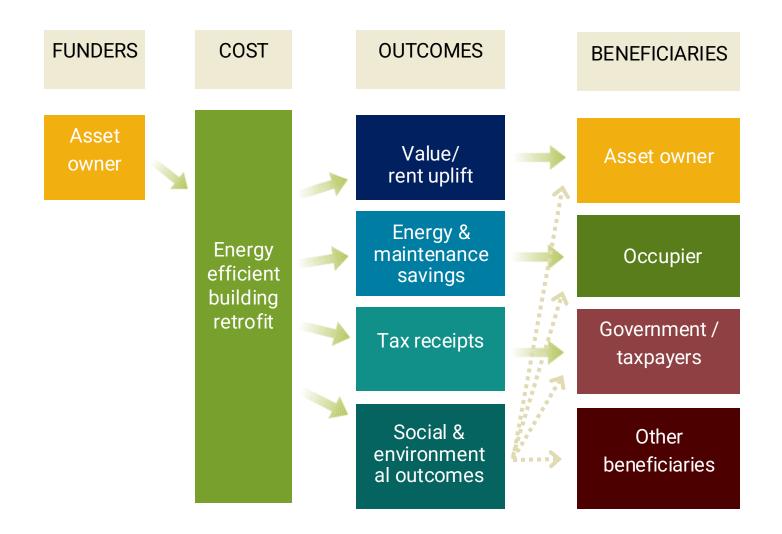


Place-based Transformation: Decarbonisation as a catalyst for sustainable urban (re)development





For asset owners, the economic case for decarbonisation is often challenging





Introduce a wider perspective

Cost vs investment

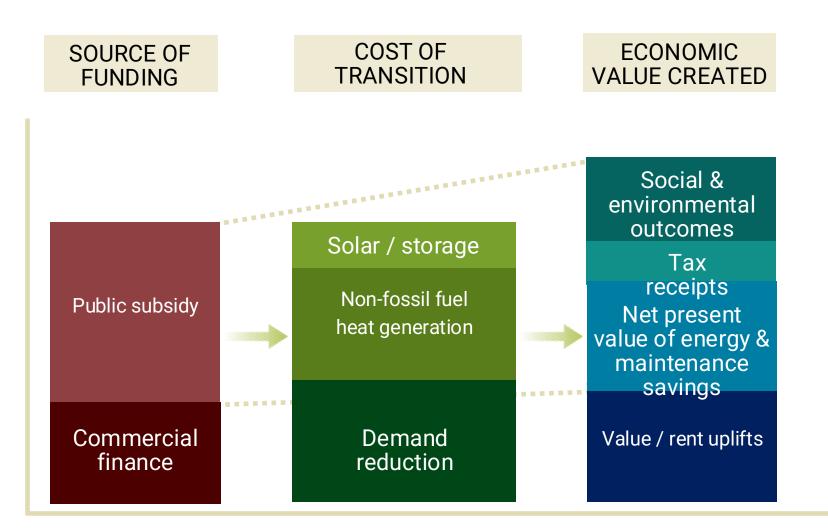
Who benefits

Who pays

Who leads



Business Case: "Mindset Shift" from cost to investment





2 Case studies



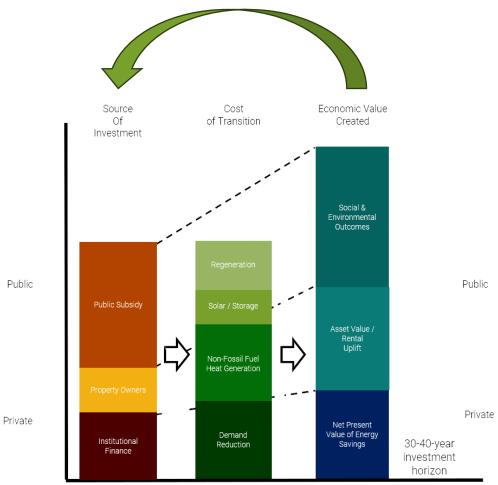
Buckower Höfe, South Neukölln GEWOBAG Housing Association

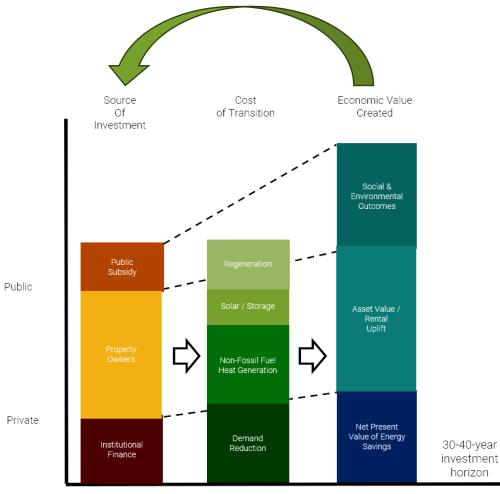


Kurfürstendamm, West Berlin



Investment mix and roles depend on benefits mix





Buckower Höfe

Kurfürstendamm



Neighbourhood Governance as a Foundation for Decarbonisation

- Decarbonisation at scale requires strong local governance
- Aligning city vision, planning tools, and delivery mechanisms
- Collaborations across public, private, and community sectors
- Strong governance builds trust, legitimacy, and investor confidence





Stakeholder Engagement – From Co-Creation to Collective Ownership

- Engagement must begin early and be ongoing
- Success hinges on including all actors: residents, housing bodies, planners, utilities
- Methods: digital platforms, open forums, storytelling, community events
- Engagement strengthens resilience and project durability





NICE – The Neighbourhood Innovation Centre for the Environment

- A platform for coordinating stakeholders around local climate and regeneration plans
- Roles: strategic planning, capital layering, monitoring, engagement
- Participants: city, landlords, tenants, utilities, transport, investors
- Supports long-term implementation, transparency, and de-risked investment

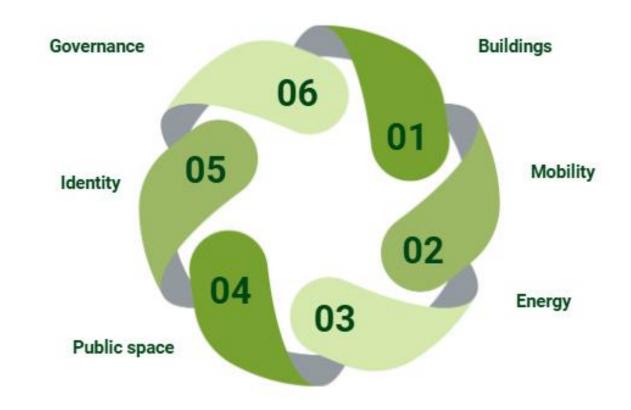




Integrated Urban Regeneration – Aligning Decarbonisation and Value Creation

Integrated design as a lever for value creation and transition

- Placemaking is not just visual it is a system-level strategy that aligns energy, mobility, and land use.
- Aesthetic and spatial quality influence investor confidence, community engagement, and economic uplift.
- Decarbonisation becomes more feasible when embedded in a broader narrative of district renewal.

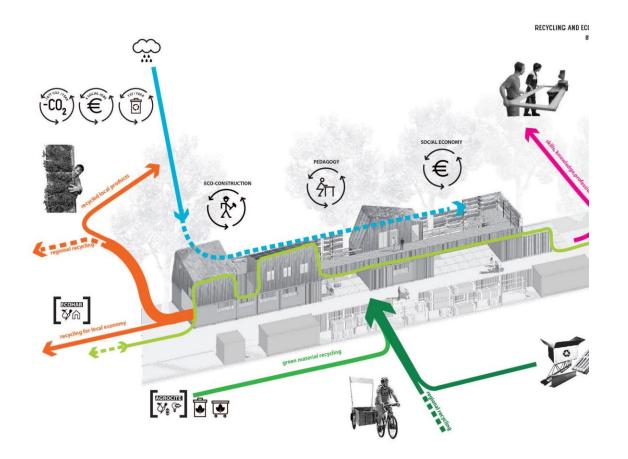




Integrated District Strategies – Scaling Impact Across Neighbourhoods

Coordinated urban transformation supports scale, affordability, and liveability

- Coordinating retrofit, mobility, and public realm investments leads to economies of scale.
- District-level approaches reduce cost and delivery risk.
- Enhances uptake: residents and investors are more likely to engage when the benefits are visible, place-based, and interconnected.
- Public-private co-investment.





Decarbonisation as a Driver of Social Value

Climate action must also be a social investment

- Social / affordable housing is often at the frontline of climate and affordability risk.
- Retrofit and regeneration should deliver better places to live, not just better energy performance.
- Key benefits: health outcomes, comfort, community resilience, employment opportunities.
- Co-benefits must be designed in from the start – not treated as byproducts.





Scalable Solutions: From One-Off Retrofits to Repeatable Systems

Every design decision has a carbon consequence

- Fragmented, one-off retrofit projects are costly and hard to scale.
- A systematised, design-led approach using component-based retrofits improves speed, cost certainty, and consistency.
- Architectural quality doesn't need to be sacrificed in the name of speed – design systems can still reflect local character and community needs.
- This is particularly important in large-scale housing estates, where equity, comfort, and identity matter.



Camberley town centre, UK

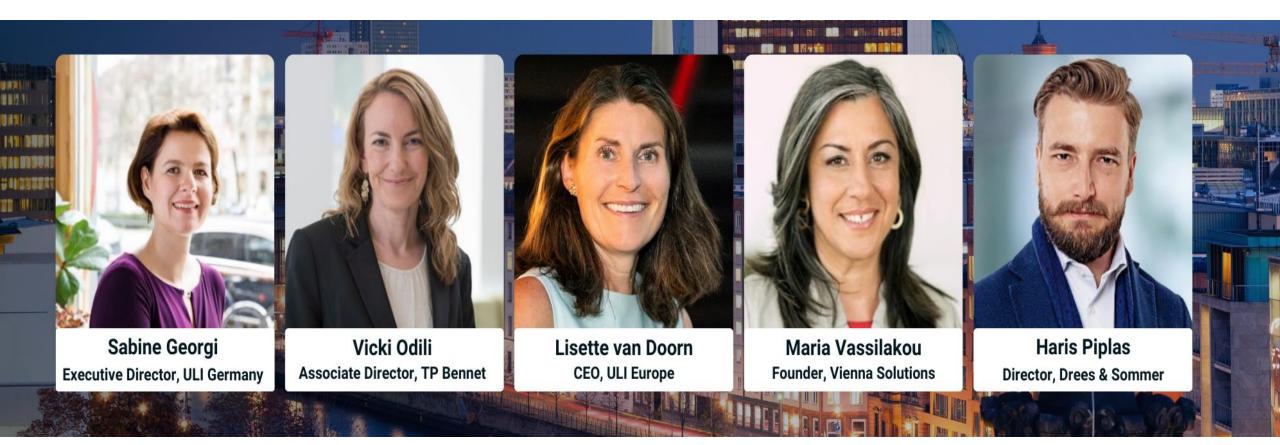


Case Study: Gascoigne East & West, Barking and Dagenham A neighbourhood-scale approach to low-carbon housing and climate resilience





Turning Risk into Opportunity: Decarbonising Stranded Assets at a Neighbourhood Scale Panel:





KNOWLEDGE FINDER

Members Get More | knowledge.uli.org

We value your feedback and we would appreciate if you could take just 2 minutes to complete our survey.

Please check the chat box where you can find the link, remember to copy and save the link so you can fill in the survey after the webinar.





Thank you for attending the webinar.

An on-demand recording of this webinar will be available to members on Knowledge Finder soon.

knowledge.uli.org