



WECP
WORLD ENERGY CITIES PARTNERSHIP

END OF YEAR MESSAGE 2022





Jesper Frost Rasmussen

**Mayor of Esbjerg
President of WECP**

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to thank you all for a fantastic year in the World Energy Cities Partnership. It was a great honor to be elected President of the WECP this spring, and I am still humbled by your confidence in me.

In 2022, many of the member cities joined the Working Group Meeting in Houston in person and virtually, and in October Esbjerg had the pleasure of hosting the Annual General Meeting. Being able to meet in person and discuss current issues allowed us to reconnect and rediscover the strength, that lies within the WECP. The work that you have done to further renewable energy sources and reduce emissions is truly inspiring. I am confident that as cities, we will continue to make significant strides in creating a more sustainable future for all.

Building on the decision from the AGM, Esbjerg is in the process of exploring how to best implement the two new paths, which will add to the exchange and strengthen the ties between the member cities of the WECP: Strengthening the business-to-business corporation and explore academic partnerships.

In October, I was invited to Hai Phong, Vietnam as part of the business promotional campaign led by the Danish Crown Prince Couple. During the visit, the cities of Hai Phong and Esbjerg signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of offshore wind. I was delighted that the mayor of Hai Phong showed interest in joining the WECP. Welcoming new member cities to the WECP will benefit our association and I hope that in 2023 new cities sharing our focus will join us.

I am excited for what next year brings as we continue to collaborate on advancing the energy transition. In closing, I look forward to seeing you in Houston during CERA Week. Without knowing which city will host the Annual General Meeting in 2023, judging by the strong bids by Perth, Calgary and Dammam, you do not want to miss the event this year and I hope you will make it a priority to attend in person.

Holiday greetings and best wishes for a New Year full of hope and peace.

Kind regards,

Mayor Jesper Frost Rasmussen
President of WECP



Sylvester Turner

Mayor of Houston WECP Secretary General

This has been a great year for the WECP as it has rebuilt the personal and professional connections among our great cities. We were able to meet in person after two years of absence, first during CERAWeek in March, followed by the Working Meeting during the Offshore Technology Conference in May, and finally at the exceptional AGM hosted by the City of Esbjerg in October. We continued to have record participation by our member cities, which demonstrates the value of this partnership – the ability to have open conversations and collaboration among our member cities as we all move through the energy transition.

During 2022, Houston continued our leadership in the energy sector. Houston was named the Number one City in the United States for the Stock Market in 2022, driven in large part by Houston's energy companies. Houston continues to be the capital for the petrochemical sector, but our energy economy is increasingly being driven by solar, hydrogen, geothermal, and wind companies. And Houston-based companies including Exxon, Conoco, Chevron, and many others are also leading the energy transition, seeking to reduce carbon emissions as well as introducing new technologies to support Carbon Capture, Sequestration and Storage, recycling, and hydrogen. Our universities are also leading the way, with the University of Houston launching its new Energy Transition Institute, and the continued work of UH, Rice University, Texas Southern University, and many more.

At the core of Houston's development are the public private partnerships that continue to thrive. No municipality alone has the financial, technical, or logistical resources to make the change needed to address the climate challenge and build resiliency in our cities. We must do that with our private sector. Additionally, no one city has all the answers, nor does one country, which is again why the WECP is more important now than when it was founded twenty-four years ago. We are working together to share best practices and connect our business and educational communities to find solutions to some of our city's most complex challenges.

At the core of all our cities is taking care of our people. Together as members of the WECP, we are finding new ways to create economic and educational opportunities to build better cities for the future. I look forward to driving this forward in 2023 and thank Esbjerg and Damman for their leadership in the WECP.

Kind regards,

Mayor Sylvester Turner
WECP Secretary General