Climate, Sustainability, and Energy Policies Autumn School 2025

Time	Topic	Speaker / moderator
Monday 24/Nov/2025		
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome and introduction	Hesham Ali
10.15 – 11.30	General introduction to energy transition in the EU	Javad Keypour
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 – 13.15	The EU green deal	Javad Keypour
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	
14.15 – 15.30	Energy markets and competitions	Susanne Nies
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break	
15.45 – 17.00	Writing policy briefs and engaging with NGOs	Hede Sinisaar
Tuesday 25/Nov/2025		
10.00 – 11.30	Foundations of sustainability & climate change: science and global challenges	Helen Sooväli-Sepping
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 – 13.15	International climate policy & negotiations	Susanne Nies
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	
14.15 – 15.30	Policy tools for sustainability: from science to decision-making	Susanne Nies
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break	
15.45 – 17.00	The role of cleantech in climate and energy transition	Kädi Ristkok
Wednesday 26/Nov/2025		
10.00 – 11.30	Technology, governance, and sustainability	Erkki Karo
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 – 13.15	The role of the state in sustainability and transformative policies	Erkki Karo
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	
14.15 – 15.30	Energy policy design and governance	Einari Kisel
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break	
15.45 – 17.00	Stakeholder engagement and policy implementation	Einari Kisel
Thursday 27/Nov/2025		
10.00 – 11.30	Energy security and supply challenges	Javad Keypour
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break	
11.45 – 12.30	Hydrogen in Estonia: developments and market outlook	Ain Laidoja
12.30 – 13.15	Nuclear safety & the role of security policy in the energy transition	Marily Jaska

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13.15 – 14.15	Lunch	
14.15 – 15.00	Smart energy systems & digitalization	Igor Krupenski
15.00 – 15.45	Estonia's energy strategy: policy and practice	Irje Möldre
15.45 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 17.00	Wrap up- final session	Anna Volkova

Session 1: General introduction to energy transition in the EU (1hr5min + 10 min QA) - Javad Keypour

Session highlight:

1. The key policy pillars the EU energy policy.
2. Key drivers: climate targets, energy security, and economic competitiveness
3. Introduction to the EU energy transition: scale and scope
4. Main barriers of achieving the EU energy transition objectives from legal and policy perspective

Session 2: The EU green deal (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Javad Keypour

Session highlight:

1. A deep dive into the Green Deal's objectives and legal frameworks.
2. Analysis of key policy instruments.
3. Balancing ambitious environmental goals with practical implementation.
4. The renewable policy in the EU
5. Digital transformation of the energy sector
6. Hydrogen in the EU Green Deal
7. The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Session 3: Energy markets and competitions (1hr5min + 10 min QA) - Susanne Nies

Session highlight:

1. Fundamental dynamics of how energy markets work.
2. The role of competition in creating efficient and sustainable systems.
3. Market design and regulatory challenges, focusing on renewable integration.
4. The influence of politics and regulation on market outcomes (e.g., favoring renewables).
5. Competing interests in market rules: utilities, renewables, consumers, grid operators.
6. Impact of market rules on energy prices, social equity, and transition speed.
7. Understanding tariffs, subsidies, competition law, and the role of regulators.
8. The economic reality of the transition for different actors.
9. How competition policy ensures a fair transition.
10. Case study: Integrating variable renewables into a market designed for fossil fuels.

Session 4: Writing policy briefs and engaging with NGOs (1hr15min) - Urmo Kübar

Session highlight:

1. What policy briefs are and their purpose.
2. How to translate research findings into a policy brief.

3. Key dimensions and elements to include.
4. Practical considerations when collaborating with NGOs.

Session 5: Foundations of sustainability & climate change: science and global challenges (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Helen Sooväli-Sepping

Session highlight:

1. The scientific foundations of sustainability and climate change.
2. Key concepts: sustainability science, planetary boundaries, and socio-economic dimensions.
3. Addressing global challenges: urbanization, biodiversity loss, and integrated environmental management.

Session6: International climate policy & negotiations (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Susanne Nies

Session highlight:

1. The mechanics of the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and COP summits.
2. The direct link between international negotiations and the development of EU legislation.
3. The "Brussels Effect": how EU standards (like CBAM) become global benchmarks.
4. Energy security and geopolitics as central components of climate diplomacy.
5. Case study: How international negotiations influence internal EU policy.

Session 7: Policy tools for sustainability: from science to decision-making (1hr5min + 10 min QA) - Susanne Nies

Session highlight:

1. A practical guide to policy tools: taxes, trading schemes, standards, bans, incentives.
2. How to choose the right tool for the right problem.
3. The role of impact assessments, cost-benefit analyses, and evidence-based policy.
4. Compare and contrast carbon pricing (ETS vs. taxes), subsidies, standards, and campaigns.
5. Assessing effectiveness and trade-offs of each tool.

Session 8: The role of cleantech in climate and energy transition (1hr5min + 10 min QA) - Kädi Ristkok

Session highlight:

1. The critical role of clean technologies in the energy transition.
2. Innovations in cleantech: challenges and opportunities.
3. The importance of subsidies in cleantech – can it survive without them?
4. How policy stimulates cleantech development and deployment.
5. Examples from Estonia.

Session 9: Technology, governance, and sustainability (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Erkki Karo

Session highlight:

1. Transitions vs transformations towards sustainability: what should be done vs what we seem to be able to do?

2. The hypes, hopes and expectation regarding the role of technology and innovation in sustainability
3. How to think about sustainability challenges: the lens of socio-technical systems
4. Case examples

Session 10: The role of the state in sustainability and transformative policies (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Erkki Karo

Session highlight:

1. Public sector innovation: concepts, tools, and examples.
2. Transformative and mission-oriented policies: designing public missions for sustainability goals.
3. Universities and research institutions as catalysts in the innovation ecosystem.
4. Linking policy, governance, and social/technical change.

Session 11: Energy policy design and governance (1hr05min + 10 min QA) - Einari Kisel

Session highlight:

1. Key policy instruments: subsidies, regulations, taxes, and incentives for energy transition.
2. Energy governance: roles of government, regulators, and institutions in shaping energy systems.
3. Policies to energy sectors: electricity, heating, transport fuels, industry.
4. Research-to-policy translation: how studies and data inform policymaking.
5. Case discussion: trade-offs between decarbonization, cost, and security.
6. How to design and facilitate stakeholder processes, manage conflict, and build consensus.

Session 12: Stakeholder engagement and policy implementation (1hr05min + 10 min QA) - Einari Kisel

Session highlight:

1. Stakeholder mapping: identifying key actors in energy policy (government, industry, academia, civil society).
2. Co-creation of policy: methods for involving stakeholders in decision-making.
3. Practical tools: scenario analysis, risk assessment, and policy monitoring.
4. Applied exercise: designing a mini-policy recommendation for a local or regional energy issue.
5. Case studies of successful and failed engagement

Session 13: Energy Security and Supply Challenges (1hr20min + 10 min QA) - Javad Keypour

Session highlight:

1. The big picture of EU gas demand in energy security: why does it matter?
2. How has the EU's perception of energy security evolved during the transition?
3. Resource adequacy and capacity mechanisms
4. Planning future networks and security of supply considerations
5. What are the consequences of the EU energy transition for the security of supply?
6. Lessons from recent crises and strategies for ensuring a resilient supply.

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Session 14: Hydrogen in Estonia: Developments and Market Outlook (40 min + 5 min QA) - Ain Laidoja

Session highlight:

1. The role of hydrogen in the energy transition.
2. Overview of developments in Estonia's hydrogen sector.
3. Current projects, market trends, and potential role in Estonia's transition.
4. Estonia's hydrogen strategy, market potential, opportunities, and challenges.
5. Real-world examples and applications.

Session 15: Nuclear Safety & the Role of Security Policy in the Energy Transition (35 min + 5min QA) - Marily Jaska

Session highlight:

1. The role of nuclear energy in the energy transition (trends, examples, challenges).
2. Nuclear potential and challenges specifically in Estonia.
3. Principles of nuclear safety, security, and their role in gaining public trust.
4. The importance of safety in the context of the energy transition.
5. Addressing risks, safety protocols, and the role of security policy.

Session 16: Smart Energy Systems & Digitalization (40 min + 5 min QA) - Igor Krupenski

Session highlight:

1. The role of digital technologies in transforming energy systems.
2. Smart grids, data analytics, and the integration of digital solutions.
3. How digitalization, AI, and data analytics are revolutionizing the sector.
4. Topics including smart grids, demand-side response, and associated cybersecurity challenges.
5. Real-world examples, trends, and future potential.

Session 17: Estonia’s Energy Strategy: Policy and Practice (35 min + 10 min QA) - Irje Möldre

Session highlight:

1. Estonia’s national energy strategy: core vision and policy goals.
2. Putting policy into practice: implementation highlights and lessons learned.