

**IKEM 2026**  
**ACADEMY**  
ENERGY & CLIMATE



Climate Spark –  
Igniting Multi-Level  
Action to Achieve the  
Energy Transition



## About IKEM Academy: Energy and Climate

The annual 'IKEM Academy: Energy and Climate' is an interdisciplinary, international and innovative programme organised in close collaboration with the University of Greifswald. The Academy brings together innovators, researchers, creatives, policy experts, industry leaders and government officials from fields related to climate action, energy and sustainability to ideate new solutions to bolster the energy transition and reach our climate targets on time.

## About IKEM

IKEM (the Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility) is an independent, non-profit research organisation and think tank based in Berlin. IKEM works at the intersection of law, economics, policy, and social innovation to advance climate action and accelerate the energy transition. Combining interdisciplinary research with a strong focus on impact and implementation, IKEM develops practical solutions for decision-makers across politics, industry, and civil society.

Recognising that the energy transition is as much a societal challenge as a technical one, IKEM places a strong emphasis on policy, participation, and engagement. Through co-creative approaches, the institute helps ensure that climate solutions are inclusive, widely supported, and effective in practice.

## Participants

The IKEM Academy convenes a carefully selected, international group of 25 – 30 participants from a wide range of disciplines and professional backgrounds. These include young professionals, researchers, students, and practitioners working across climate, energy, sustainability, and related fields.

What unites them is a shared commitment to driving change. Through the Academy's interactive and co-creative format, participants actively engage with one another, and with the expert speakers and moderators, exchanging ideas, building networks, and developing practical approaches they can take back into their own work and communities.

## Speakers

The IKEM Academy brings together a diverse group of renowned experts and thought leaders from across the climate and energy landscape. These include policymakers, researchers, infrastructure developers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and civil society actors, as well as creatives and communicators shaping new narratives around climate action. Rather than focusing solely on theory, speakers share practical insights, real-world experiences, and forward-looking perspectives from their respective fields. Together, they offer a multi-dimensional view of the energy transition and climate action, spanning policy, technology, society, and innovation.

## Setting the scene

In recent years, the global context for climate action has shifted significantly. Rising geopolitical tensions, increasing economic uncertainty, and growing political polarisation are reshaping priorities across countries and sectors. In this environment, climate action is too often pushed aside, treated as a long-term goal rather than an immediate and strategic necessity.

At the same time, the vulnerabilities of fossil fuel dependency are becoming impossible to ignore. Disrupted supply chains, price volatility, and geopolitical chokepoints continue to expose how fragile and costly our current energy systems can be. And yet, this moment is not only defined by constraint, but by possibility.

Across the world, renewable energy, decentralised systems, and climate innovation are already demonstrating what a more resilient future can look like. They create stable, forward-looking jobs, strengthen energy security, shorten supply chains, and empower communities to actively shape their own energy systems. From cities to citizen initiatives, from start-ups to policymakers, tangible progress is already underway.

The solutions are there. We just need to spark renewed ambition and momentum to bring them to life.

This is where the IKEM Academy 2026 steps in: to mobilise collective will, reignite multi-level ambition, and bring together an international climate community committed to accelerating action and driving forward real, systemic change.

## **IKEM Academy: Energy and Climate – 2026**

31 August – 4 September 2026 | Berlin, Germany

The IKEM Academy: Energy and Climate 2026, under the theme “Climate Spark - Igniting Multi-Level Action to Achieve the Global Energy Transition” responds directly to this moment, bringing together innovators, researchers, policy experts, entrepreneurs, and activists to explore how multi-level leadership can sustain climate momentum in challenging times. Over four days, participants will move from vision to practice, combining creative co-creation with deep dives into policy, technology, grassroots innovation, and climate communication.

### **DAY 1**

opens with a participatory design-thinking workshop on the sustainable city of tomorrow, followed by an excursion to Feldheim, Germany’s first renewable-powered and energy-independent village.

### **DAY 2**

explores climate change, climate policy, climate litigation, and breakthrough technologies shaping the transition toward a fully renewable energy system, culminating in a hands-on workshop to build a climate litigation case.

### **DAY 3**

focuses on people-powered climate action, from decentralised renewables and energy cooperatives to social innovation and community resilience, including a practical workshop on how to build your own energy cooperative.

### **DAY 4**

explores resilience, AI, media and science communication, and Solarpunk futures as tools to inspire hope and collective action for a climate-positive future, concluding with a hands-on storytelling workshop on engaging audiences through climate narratives.

Through interactive workshops, expert insights, site visits, and co-creative formats, participants engage directly with the people, practices, and ideas driving change today. Because in times of uncertainty, one thing becomes clear: climate action is not a competing priority. It is a unifying solution.

# Climate Spark 2026 – Programme

31 August – 3 September 2026 | Berlin

## DAY 1

### From Vision to Reality: Co-Creating a Sustainable Society

Monday, 31 August 2026 | 09:30 –17:30 GTM+2

**09:30** Welcome to the 22nd IKEM Academy: Energy and Climate

**Prof. Michael Rodi**  
Director  
IKEM

**10:00** Opening Remarks & Introduction to Climate Spark 2026

**Anika Nicolaas Ponder**  
Head of Climate & Innovation  
IKEM

**10:30** PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP  
Designing Tomorrow's Sustainable City



**Bernd Riedel**  
CEO  
Ellery Studio for Creative Strategy

12:15 Lunch

**13:30** EXKURSION  
The Renewable Village –  
Community Power and Energy  
Independence in Feldheim

Neue Energien Forum Feldheim  
(Treuenbrietzen)



17:30 End of Day 1



## DAY 2

### Turning Climate Ambition into Climate Action: Policy, Progress, and New Technologies

Tuesday, 1 September 2026 | 09:30 –16:30 GTM+2

**09:30**      **The Global Response to Climate Change: Check-in**

**Sarah Heck**  
Climate Policy Analyst  
Climate Analytics (tbc)

**10:15**      **Safeguarding our Planet:  
Can Climate Litigation Bridge the  
Climate Policy Gap?**

**Dr. Kate McKenzie**  
CEO  
Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI)

**11:00**      Coffee Break

**11:30**      **Climate Action in Germany:  
Checking in on the Energy  
Transition**

**Philine Wedel**  
Managing Director  
IKEM

**12:15**      **PANEL DISCUSSION  
It Takes All Kinds: Multi-Sector  
Solutions for an Integrated Green  
Energy System**

- EnerKite (airborne wind energy),
- ENERTRAG (wind energy and hydrogen),
- 1KOMMA5 (heat pumps),
- IKEM expert (mobility)

Moderation:

**Dàmir Belltheus Avdić**  
Lead of Climate & Innovation  
IKEM

**13:15**      Lunch

**14:15**      **WORKSHOP  
Legal Pathways to Change:  
Designing a Climate Litigation  
Case**



Moderation

**Dr. Kate McKenzie**  
CEO  
Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI)



**16:30**      **End of Day 2**



# DAY 3

## The Energy Transition 2.0: Systems Change and People Power

Wednesday, 2 September 2026 | 09:30 –16:00 GTM+2

**09:30**      **The Next Frontier of the Energy Transition: Grid Capacity and Emerging Demand**

**Markus Graebig**  
Director Customer Management  
50Hertz



**10:15**      **The Energy Transition's Secret Ingredient: Social Innovation and People Power**

**Dr. Arwen Colell**  
Co-Founder  
Decarbon1ze (tbc)

**11:00**      Coffee Break

**11:30**      **As Local As It Gets: The Power of Decentralised Solar (Balconies)**

**Simone Herpich**  
Chair  
Balkon.Solar e.V. (tbc)

**12:00**      **All Hands on Deck: Equality and Diversity to Achieve the Energy Transition**

**Dr. Kathleen Pauleweit**  
Legal expert  
IKEM

**Nataliia Revutska**  
Strategist and Coordinator  
Women's Energy Club of Ukraine (WECU)

**13:00**      Lunch

**14:00**      **WORKSHOP**  
**Power to the People: Start Your Own Energy Co-op**



**Charlotte Wohlfarth**  
Senior Project Manager  
Netzwerk Energiewende.Jetzt

**16:00**      **End of Day 3**



# DAY 4

## Creativity as a Catalyst for Climate Action: Storytelling, Communication and Engagement

Thursday, 3 September 2026 | 09:30 – 22:00 GMT+2

**09:30** **Decentralised Power, Resilient Societies: Lessons from Ukraine**

**Viktoriia Vostriakova**  
CEO & Co-founder  
Sustainable Development Agency  
SYNERGY (tbc)

**10:15** **Powering the Digital Future: AI, Data Centres, and the Energy Transition**

Speaker from the German Society of Informatics (tbc)

**11:00** **Truth, Trust, and Climate Action: The Role of Media in Times of Crisis**

**Sven Egenter**  
Head  
Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) (tbc)

11:45 Coffee Break

**12:00** **Solarpunk Dreams and Climate Futures: The Radical Power of Hope**

Speaker from Ellery Studio for Creative Strategy

12:45 Lunch

**13:45**



**WORKSHOP**  
**The Power of Story-Telling: Communication to Spark Climate Action and Impact**

Facilitated by

**Damaris Agweyu**  
Founder and CEO  
Qazini | Nairobi, Kenya (tbc)



**15:30**

**Closing Session & Participant Reflections**

Moderation

**Anika Nicolaas Ponder**  
Head of Climate & Innovation  
IKEM

**18:00**

**Climate Spark! The Apéro Sustainable beer & finger food**

**Brauhaus Neulich**

**22:00**

**End of IKEM Academy 2026**





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**Organised by:**  
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Energy and Mobility

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