



“It's a brilliant conference with a unique atmosphere”



**eceee 2024 Summer Study report**  
**Event report, key figures and results from the participant evaluation**

eceee 2024 Summer Study on energy efficiency  
Sustainable, safe and secure through demand reduction  
Center Parcs Lac d'Ailette, Haut-de-France  
10–15 June 2024

<https://www.eceee.org/summerstudy>  
[https://www.eceee.org/library/conference\\_proceedings/eceee\\_Summer\\_Studies/2024/](https://www.eceee.org/library/conference_proceedings/eceee_Summer_Studies/2024/)



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## Summary



The 2024 ecccc Summer saw the move to a new venue: Center Parcs Lac d'Ailette about 50 km from Reims. 359 participants attended, 7% down from 2022 but close to the numbers in 2019. The share of academics and researchers has increased to about 60% (including semi-private institutions). 27 countries were represented this year, about the same as in 2022 (26), but down from 2017 and 2019.

The Summer Study keeps getting high scores on virtually every parameter. Reassuringly, ecccc manages to maintain the quality over the years, even with the move to a new venue. The part of the Summer Study that involves most participants actively – papers and extended abstracts presented in panel sessions or at the display session, as well as the informal sessions – remain the Summer Study's most highly appreciated features.

### **A hotspot for international collaboration that receives high ratings**

With approximately 60% of all participants responding to the evaluation survey, the conference as a whole received participant ratings of a high 4.4 score. The score has varied between 4.4 and 4.6 since 2015, and it is a good sign that ecccc manages to deliver events of consistent excellent quality.

The Summer Study is an excellent event for networking and starting international collaborations. Of the respondents in the participant evaluation, 94% said they made new contacts, which will be useful in their professional life and 67% said they made new contacts, which they believe will result in new international collaborations.

### **Affiliation and first-time participants**

The affiliation of participants represents a mix of researchers, practitioners, private sector, energy agencies and NGOs. Researchers/academics have increased to slightly over 60% of all participants. Public sector participants (mainly from agencies and governments) have decreased, and NGO participation has gone up again after a decline in 2021 and 2022 (numbers are presented in the annex).

43% of all participants were here for the first time, and the mix of old timers and newcomers contributes to the dynamics of the event.

### **Ambitions to make ecccc's event climate neutral**

The stable participant numbers and the high ratings are proof that ecccc's "constituency" wants a physical Summer Study. However, ecccc needs to continue its work to reduce the direct climate impact of the Summer Study as well as enabling low-carbon travel options, for instance by promoting train travel and arranging shuttles from the stations.

As a positive sign, the share of respondents who state that they travelled by air continue to decrease (26% in 2024, compared to 30% in 2022). The drop from 59% in 2019 is significant.

## **Panel sessions, display session, informals, side events and plenaries**

The Summer Study's charm – and strength – is the mix of various kinds of sessions.

### *Peer-reviewed papers, extended abstracts, panels and display session*

The panels and the panel leaders who run them are at the core of ecccc's goal to provide evidence-based knowledge analysis and information. The quality of peer-reviewed papers was rated 4.3. The papers have had a consistently high rating of 4.1–4.3 since 2015.

In total this year saw 242 formal contributions, of which 126 were peer-reviewed papers and 116 extended abstracts. Panel sessions where both extended abstracts and peer-reviewed papers are presented create the supporting structure of the whole event. The parallel panel sessions received an average general rating of 4.5, thus breaking the 4.4 ratings record in 2022.

Participants' attendance at the display session (where peer-reviewed papers and extended abstracts also are presented) was as usual quite high – almost 80% of the respondents said they attended it. The average rating was high with 4.1, which is the highest rating over the years.

### *Informal sessions and side events*

55 informal sessions were arranged (37 in 2022). They are as always very popular – among both session organisers and participants – with an average rating of 4.2, which is marginally higher than previous years.

Solutions workshops (or side events as they are often called) were introduced in 2013 and remain popular. Seven of these events were arranged by ecccc and/or conference partners as topical events. The average rating was 4.2 (rating of individual events varied between 3.9 and 4.5).

### *Plenaries*

Four plenaries were organised. The plenaries received marginally lower rating than usual (3.8 compared to 3.9–4.1 in previous years).

## **Organisational aspects and venue**

The organisational aspects of the Summer Study keep receiving very high ratings, between 4.4 and 4.7 for various aspects of the organisation.

Participants find the accommodation and quality of meals good with ratings at 4.1 and 3.9, respectively. Vegetarian/vegan options received a somewhat lower rating of 3.4 compared to 3.6 in 2022. This is probably due to the change of venue and the fact that it takes time to make the staff understand what ecccc participants want in terms of vegetarian and vegan food.



## 2024: Excellent ratings as usual

The 2024 edition of the ecee Summer Study took place at the new venue Center Parcs Lac d'Ailette in Haut-de-France. This year's theme was *Sustainable, safe and secure through demand reduction*. The Summer Study – the 17<sup>th</sup> since 1993, including one digital event in 2021 – reinforced the position of the conference as Europe's premier event for information exchange and networking on energy efficiency. At the Summer Study, the energy efficiency policies of tomorrow are formulated.

“It's a brilliant conference with a unique atmosphere.”

“Looking forward to the 2026 Summer Study!!!”

### ***Slight decline in number of participants***

This year's event attracted 359 participants who spent five intense days of around-the-clock networking and discussions, in a packed week of panel sessions, informal sessions, side events, and plenaries. This is a somewhat lower number of participants than in 2022 (386), but not far from the number in 2019 (367).

### **Some countries still dominate in presence**

27 countries were represented this year. This is about the same as in 2022 (26), but down from 30 and 36 countries in 2017 and 2019, and these numbers have been typical of Summer Studies for the last 10 years.

The distribution among countries remains uneven, but the trends go in many directions, and it is hard to speculate about the causes. Germany tops by far this year (82, or 23%) UK (65, or 18%), Belgium (38, or 11%, including participants from European organisations based in Brussels), Sweden (34, or 10%), France (22, or 6%), The Netherlands (22, or 6%). The rest of the countries had fewer than 15 participants represented (see annex for numbers).

The top ten countries made up 86% of all participants. In 2013, this was 82%, which decreased to 80% in 2015 and went down to 77% in 2019, the same as in 2022.

### **Affiliation and first-time participants**

The affiliation of participants represents a mix of researchers, practitioners, private sector, energy agencies and NGOs. Researchers/academics have increased to slightly over 60% of all participants (note that this figure includes research institutes which sometime could be classified as consultants – this line is increasingly blurred). Public sector participants (mainly from agencies and governments) have decreased to 9% (the same figure as in 2019) after 16% in 2022. NGO participation has gone up again to 9% after a decline in 2021 and 2022 (numbers are presented in the annex).

43% of all participants were here for the first time, and the mix of old timers and newcomers contributes to the dynamics of the event. The share of returning participants and first-time participants has remained fairly consistent over the years. One respondent to the evaluation pointed out the high number of first-time visitors as clearly positive:

“The most surprising thing was the fraction of first-timers. I hope that continues! How do we make sure they return?”

### ***High overall participant ratings***

The evaluation results are based on the answers of 212 people (59% of the conference participants). The conference itself received participant ratings of a high 4.4 score. This was marginally down from 2022. The score has varied between 4.4 and 4.6 since 2015, and it is a good sign that ecee manages to deliver events of consistent excellent quality.

The value for money received a 3.9 score, slightly lower than in 2022 (4.1). The overall value-for-money rating has varied marginally between 3.9 and 4.2 over the years.

### **The Summer Study is a hotspot for international collaboration**

The Summer Study is an excellent event for networking and starting international collaborations. Of the respondents in the participant evaluation:

- 94% said they made new contacts, which will be useful in their professional life.
- 97% said they learned something new, which will be useful in their work.
- 67% said they made new contacts, which they believe will result in new international collaboration.

These numbers have only been varying slightly over the years, and it is encouraging to see they remain high.

“Keep the informal atmosphere [...]. Organising it in Northern France was also a good idea from an environmental perspective, although the weather was not always good. Keep the 'open' structure, with much room for informal sessions.”

### ***Focus on a physical event in an era of climate crisis and online meetings***

The stable participant numbers and the high ratings are proof that ecee's “constituency” wants a physical Summer Study. However, there are future challenges. First, the climate crisis makes large physical meetings and long-distance travel more questionable. Second, employers may be less willing to invest in participation, given all digital alternatives that have taken firm root in organisations during Covid.

ecee needs to continue its work to reduce the direct climate impact of the Summer Study as well as enabling low-carbon travel options, for instance by promoting train travel and arranging shuttles from the stations. This year, ecee has collected information from the venue and from the participants to be able to calculate the climate impact of the Summer Study, which will be presented in its own report. ecee will also make recommendations to the venue on how to lower its climate impact.

“Good job and I admire your efforts. It would be interesting to get the perspective of Center Parcs about if they felt we wasted less (or ate differently).”

### **Decrease in air travel**

As a positive sign, the share of respondents who state they had travelled by air seem to continue to decrease (26% in 2024, compared to 30% in 2022). There is of course an error margin, but the drop from 59% in 2019 is significant.



## ***Panel sessions, the display session, informals, solutions workshops and plenaries***

The Summer Study's charm – and strength – is the mix of various kinds of sessions.

“This is the reason we come – hope it will continue to get even better in future. It is tricky to balance organisational interests, policy makers and academia – somehow ECEEE sort of gets it right. Still could further work to make sure it attracts the combination of interests.”

“I thought the quality this year was particularly good.”

### **The nine thematic panels**

The panels and the panel leaders who run them (from panel definitions to abstract selection, review of papers and moderating sessions on site) are the backbone of the Summer Study. These panels are at the core of eceee's goal to provide evidence-based knowledge analysis and information. The quality of peer-reviewed papers was rated 4.3. The papers have had a consistently high rating of 4.1–4.3 since 2015.

<b>Panel</b>	<b>Extended abstracts</b>	<b>Peer-reviewed papers</b>	<b>Total</b>
Panel 1. Dynamics of consumption	18	8	26
Panel 2. Future and innovative policies	15	12	27
Panel 3. Policy, finance and governance	10	18	28
Panel 4. Monitoring and evaluation in times of crises	12	13	25
Panel 5. Sustainable communities	12	17	29
Panel 6. Energy-efficient and low-carbon mobility and transport	13	7	20

Panel 7. Policies and programmes for better buildings	14	15	29
Panel 8. Products, systems and technologies to decarbonise buildings	8	18	26
Panel 9. Energy efficiency and sustainability of industry	14	18	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>242</b>

### Panel sessions with peer-reviewed papers and extended abstracts

Panel sessions where both extended abstracts and peer-reviewed papers are presented create the supporting structure of the whole event. They are held in parallel every morning until lunch time. The parallel panel sessions received an average general rating of 4.5, thus breaking the 4.4 ratings record in 2022.

“A balance between research papers and on ground implemented solution session is essential at the conference.”

“Most presentations were really good and let time for discussions.”

### Display session

Participants’ attendance at the display session was as usual quite high – almost 80% of the respondents attended it. The average rating was high with 4.1, which is the highest rating over the years (the display session has been rated 4.0 a couple of times before).



## Plenaries

Four plenaries were organized. The plenaries received marginally lower rating than usual (3.8 compared to 3.9–4.1 in previous years).



## Informal sessions and solutions workshops

55 informal sessions were arranged (37 in 2022). They were very popular – among both session organisers and participants – with an average rating of 4.2, which is marginally higher than previous years (4.1 since 2017).

Solutions workshops were introduced in 2013 and remain popular. Seven of these workshops (or side events as they are sometimes called) were arranged by ecee and/or conference partners as topical events or presentations and discussions of projects etc. The average rating was 4.2 (rating of individual events varied between 3.9 and 4.5).

## *Organisational aspects are key to success*

The organisational aspects of the Summer Study keep receiving very high ratings. Organisational aspects such as information before the event, the registration process, the paper submission process, and secretariat support during the review process all received ratings between 4.4 and 4.7.

“The venue was very nice and holiday-like, which contributed to an informal atmosphere. Very good that the programme was not overloaded with formal sessions and that the time allocated to each presentation was good.”

“Thank you for the great organisation!”

The conference app was also rated highly.

“The app was very good – it was easy to use and very clear. The notes feature is useful.”

“The app is the best conference app I have used.”

## *Accommodation and meals*

Participants find the accommodation and quality of meals good with ratings at 4.1 and 3.9, respectively. Vegetarian/vegan options received a somewhat lower rating of 3.4 compared to 3.6 in 2022. This is probably due to the change of venue and the fact that it takes time to make the staff understand what ecee participants want in terms of vegetarian and vegan food. It also seems to have been a problem that the vegetarian/vegan food was not marked properly and therefore was difficult to find.

## Annex: Key figures – tables

### *Summary of participant ratings 2015–2024*

	2015	2017	2019	2021 (online)	2022	2024
Quality of papers	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3
Abstracts book	4.3	4.3	4.2	n/a	n/a	4.3
Panel sessions	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5
Display session (general)	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.1
Quality of displays	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Plenaries	3.7	4.1	4.1	n/a	3.9	3.8
Side events/Solutions workshops	4.1	4.1	4.1	n/a	4.0	4.2***
Informal sessions	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
Communication before event	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4
Registration process	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5
Payment process	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.4
On-site organisation	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6
Conference app					4.4	4.5
Submission system	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5
Paper support from secretariat	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
The review process	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5
Accommodation	4.1	4.1	4.2	n/a	4.0	4.1
Meals*	4.1	4.1	4.1	n/a	4.1	3.9
Value for money	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.9
<b>Total rating**</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>

\* Vegetarian meals in 2019, 2022 and 2024 were rated 3.7, 3.6 and 3.4 respectively.

\*\* Total rating was asked as a specific question, and it is thus not a calculated average.

\*\*\* Weighted average of ratings of individual side events.



## ***Participants' country background***

	2017	2019	2019 share	2021 (online)	2022	2022 share	2024	2024 share
Australia	4	2	0.5%	3	2	0.5%	2	0.6%
Austria	6	4	1.1%	7	10	2.6%	5	1.4%
Bangladesh				2				
Belgium	42	30	8.2%	38	39	10.1%	38	10.6%
Brazil					3	0.8%		
Canada	2							
China	2	1	0.3%					
Croatia		3	0.8%	1				
Cyprus		1	0.3%		1	0.3%		
Czech Republic					2	0.5%		
Denmark	24	28	7.6%	19	23	6.0%	10	2.8%
Finland	3	3	0.8%	4			3	0.8%
France	38	28	7.6%	20	35	9.1%	22	6.1%
Germany	65	56	15.3%	58	84	21.8%	82	22.8%
Ghana				1				
Greece		1	0.3%	2	1	0.3%	3	0.8%
Hong Kong		1	0.3%					
Hungary	1	3	0.8%	3	5	1.3%	3	0.8%
India	2	4	1.1%	8	3	0.8%	5	1.4%
Indonesia	1							
Iran	1	1	0.3%					
Ireland	4	1	0.3%				8	2.2%
Israel		1	0.3%	1			1	0.3%
Italy	4	12	3.3%	13	11	2.8%	12	3.3%
Japan	5	6	1.6%	1	1	0.3%	4	1.1%

	2017	2019	2019 share	2021 (online)	2022	2022 share	2024	2024 share
Kenya		3	0.8%		1	0.3%	1	0.3%
Korea				1				
Latvia				1				
Lithuania	1	2	0.5%					
Luxembourg					3	0.8%		
Martinique	1							
Morocco				2				
Namibia							1	0.3%
The Netherlands	7	14	3.8%	12	20	5.2%	22	6.1%
New Zealand	1	1	0.3%					
Norway	17	16	4.4%	1	14	3.6%	7	1.9%
Pakistan					2	0.5%		
Peru				1				
Poland							1	0.3%
Portugal	5	7	1.9%	9	8	2.1%	4	1.1%
Romania				2	1	0.3%		
Senegal				3				
Singapore		1	0.3%		1	0.3%		
Slovakia	1			1				
Slovenia	1	2	0.5%	1				
South Africa		3	0.8%				1	0.3%
Spain	1	2	0.5%				1	0.3%
Sweden	49	26	7.1%	20	32	8.3%	34	9.5%
Switzerland	11	13	3.5%	19	9	2.3%	9	2.5%
Syria				1				

	2017	2019	2019 share	2021 (online)	2022	2022 share	2024	2024 share
Taiwan	2	1	0.3%	2			1	0.3%
Tanzania	9			1				
Togo				2				
Tunisia				1				
Turkey				1				
Ukraine		11	3.0%					
United Kingdom	57	51	13.9%	59	58	15.0%	65	18.1%
USA	16	20	5.4%	14	17	4.4%	14	3.9%
Vietnam		8	2.2%					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total no of countries</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>	
	2017	2019	2019 share	2021 (online)	2022	2022 share	2024	2024 share

### ***Affiliation type***

Type of affiliation	2019		2021		2022		2024	
Academia, research institute	193	53%	199	59%	197	58%	200	62%
Intergovernmental organisation	29	8%	4	1%	7	2%	8	2%
National governm./ energy agency	33	9%	40	12%	58	15%	30	9%
Local government/ energy agency	1	0%	4	1%	2	1%	1	0%
Consulting company	40	11%	43	13%	23	6%	28	9%
Energy utility or utility associations	6	2%	2	1%	7	2%	5	2%

Type of affiliation	2019		2021		2022		2024	
Journalist, magazine etc.	1	1%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%
Supplier of EE products/services (including trade associations)	15	4%	9	3%	21	5%	18	6%
NGO	35	10%	14	4%	18	5%	29	9%
Trade organisation (not in use from 2024)	9	2%	8	2%	7	2%	0	0%
Funding & Finance (**)	0	0%	4	1%	6	2%	2	1%
Other, unknown	5	1%	10	3%	36	9%	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>100%</b>