

# Reflections from the Chair



As we draw near the end of 2024, it is a good opportunity to take stock of a very busy year. Throughout the year, we had significant outputs from our Programme, including a new edition of Solar Heat Worldwide, four webinars, and numerous Task publications and industry workshops. We saw the conclusion of three Tasks: 65, 66, and 67, all with impressive results and significant contributions to our mission of *bringing the latest solar heating and cooling research and information to the forefront of the global energy transition*. Task 65, *Solar Cooling for the Sunbelt Regions*, was led by Dr. Uli Jakob. It looked into the very important issue of solar-driven cooling with a focus on warmer areas of the globe. On a warming planet, air-conditioning is rapidly evolving from an end-use associated with comfort to a life-saving intervention, and market penetration expands with income and ambient temperatures, albeit with strong disparities between countries (see *Air conditioning and global inequality*). Task 66, Solar Energy Buildings, was led by Dr. Harald Drück and focused on developing economic concepts for buildings with high solar fraction, or in other words, buildings for which solar has a significant contribution for heating, cooling, and electricity. Task 67, Compact Thermal Energy Storage Materials within Components within Systems, was led by Dr. Wim Van Helden and had a strong focus on the characterization of compact thermal storage materials.

A big thank you to all the Task leaders and the experts involved in them.

In August, we had one more successful conference in partnership with the International Solar Energy Society, EuroSun 2024. It was a great atmosphere and a fantastic opportunity to engage with about 200 researchers from over 40 countries. At this event, we presented our Solar Award to Newheat for their LACTOSOL plant in Verdun, France, recognizing it as an outstanding solar heat for industrial processes (SHIP) project. In November, we had our 96th Executive Committee meeting in Berlin, expertly organized by our colleagues Kerstin Krüger and Dr. Daniela Rolf. The meeting included a highly successful and well-attended National Day. This following another very well-organized meeting in June, hosted by our colleagues in Norway.

On the membership side, we welcomed Poland and Solar Heat Europe to our Programme and renewed our collaboration with UNIDO and its Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres.

Despite all the activities and positive news, we also have some sad news to share. Pam Murphy, who has been the SHC Secretariat for almost 30 years, will retire from our Programme at the end of the year. We have been incredibly lucky to have Pam's wisdom, wit, and great sense of humor for so many years. Pam, you will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the best in your new endeavors!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucio Mesquita'.

Lucio Mesquita  
SHC Executive  
Committee Chair