



Sustainable**NOW**

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EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES –
EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED LOCAL ENERGY ACTION TODAY

Project Brief



www.iclei-europe.org/sustainable-now



FACING CHALLENGES

Today communities are facing a changing climate, rising fuel prices, environmental degradation and a wide range of socio-economic pressures, to mention but a few challenges. One element that is relevant to all these areas is energy. **We need energy every day.** Yet energy, as it is used today, contributes to many negative impacts, in particular to the release of greenhouse gas emissions and a growing difficulty in budgeting with ever-increasing fossil fuel prices. By addressing climate protection – both mitigation and adaptation – and energy security, we can also gain many other benefits when switching to sustainable energy solutions.

FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Communities, organisations, even individuals have switched to sustainable energy options. Sustainable energy can in brief be defined as energy savings, energy efficiency and using renewable energy. It is even possible to become **a 100% sustainable energy community** – the vision we should all strive towards.

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

These aspects can be addressed by developing management and communication capacity of both political leaders, municipal managers, as well as professional staff. The focus here should be on **sustainable energy management** and **developing integrated processes and planning** on the basis of sustainability principles, climate and environmental protection, the effective use of local resources, energy security, and community resilience.

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

Without the interest, knowledge and engagement of communities there is no chance of achieving success. Urban governance (Local Agenda 21) and awareness-raising need to be wielded as effective approaches for setting priorities, achieving community buy-in for implementation and support **behavioural change.**



Sustainable NOW IN ACTION

In the project **'European Sustainable Energy Communities – effective Integrated Local Energy Action today'** (Sustainable NOW) such questions will be tackled, with an eye towards a significant change in the public management approach and the achievement of sustainable energy solutions.

The objective is to strengthen the role of local and regional governments in guiding their communities in the sustainable energy transition period. Sustainable NOW will increase the understanding of non-technical energy and management aspects, address capacity building, as well as encourage peer exchange and reviews to create an environment of tangible results. Further to this it aims at the extensive yet appropriate involvement of local and regional actors, to share knowledge gained and instruments produced.

Sustainable NOW builds climate change considerations and energy actions into management processes and systems, allowing early action, which is more cost-effective than responding to changes as they happen or acting retrospectively.

THE Sustainable NOW PROJECT (SEPTEMBER 2008 – AUGUST 2011) WILL:

- **Develop capacity** to strengthen the role of local and provincial governments as political and administrative bodies guiding communities in the sustainable energy transition, overcoming non-technological barriers and creating tangible results for sustainability.
- **Create instruments** that build on state-of-the-art Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) developments to support local governments in decision-making for integrated energy management, climate protection actions and securing local energy supply.
- **Make the results widely available** through the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign.
- **Guide LEAP implementation** in selected learning communities.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

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Italian Local Agenda 21 Association, Italy



Banca Popolare Etica, Italy



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