



Newsletter N° 1 – May 2009

Guiding communities towards sustainable energy

Welcome to Sustainable NOW news. This bi-annual e-newsletter of the project **European Sustainable Energy Communities - effective Integrated Local Energy Action today (Sustainable NOW)** presents articles and news of the project and partners, and topics relevant to sustainable energy and integrated management. It is specifically aimed at local and regional authorities, and their partners working in the field of community energy.

The latest project news on Sustainable NOW will also be presented on the website - www.iclei-europe.org/sustainable-now.

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1. Introducing Sustainable NOW – the project and partners

Fifteen project partners from six countries, under the co-ordination of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat (ICLEI), started the project Sustainable NOW towards the end of 2008, working towards the development of **sustainable energy communities**.

Project aims in brief

This 3-year project focuses on strengthening the role of local and provincial governments, as political and administrative bodies, acting in an exemplary manner and guiding communities in their sustainable energy roll-out.

Sustainable NOW will in particular address non-technical aspects that are essential in the transition period - from identifying key aspects that can guide political decision-makers in selecting the right approaches and technologies for their communities, to capacity development, peer-to-peer exchange and reviews, as well as the development of effective

Local Energy Action Plans (LEAPs). The underlying objective is to create an environment where tangible results can be achieved.

Measures imply an in-depth strategy and involvement of strong local and regional partners as well as EU-wide networks to implement ambitious climate and energy targets. Learning communities will mainly benefit, through improved capacity and use of instruments that address development, implementation and evaluation of sustainable energy community concepts that have a longer-term sustainable impact.

The development of a LEAP will:

- provide the Council with a tool with which they can determine the direction and monitor progress of the community energy transition process,
- support the municipal staff in determining which steps and actions should be taken, including the identification of key municipal actors that should be involved in the process – from urban planners to energy utilities; building, transport, water and waste managers,
- allow the involvement of diverse other stakeholders, providing engagement opportunities for citizens, businesses and local industries in community energy action.

The project is co-funded by the European Commission (EC) under the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme, and runs from September 2008 to August 2011 (contract number IEE/07/752/SI2.49921).

Expected results

- Improved capacity of Local Governments, using constructive interactions of learning and frontrunner communities, peer-to-peer exchanges, study visits, capacity development workshops, and staff trainee programmes.
- Energy guidance package with instruments to support Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) development and implementation, including integrated climate and energy management and a LEAP wizard for integrated energy action programmes.
- The implementation of 5 LEAPs and related projects in partner communities.
- Improved awareness of citizens and local politicians on sustainable energy, for individuals on the roles of Local Governments as community leaders and asset managers.
- Widespread European dissemination with a special focus on Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Introducing the Sustainable NOW partners

The Sustainable NOW consortium, with its 15 partners from six European countries, under leadership of the ICLEI European Secretariat, brings together advanced and learning communities, local government networks and other technical experts.

Each of these actor groups brings particular value to the project and has a specific role:

- The core group of local and provincial governments - as the closest level of government to citizens - are responsible for rolling out or improving sustainable energy action at community level. By bringing together advanced and learning communities they



can support one another, learn from different experiences, and grow together in a peer-supported environment. Partners were selected to represent different sized communities, from several countries where the framework conditions vary. They are all at different levels of development in terms of sustainable energy implementation. Two core groups have been identified to structure their involvement, namely the learning communities (Circle of Learning – COL) and advanced communities (Circle of Excellence – COE).

- Technical experts bring in specific required knowledge and skills required e.g. from an energy management approach or a building construction angle, and financing expertise.
- The local government networks share their overview of needs and available expertise in their member communities. They can highlight trends, identify potential solutions from their own project expertise and contribute their extensive outreach and dissemination opportunities - in-country, across Europe and beyond.

Communities in the Circle of Learning (COL):

- **Burgas, Bulgaria:** situated in a country where sustainable energy is still a comparatively new concept with limited acceptance among politicians, the public and utilities. A relative basic starting point, active with great enthusiasm - www.burgas.bg
- **Miskolc, Hungary:** situated in a country where sustainable energy is still a comparatively new concept with limited acceptance, and a strong focus on using fossil fuels. A relative basic starting point, active with great enthusiasm - www.miskolc.hu
- **Rosignano Marittimo, Italy:** situated in a country where the national framework conditions are restrictive, and a community vigorously working on the development of a LEAP - www.energeticamenterosignano.it and www.ealp.it

In both circles (COL and COE) are:

- **Ludwigsburg, Germany:** a community with valuable expertise in integrated sustainable city development, yet requiring advice and guidance on the best approach to sustainable energy implementation - www.ludwigsburg.de
- **Mountain Community – Municipalities Association “Trasimeno-Middle Tiber”, Italy:** a cluster of smaller communities interested in climate protection and sustainable development, and a need for support in developing a LEAP – www.cmtrasimeno.it

Communities in the Circle of Excellence (COE):

- **Bologna, Italy:** with extensive experience in local energy planning and monitoring, sharing its Municipality Energy Plan as an example, this large city plays a leading role in national environmental policies and has received international acknowledgement for its achievements - www.comune.bologna.it/iperbole/unamb/primopiano
- **Munich, Germany:** in 1991 the Munich City Council passed a resolution to reduce CO2 emissions by 30% by 2005 (baseline 1987) and up to 50% by 2010. With climate protection action as basis, experiences in achieving energy savings and using renewable energies, are shared - www.muenchen.de
- **Province of Siena, Italy:** with 36 municipalities in its jurisdiction, and as level of government responsible for environmental protection and the valorisation of local resources in the province, this provincial government will share its Provincial Energy Plan and lessons learnt from diverse implementation actions - www.provincia.siena.it
- **Woking, United Kingdom:** sharing how to move forward from ambitious climate protection targets to financing and achieving these, Woking aims at a 60% reduction of community CO2 equivalent emissions (on 1990 levels) by 2050, and 90% by 2080. It aims to purchase 100% of the Council’s electrical and thermal energy requirements from sustainable sources by 2011 - www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climate

Technical experts:

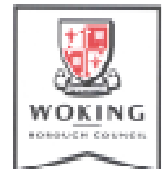
- **ecovision GmbH, Germany:** experienced in the field of project implementation on solar energy, photovoltaics and solar thermal systems - www.kate-stuttgart.org
- **Trecodome, the Netherlands:** providing sustainable building expertise, in particular passive housing districts and working with social housing organisations. Furthermore linking to the International Solar Cities Initiative (ISCI) - www.trecodome.com
- **Banca Popolare Etica, Italy:** extensive experience in financing sustainable energy projects, linking to the European Federation of Ethic and Alternative Banks (FEBEA), an international association, with the task is to provide tools necessary to incorporate, develop and sustain new socially and environmentally oriented banks or financial structures - www.bancaetica.com

Local government networks:

- **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Germany:** the European ICLEI Secretariat contributes its multi-year expertise on local climate action and sustainability management (integrated concepts), which will be used for coordination the action, supporting community capacity building and the development of a useful methodology included in the LEAP wizard and other instruments. Extensive dissemination actions in Europe and abroad - www.iclei-europe.org and www.iclei-europe.org/ccp
- **Climate Alliance (CA), Germany:** contributes its comprehensive approach to climate change policy, based on partnerships, the commitment and diversity of the local level. Sharing its extensive experience in working with different sized communities, including smaller LGs with their unique challenges, CA will actively support the co-ordinator with capacity and instrument development - www.klimabuendnis.org
- **Italian Local Agenda 21 Association (CA21L), Italy:** with wide-ranging know-how on Local Agenda 21 implementation in Italy, and promoting sustainable development models, CA21L is ideally positioned to provide input on LA21 and support national dissemination of results in Italy - www.a21italy.it

2. Moving forward step-by-step – learning from the Woking example

Twenty representatives from the project partners gathered in Woking to learn from the community's experiences in climate protection and sustainable energy implementation. A small community, it is nonetheless advanced in its approach – setting clear targets and moving towards these steadily.



During the Woking visit late February 2009 the first Sustainable NOW study visit helped to set the scene for the Circle of Learning (COL) and motivated the Circle of Excellence (COE) to consider some new ideas.

Woking Council's Chief Executive, Ray Morgan shared the Borough's Climate Change Strategy, and his frank appraisal of where they are, how they got there and the direction for the future was inspiring. The main message was – „be persistent“. Further to this working towards sustainability is part

of Woking Borough Council's corporate commitment. Sustainability is about integrating and balancing the often competing needs of economic, social and environmental issues. It involves thinking about the future, caring for the environment, improving quality of life and encouraging greater community participation.

John Thorp, the Managing Director of the Council's Energy Services Company, Thameswey Ltd, illustrated the close co-operation with the Council and how they finance projects that benefit the community and support global climate protection. The Council's partial ownership of the utility, having some key individuals with a vision and creative approach, and the overall strategy of the Council, have contributed to creating an environment where practical energy savings and renewable energy projects could be rolled out.



The Sustainable NOW project team visited a wide variety of project examples, including:

- a retirement village with extensive photovoltaics on the roof,
- the Lightbox, a local community centre, museum and gallery,

Louis Montagnoli from Mountain Community – Municipalities Association “Trasimeno-Middle Tiber”, Italy, shared his enjoyment of the study visit: “Very interesting actions in Woking were the experiences of the Council’s communication with citizens, the financial approach, and the implementation of many different sustainable energy measures”.

Building on the invigorating study tour, a workshop was held to analyse the Woking example through a peer review and to identify lessons learnt from the Woking examples – pooling developments into the exchange among and between the Circle of Learning and Circle of Excellence. All partners could learn something and share their perspectives and needs – taking home many useful ideas for potential inclusion in their own Local Energy Action Plans.

Reflecting on the visit, Lara Curran, Woking Borough Council’s Climate Change Officer, said: “We were very pleased to welcome our European partners to Woking, and showing what we do here. As part of the study visit, we looked at examples of our climate change projects, including the Brockhill retirement village with a huge photovoltaic (PV) array on the roof and a residential Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems; the demonstration Oak Tree House as a typical British home showing how to go into low energy modus; and the Town Centre Energy Station believed to be the first commercially operating energy station of its kind in the country - using combined heat and power technology together with heat fired absorption cooling to produce environmentally friendly energy services. Woking is part of the Sustainable NOW Circle of Excellence, and we hope that the great progress that we have made on sustainability can also benefit other authorities. This study visit certainly gave us an opportunity to learn more from the experiences of our European partners.”

From the energy and climate perspective, the Woking experience clearly showed the value of identifying clear actions, and involving a range of audiences (including Council staff, residents, schools, businesses, developers, and suppliers) to move forward.

3. Burgas signs the Covenant of Mayors

The EU has introduced the most ambitious targets of their kind in the form of the ‘20-20-20 by 2020’ initiative within the ‘Climate Action and Renewable Energy Package’. As a result, Member States are committed to curbing their CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020. During the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony on 10 February 2009 in Brussels, the Mayor of Burgas Municipality, Dimitar Nikolov, signed up to the Covenant – so Burgas joined the 161 pioneer European cities that expressed their commitment to go beyond these EU objectives.





The Burgas administration demonstrates its commitment to make a real change in its policy and behavior concerning all possible roles that a local authority could play: as a major consumer, as service provider for the region, as planner, developer and regulator; as advisor, motivator and a model; and as producer and supplier. The city also commits to allocating sufficient human resources to achieving the tasks, mobilizing communities in their geographical areas to take part in implementation of the action plan, including organization of local energy days, and networking with other cities.

During the Covenant press conference Mr. Nikolov stressed the importance of Sustainable NOW, as a project that will support Burgas Municipality in developing a LEAP and providing a LEAP wizard that will act as a support platform to reach the aim of reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 20% by 2020.

The main efforts of Burgas will be focused on the development of local policy and actions in the following sectors:

- Improvement of energy efficiency (EE) of residential and public buildings.
- Introduction of sustainable transport and urban mobility.
- Introduction of energy efficient street lighting.
- Utilisation of renewable energy sources (RES) for production of electricity and heat.
- Public awareness raising and promotion of intelligent energy behaviour by citizens, other consumers and businesses.

Burgas is also a partner in the project “The Redevelopment of European Mining Areas into Sustainable Communities by Integrating Supply and Demand, based on Low Energy Principles”, funded by the program CONCERTO II of the EC. In this project Burgas is conducting a study on water in the closed coal mines in Chernomorec, and assess the opportunity for using this to generate RES for heating and cooling buildings.

4. The SMART SPP project - Innovation through Sustainable Procurement



Running in parallel to Sustainable NOW, the SMART SPP project - Innovation through Sustainable Procurement, addresses the introduction of new, innovative low carbon emission technologies and integrated solutions onto the European market. It will encourage early market engagement between public authority procurers and suppliers and developers of new innovative products and services in the pre-procurement phase of public tenders.

SMART SPP will develop a standard approach to pre-procurement of emerging technologies. The approach will include managing the risks in pre-procurement, assessing the financial benefits (life-cycle costing), and calculating and communicating the CO₂ savings. The emerging technologies focused on are lighting systems - such as (organic) light emitting diodes), highly energy efficient (electric) vehicles, and construction services (e.g. heating or cooling systems using RES).

Also co-funded by the IEE Programme of the EC, this project offers opportunities to become involved - visit the project website for more information: www.smart-spp.eu

5. Explore the EACI project database

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), which manages the IEE Programme on behalf of the European Commission, provides an online database with summaries of all current projects funded under the IEE listed.

Intelligent Energy  Europe

It is easy to navigate, and one can also find projects on different funding streams, such as ALTENER, SAVE, STEER, COOPENER and Integrated Initiatives. Each database entry gives extensive project information, including all partners involved and contact details for more information. Currently, nearly 400 projects can be found in this database. The database can be accessed from http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/index_en.htm.

6. Join the City Climate Catalogue!



A global action in preparation to the international post-2012 climate negotiations, the City Climate Catalogue provides an opportunity for all communities around the globe to share their climate mitigation targets and main results. The City of Copenhagen, as host city to the next Conference of the Parties – COP 15, will use the combined results together with ICLEI as facilitator of the Local Government Climate Roadmap (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap).

The Catalogue will be used to send a strong message to the United Nations (UN), national governments and other important actors around the globe, showing the ambitious climate work of cities and local governments around the world. It will also emphasise the need for national governments to agree to engage, empower and resource local governments. The Catalogue is a supportive element of the Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors held in parallel with COP 15 in Copenhagen, in December 2009.

Join us! Together we send a strong message to the UN and other key actors – add your details on www.iclei.org/climate-commitments. For further information contact ICLEI at ccp-europe@iclei.org

7. Events list (May – October 2009)

4th European Solar Thermal Energy Conference

Place: Munich, Germany

Date: 25 – 26 May 2009

Web: www.estec2009.org

3. Eurosolar-Konferenz "Stadtwerke mit Erneuerbaren Energien"

Place: Ludwigshafen, Germany

Date: 25 – 26 May 2009

Web: www.eurosolar.de

Power-Gen Europe
Place: Cologne, Germany
Date: 26 – 28 May 2009
Web: <http://pge09.events.pennnet.com>

Intersolar 2009 Trade Fair
Place: Munich, Germany
Date: 27 – 29 May 2009
Web: www.intersolar.de

International Conference - Local Government Climate Roadmap: A Time for Mobilisation, Planning and Action
Place: Almada, Portugal
Date: 28 – 29 May 2009
Web: <http://www.roteirolocalclimaticas.org>

Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit
Place: Copenhagen, Denmark
Date: 2-4 June 2009
Web: <http://www.kl.dk/localclimatesummit>

ICLEI World Congress 2009 – Connecting Leaders
Place: Edmonton, Canada
Date: 14 – 18 June 2009
Web: www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009

European Green Week – Climate change: act and adapt
Place: Brussels, Belgium
Date: 23 – 26 June 2009
Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

World Climate Conference 3
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Date: 31 August – 4 September 2009
Web: www.wmo.int/wcc3

Open Days 2009 – European Weeks of Regions and Cities
Place: Brussels (Belgium)
Date: 5 – 8 October 2009
Web: www.opendays.europa.eu

Any questions or comments? Please get in touch with us:

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