

Newsletter N° 2 – November 2009

Guiding communities towards sustainable energy – Introducing the first partners

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Sustainable NOW e-Newsletter, of the project **European Sustainable Energy Communities - effective Integrated Local Energy Action today (Sustainable NOW)**. It presents an update on project developments and news from the partners, focusing on sustainable energy communities and integrated management. The newsletter is specifically aimed at local and regional authorities, and their partners working in the field of local energy. It is also meant as a vehicle to further disseminate the concept of sustainable energy among local and regional governments across Europe.

Additional news is also available on the project website – www.sustainable-now.eu.

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1. Introducing four consortium partners

With 15 consortium partners in Sustainable NOW, each one plays a vital role in the project. Every e-Newsletter will focus on a number of partners, highlighting their specific situation and their role in the project. In the sections below, we present one technical partner, one learning and one advanced community, as well as one city networking facilitator, which acts as project co-ordinator.

1.1 Banca Popolare Etica – financing expert



Banca Popolare Etica (BPE) is the first financial institution in Italy, which bases its investment decisions on the principles of ethical finance (listed below). Created by a group of the most prominent Italian associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), social co-operatives, trade unions, religious entities and by thousand of individuals, BPE is committed to the development of a more inclusive and equitable society.

In December 1998, the Italian Central Bank granted BPE the authorisation to start operating as a bank. Since then BPE has expanded, and today is formed by 31,103 members, of which 4,553 are corporate bodies. It invests in small enterprises, social co-operatives, and grassroots organisations. Despite the inherent value and contribution of such organisations, no international rating system takes into account the social and environmental value they provide, for example job creation, employment of disadvantaged people, protection of traditional agriculture and biodiversity, or delivery of basic social services. BPE's project evaluation criteria are not exclusively based on the capital asset of an enterprise, but also on a thorough analysis of social and environmental sustainability aspects, using parameters such as working conditions, gender ratio, use of renewable energy and internal democracy. The headquarters (image below) is constructed according to bioclimatic architecture principles.

BPE's operations are based on the principle of transparency. Its customers have access to information on how the bank is governed, what the decision-making procedures are, the destination of investments, and the environmental and social profile of borrowers. The principles of ethical finance, which inspired BPE's establishment, and which today distinguish and characterise its everyday work, are stated in article 5 of its Articles of Association, namely:



- Ethically oriented finance is aware of non-economic consequences of economic actions;
- Access to finance, in all its forms, is a human right;
- Efficiency and soberness are components of ethical responsibility;
- Profit produced by the ownership and exchange of money must come from activities oriented towards common well-being, and need to be equally distributed among all subjects which contribute to its realisation;
- Maximum transparency of all operations is one of the main conditions of all ethical finance activities.

In **Sustainable NOW**, BPE plays a technical role as an expert partner in the area of financing sustainable energy projects. It provides advice on financial topics to the community partners. In addition, BPE will organise two workshops on sustainable energy project financing in 2010 – one in Italy (in Italian) and another one in one of the project partners communities (conducted in English). Their focus will be on providing practical guidance on sustainable investments and instruments, illustrated by concrete examples. Dates will be finalised soon

with updates to be added to the website: www.sustainable-now.eu. Contact: Marco Bianchi: [mbianchi\(at\)bancaetica.com](mailto:mbianchi(at)bancaetica.com)

1.2 Burgas Municipality – a Circle of Learning partner



Burgas Municipality (Bulgaria) is an ICLEI Member City and a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign. Burgas joined Sustainable NOW with the aim to develop municipal capacity to improve the implementation of sustainable energy practices in the community. The main focus is on outlining a Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) and on considering an integrated management approach in this context – thereby improving relevant systems and processes.

As a 'Circle of Learning' (COL) partner, Burgas is cooperating with a number of other learning communities that are also helping one another, under the guidance and advice provided by several advanced cities in the Circle of Excellence (COE), technical partners and city networking facilitators.

In February 2009, Burgas signed the Covenant of Mayors (more on this in the previous e-newsletter). As part of this process, and based on plans outlined in the Sustainable NOW project, a number of steps are scheduled:

- The municipality will conduct an inventory and analysis of its energy situation and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions released in the community.
- Based on this, specific goals are identified and sustainable energy measures outlined.
- A draft LEAP is due to be presented to the Municipal Council, with the aim to have an approved plan by February 2010.

To support these steps, an Advisory Council was established in particular to assist the LEAP development and to obtain commitments from the industry and business sectors. Key actors and stakeholders working in the field of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) were invited to participate in the Advisory Council on a voluntary basis. All the invited participants joined, clearly showing the high level of interest and commitment to take action in the fight against climate change. The Regional Environmental Inspectorate, Deputy Governor of the Burgas Region, large industrial companies in the region, such as LukOil Neftohim, Toplofikatzia, EVN, BurgasBus (municipal transport company), Overgaz, Asen Zlatarov University, and NGOs declared their interest and support for this development.

On 16 September 2009, the first Advisory Council meeting was held, with participants from businesses, NGOs, regional representatives of the state authority, as well as from the municipal administration. The Advisory Council outlined the terms of reference as the basis of developing the LEAP, as it prepares to play a significant role in the development and implementation of the Municipality's energy policies.

As part of the range of measures identified in the LEAP, energy efficient street lighting will replace old and inefficient lights - starting in the city centre, followed by the residential quarter and housing estates. A second priority is retrofitting municipal buildings, with a focus on EE measures to extensively reduce CO₂, for example in schools and kindergartens. As public awareness is an essential activity, Burgas organised an Ecology Week from 21 – 26 September 2009, addressing sustainable energy as a prominent topic. Highlights of the event are presented in section 2.1.

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1.3 City of Munich – a Circle of Excellence partner

Based on years of experience in the field of sustainable energy and climate protection, the City of Munich (Germany) is part of the Sustainable NOW Circle of Excellence (COE). A member of the Climate Alliance of European Cities since 1991, Munich is sharing its know-how, supporting development of instruments and providing expertise to the Circle of Learning (COL) cities with their LEAP conceptualisation and implementation. It will also organise its own annual Energy Weeks to encourage local awareness on energy relevant topics.

The city has signed up to CO₂ reduction targets in Vienna (2007), with the aim to cut CO₂ emissions by half in the metropolitan area by 2030, against the 1990 baseline. Setting goals and targets are important, but developing strategies, concepts and instruments that can support their achievement are essential. Using an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach is a most effective way to attain these objectives. To address all of these the City of Munich uses a multi-level concept comprised of all available spatial levels (from local to international, which deals with relevant disciplines, resources and efficient communication structures. The sustainable use of all existing natural energy resources (solar, water, geothermal, biomass, wind) is a cornerstone of the plan, which is moreover combined with the challenging but satisfactory aspect of involving people in the process. Some recent examples are included below.



a) The 'Munich perspective urban planning concept', includes ecology guidelines: What should Munich look like in 10, 20 or even 30 years? What is needed to achieve high quality of life, now and in the future? How will economic, political and social changes influence life in Munich? The 'Munich Perspective urban planning concept' examines these issues, providing an outlook on urban economic, social, spatial and regional development

www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/plan/stadtentwicklung/perspektive/39104/index.html

b) MONACO – Alliance for Ecology: Founded in 2000, it is comprised of stakeholders that aim to promote ecological urban development. Interesting pilot projects have been developed in the fields of sustainable mobility, efficient climate protection, nature and free space quality.

www.muenchen.de/Rathaus/bau/wir/garten/oeko/39631/index.html



c) Alliance "Munich for Climate Protection" - Established on 18 July 2007 under the supervision of Mayor Hep Monatzeder, Alliance members are leaders in politics and the public administration, from large Munich-based enterprises, science, institutions and organisations. Their aim is to enter into a constructive and open dialogue on climate protection challenges, to develop joint solutions, and to create a networking platform for actors seeking to reduce CO₂ emissions -

www.muenchenfuerklimaschutz.de/cms

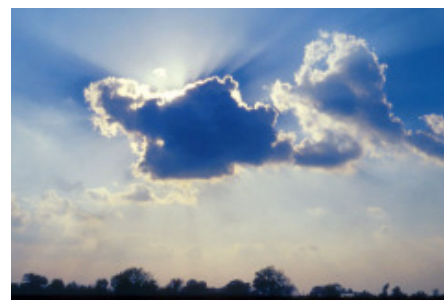
Despite the high percentage of greenhouse gases (GHGs) released in congested urban areas, it is still not easy to convince City Councils of the necessity to engage in supra-regional (national, European, international) networks, projects and initiatives. Yet, with industries, businesses, private homes and transport contributing vast quantities of GHGs, communities must engage in climate protection – using all means possible, including promotion and incentive programmes, as well as local measures in the municipal and community area. International cooperation can be very valuable – learning from and inspiring others.

1.4 ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – city networking facilitator and Project Coordinator



The **Sustainable NOW** project coordinator is the European Secretariat of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). ICLEI is a world-wide association with more than 1,100 members, consisting of local governments, regional or provincial governments as well as local government associations. Of these about 200 are in Europe, all dedicated to sustainable development at the community level. ICLEI members that are involved in the **Sustainable NOW** project are: Bologna, Burgas, Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane (CA21L), Ludwigsburg, Miskolc, Rosignano Marittimo, and the Province of Siena.

ICLEI's mission is to build and serve as a global movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability and environmental conditions through cumulative local actions. Founded in 1990, ICLEI is currently the leading inter-municipal clearinghouse on local sustainable development and Local Agenda 21, and also acts as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Constituency Focal Point for the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA). This means it coordinates submissions from local governments to the UNFCCC. Acting as facilitator of the Local Government Climate Roadmap, launched with a view to the COP 15 in Copenhagen, in December 2009, ICLEI is active in international advocacy activities and promotes the important role of local governments in climate and energy action.



In Europe, ICLEI is one of the founding members and participates in the steering committee of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign (ESCTC). This unites some 2,500 European local governments and many of the European networks. ICLEI's activities in Europe are coordinated by the ICLEI European Secretariat, located in Freiburg, Germany, and supported by the Brussels Office. With more than 40 staff and thematic experts, the organisation mainly works through projects and campaigns in a number of thematic areas:

- Sustainability and Environmental Management,
- Climate and Air (addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, air quality),
- Sustainable Procurement,
- Urban Governance and Local Agenda 21,
- Biodiversity and Water.

ICLEI is involved in a number of other projects relevant to local energy and climate, for example: MAKE-IT-BE (www.makeitbe.eu), LG Action (www.lg-action.eu), and Smart-SPP (www.smart-spp.eu). Further to this it also manages the European CCP Campaign and Procura+ Campaigns where local governments are active participants. Acting in an exemplary manner forms part of its core approach - the ICLEI European Secretariat is certified under EMAS (Certificate: DE 12600076) and maintains a sustainability management system in line with EMAS, ISO 14001 and ISO 9001. These regulations ensure the continuous improvement of ICLEI's ecological, economical and social performance beyond the legal requirements. ICLEI uses environmentally friendly and fair trade products and services, also applying environmental and social criteria when selecting business partners

In **Sustainable NOW** its role, in addition to project coordination, is to contribute to capacity building activities (study tours and workshops), leading the development of tools, such as the LEAP Wizard and developing an online resource centre. ICLEI supports the COL partners, and coordinates awareness and dissemination activities.

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2. Focus on Energy Weeks

Important activities within Sustainable NOW are locally organised 'Energy Weeks'. Every community partner has agreed to organise these. The first highlights and an invitation to join are presented below.

2.1 Mobilising people during the Burgas Ecology Week!

From 21 to 26 September 2009, the Burgas' Ecology Week was organised as part of the series of **Sustainable NOW** Energy Weeks. Its focus was on the role of municipal authorities in assisting their national governments to reach the EU climate and energy targets: 20-20-20 by 2020. Burgas has been active in this task by joining the Covenant of Mayors as well as ICLEI's CCP Campaign, and moving forward step by step with community sustainable energy in its many dimensions. An additional important topic emphasised during the event was the importance of co-operation between local and regional energy actors to increase EE.



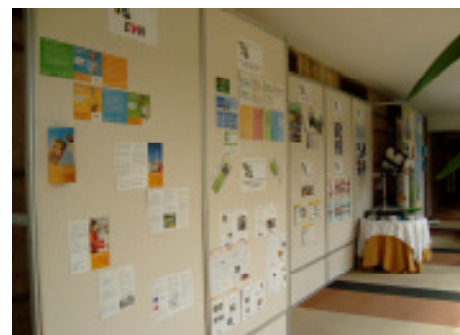
The Ecology Week served one of the objectives of Sustainable Now, by drawing attention to the local impacts of climate change, and the need to develop solutions – both for mitigation and adaptation – at city and regional levels. In this regard, regional and local authorities also need to maintain a close relationship with energy end-users, making their role in communicating EE to the public extremely important.

Many different initiatives were organised, with around 150-200 people per day participating, among others in:

- a cycling parade with the motto “improve the city climate”,
- an information campaign on saving energy in private households,
- an awareness-raising campaign on energy savings at educational institutions, with lessons and discussions focusing on this issue,
- two mobile demonstration rooms on the main road attracted visitors, informing them in a user-friendly manner about options to save energy and use RE in households: producing electricity from solar energy, generating heat from biomass and natural gas.



The highlight of Ecology Week was the forum on “Sustainable energy – local authorities and partners to address the challenges”. Initiatives, projects and investment examples in the field of EE were shared by a wide range of organisations, highlighting the practical impact of actions. The different roles of local authorities were discussed: acting as a consumer, service provider, planner, developer and regulator; also as advisor, motivator and role model, as well as a producer and supplier.



Each role provides many different opportunities for local sustainable energy action. The thematic group discussions were another valuable element of the Forum. These were aimed

at generating ideas on practical measures to improve cooperation between local stakeholders in the field of EE, which could be incorporated into the agenda of the region's local authorities.

In parallel to this event, an exhibition was organised to present projects and initiatives of different actors (businesses, NGOs, energy agencies, university and schools), including: Alternative Energy Association, Black Sea Regional Agency for Energy Management, BurgasBus.

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2.2 7th 'Ludwigsburg Energy Info Days - informing citizens



The 7th "Ludwigsburger Energieinfotage" (Ludwigsburg Energy Information Days) took place in the City of Ludwigsburg, Germany, from 10 to 31 March 2009. The event, an important element of the **Sustainable NOW** project as it drives to widely disseminate information on sustainable energy aspects, was organised with the enthusiastic involvement of various local organisations and comprised of many different activities. This is an approach that typically makes up a great Energy Week concept.

The event was organised by the City's Department of Sustainable Urban Development, in cooperation with the Ludwigsburg Energy Agency (LEA) and the Local Agenda 21 Ludwigsburg working group on climate protection and energy. The working group - an important local partner linking to Sustainable NOW activities - will be extended to include more citizens, building on the excellent results achieved with these Information Days.

Both the Sustainable NOW project and Local Energy Action Plan were presented, with the Lord Mayor, Werner Spec, providing details on the city energy strategy, and Anja Wenninger introducing the "Energetikom", a new competence centre for energy, climate protection and ecodesign. The University of Stuttgart conducted a survey on heating consumption and energy sources in the city, with first results presented. LEA provided four lectures in different city districts to reach out to local inhabitants, addressing topics such as climate change and mitigation, new energy standards for building renovation, and energy efficient ventilation. Participants learned about combining energy and money savings, as well as how to live in comfort, yet make a contribution to climate protection.

Further, a range of lectures on interesting themes was organised to further raise awareness and motivate citizens to change their behaviour. These addressed energy savings in buildings and transport, as well as sustainable city development. During eight evening events, visitors received useful information on different energy efficient technologies, renewable energy sources, new energy legislation, and development funds. Support was further provided by the Solarinitiative of Ludwigsburg, which organised an evening event on "Photovoltaics and solar heating – opposites or good combination?". With a strong focus on sustainable mobility that addresses energy savings, as well as user comfort, health and quality of life, the head of the Urban Planning and Surveying Department of Ludwigsburg addressed developments in urban planning for cars, pedestrians, bicycles and buses.

About 300 people participated in the events, which were very well received in terms of the wide range of stakeholders addressed and of the information content provided by many experts. The "Ludwigsburger Energieinfotage" were supported by sponsors, the IEE co-funded project Sustainable NOW and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Contact: Anja Wenninger - A.Wenninger@ludwigsburg.de

2.3 Rosignano Marittimo Municipality announces Energy Days



As part of the Sustainable NOW project's dissemination strategy, Rosignano Marittimo Municipality will organise the 5th ENERGETICAMENTE, the local energy days, in co-operation with the Energy Agency of Livorno Province srl, and E-Cube. It will take place in the Castello Pasquini – Castiglioncello in Rosignano Marittimo (Italy) from 5 to 6 November 2009, and will highlight the following two topics:

- Sustainable Cities: technologies and applications
- Energy planning: how to reach the European target 20-20-20

Information: www.energeticamenterosignano.it

Contact: Vittoriano Tommaso - v.ditommaso@comune.rosignano.livorno.it.

3. News snippets

Calling on European Local Governments to provide input for the energy and climate debate – LG Action project



Through the project LG Action - "Networking action to involve Local Governments in the EU and international energy and climate debate" - European local governments are invited to share their input and perspectives on climate protection, buildings, transport, sustainable procurement, water, etc.- as these sectors relate to energy. These topics are highly relevant to ongoing international negotiations and to achieving the EU climate and energy targets, and are very much in line with the principles of Sustainable Now.

This first call for input, will result into the development of the first 'European Local Government positionings', prior to the COP 15 – also feeding into the Local Government Climate Roadmap (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap). Please share your views, needs and challenges regarding energy and climate protection at the local level. What is blocking action? What works well? Are there country-specific problems? This input can relate to policy, technical issues, financial aspects, or any other area relevant to municipal action. The LG Action questionnaire is available online www.lg-action.eu. Contact: Maryke van Staden and Carsten Rothballer - lg-action@iclei.org

The BUILD UP Portal

In June 2009, the BUILD UP portal was launched by the European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs. BUILD UP is the European Portal for Energy Efficiency in Buildings. It is a portal for building professionals, local authorities and building occupants, allowing them to share their experiences and obtain information (news, FAQ and events).



BUILD UP offers access to numerous resources on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), toolkits and guidelines produced by cities, regions and countries - www.buildup.eu.

BewareE – How consumption can be reduced by an energy saving behaviour

The **BewareE** project, co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe



programme, runs from December 2007 to May 2010. It addresses consumer behavioural change in order to drive energy saving, and enhances the implementation of 'energy services' in cooperation with housing associations and companies.

One of the activities highlighted: the consortium is conducting an inventory of 100 examples of energy services from all over Europe, by analysing EU projects, national and local projects of housing organisations and other stakeholders. They will be considered in terms of energy- and CO₂-effects, cost reductions, organisation, actors, and type. An analysis of services will be completed addressing barriers, supporting and impeding factors, as well as transferability. The project centres on four countries: France, Germany, The Netherlands and Spain - www.izt.de/bewaree.

ELENA - Developing bankable investment projects

ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance) is a technical assistance facility expected to be launched in November 2009 by the European Commission (EC), in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB).



ELENA will target local authorities, and is designed to provide them with financing for the development of bankable investment projects or programmes in the area of sustainable energy. It is then, of potential high interest to Sustainable Now community partners and other local authorities that strive for enhanced energy sustainability. It also aims to ensure the eligibility of the supported investment projects or programmes for further EIB funding.

Sustainable energy projects eligible under ELENA can focus on a variety of sectors, such as retrofitting of public and private buildings, low energy buildings, energy-efficient district heating and cooling networks, or environmentally-friendly transport. The key condition for eligibility is that projects contribute to the achievement of the CO₂ reduction objectives fixed in the Covenant of Mayors. The ELENA financing scheme will also be addressed and discussed in the Sustainable NOW financing workshops in 2010 - www.eumayors.eu.

4. Events list (November – December 2009)

3rd European Renewable Energy Policy Conference

Place: Brussels, Belgium

Date: 16 – 17 November 2009

Web: www.erec.org/policyconference2009

The Hamburg City Climate Conference 09 - First Annual Conference of Mayors

Place: Hamburg, Germany

Date: 16 – 18 November 2009

Web: www.city-climate-conference.de

(including two sessions on the Covenant of Mayors and one on LG Action for cities)

Expert workshop on the topic 'Developing new carbon neutral districts'

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: 19 – 20 November 2009

Web: www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=6058

International Workshop "Towards an Action Plan for Energy Efficient Housing in the UNECE region"

Place: Vienna, Austria

Date: 23 – 25 November 2009

Web: www.energy-housing.net

The Copenhagen Climate Exchange 2009

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: 3 – 6 December 2009

Web: www.cphco2009.dk

(including an ICLEI Sustainable Energy Panel and Local Climate Action Exhibition)

15th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 15)

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: 7 – 18 December 2009

Web: <http://en.cop15.dk>

(including the Local Government Climate LOUNGE - www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap)

Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors - Cities Act!

Place: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: 14 – 17 December 2009

Web: www.climatesummitformayors.dk

Any questions, comments or information on events? Please get in touch with us:

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