

## Sustainable energy communities in action

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sustainable **NOW** e-Newsletter. It provides an update on the project **European Sustainable Energy Communities - effective Integrated Local Energy Action today (Sustainable NOW)**. The focus is on sustainable energy communities and integrated management, aimed at local and regional authorities, and their partners working in these fields.

More news and events are also on the project website – [www.sustainable-now.eu](http://www.sustainable-now.eu).

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## 1. Introducing a few Sustainable NOW Consortium Partners

With 15 partners in Sustainable **NOW**, each playing a unique role in the project, this section focuses on three different consortium partners:

### 1.1 “Perspectives for Ludwigsburg”: further development of the city sustainability concept

The process of the city's Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SUDS), called “Perspectives for Ludwigsburg”, started in 2004. A survey was conducted, involving 80 stakeholders of all fields. In 2005, during the “Energy Future Conference” more than 128 stakeholders further developed visions, goals and ideas regarding various themes - including energy. Building on these ideas, the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Future Conference” was held in 2006. As a result of these inputs, the City Council adopted guidelines and strategic objectives which were then collected in the SUDS.



This was meant to be a dynamic basic concept for the long-term development of Ludwigsburg – a process meant to be fair for all generations. In fact, as a living document, it is permanently adjusted and updated to meet the needs of the city. Energy is a very important issue in the SUDS. Having a secure energy supply, using energy cleverly, increasing the use of renewable

energy sources (RES) and fostering energy efficiency are part of the guiding principles of the document.

**Main strategic objectives:**

- Running innovative projects;
- Optimising energy use in city planning and buildings;
- Developing a sustainable energy concept (Local Energy Action Plan – LEAP);
- Providing independent and decentralised energy supply;
- Intensifying publicity and consultancy offers;
- Supporting local renewable energy sources; and
- Creating efficient transport.



At the beginning of 2011 Ludwigsburg adopted its LEAP: an energy concept for the whole urban area. The Plan was developed in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart and local experts, such as the Ludwigsburg Energy Agency and the association Energetikom. It outlines the energy supply and consumption trends of the city, as well as future scenarios and feasible sustainable energy strategies (i.e. linked to concrete implementation). Furthermore it stresses the importance of communication and dissemination in this process.

The next challenge for Ludwigsburg is implementing planned measures over the next few years. Due to its engagement in tackling climate change, Ludwigsburg was one of the nine winners of the competition “Climate neutral municipality” of the State of Baden-Württemberg held in 2010. Implementation goes step by step with a new concept for reaching climate neutrality by 2050, also analysing viable financial solutions.

**The main interventions developed by the city include:**

- A large biomass-plant (48 GWh/a heating, 10 GWh/a electricity)
- A district heating system in a new residential area, supplied by geothermal power with combined heat and power (CHP).
- Big photovoltaic (PV) plants, realised through citizen contribution and coordinated by the Solarinitiative Ludwigsburg.

**Hartenecker Höhe** is a new residential area for ±1.600 inhabitants over 18 hectares (ha). Highly energy efficient buildings were connected to a district heating system and supplied by a large biomass-power plant.

**Energy Info Days** have been organized annually since 2003, including lectures and study trips to disseminate information about energy efficiency, energy savings in new and existing buildings and the use of renewable energy sources (RES). For the development of the LEAP, citizens and stakeholders were brought together at a roundtable and in the „Energy Future Conference“, in which they exchanged ideas and submitted proposals for energy and mobility.

Sustainable NOW helped Ludwigsburg to realise its LEAP by implementing, among others, the following activities:

- Intensive exchange between project partners, and learning from one another’s experiences;
- “Inspirational visits” to Munich and Woking, sharing information on technologies and municipal activities regarding street lighting, energy management, financing instruments and funding options.
- Financial support through the project for organising “Energy Weeks” and other participation processes such as the “Energy Future Conference” in 2010 as important elements in the LEAP development process.



### Lessons learned

The experience of Ludwigsburg shows that the most successful way for the implementation of a sustainable energy strategy is to embed it in an integrated urban development plan. Energy is not only a question of climate protection. A sustainable and secure energy supply is an important goal, which can also create new workplaces in this critical economic conjuncture. Involving citizens, the local business community and stakeholders is essential for reaching significant energy targets.

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## 1.2 Mountain Community - Municipalities Association "Trasimeno-Middle Tiber":

Having already implemented energy measures in the context of the Agenda 21 process – and building on these experiences - the Comunità Montana Trasimeno and Middle Tiber, is a “cluster” project partner comprised of 13 municipalities that aimed to improve their development as sustainable energy communities. Combined, they cover an area of around 1,150 km<sup>2</sup> with 117.000 inhabitants (2010).



The communities presented their LEAP during the “2<sup>nd</sup> Energy Week” held from 30 April – 8 May 2011. The LEAP foresees many diverse actions in order to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 0,76 tonnes per inhabitant (this is a 20% reduction, compared to the Kyoto targets).

The transport sector was identified as the major CO<sub>2</sub> emitting sector in the Mountain Community area, followed by the residential and industry sectors. Transport was thus a priority – dealing with the high presence of motor vehicles in the community (almost one per inhabitant) compared to the national average (six per ten inhabitants). The main measures proposed to address the mobility issue are:

- The promotion and improvement of public transport, through the adoption of vehicles running on natural gas (CNG);
- The creation of new cycle paths;
- The promotion of rail transport.

## 1.3 Woking as a leading city

Woking Borough Council (WBC) was joined the Sustainable NOW project as a “Circle of Excellence” partner – prepared to share its experiences as a leading community. In the United Kingdom,

WBC has been recognised for its long-standing commitment to tackling climate change and protecting the environment. The Council has been awarded Beacons for Sustainable Energy (2005 - 2006), Promoting Sustainable Communities through the Planning Process (2007 - 2008) and more recently the Beacon Award for Tackling Climate Change (2008 - 2009). The Beacon Scheme was set up in 1999 to share best practice in service delivery



across local government. Themes were selected for each round of the scheme by government ministers. The themes represented issues which were important in the day-to-day lives of the public and reflect key government priorities. Beacon status was granted to authorities which demonstrated a clear vision, excellent services and a willingness to innovate within a theme. Government representatives then worked with Beacons to facilitate the sharing of information and good practice with other local authorities.



Thameswey Milton Keynes Project Visit – Staff Trainee Programme Visit with Miskolc in August 2010

In many ways, the Sustainable NOW project is similar to the Beacon scheme, and Woking has enjoyed sharing its experience with project partners and learning from good practice across the European project consortium.

One of Woking's key activities is Leader the tasks "Implementation actions by communities". Learning partners have committed to implementing actions on energy efficiency and renewable energy (RE). This had to be take a step further, by planning actions and starting implementation.

Woking assisted in the development of Local Energy Action Plans by these partners and shared good practice case studies based on its experiences in installing sustainable and RE projects.

Woking has also enjoyed its exchanges with Miskolc as part of the Staff Trainee Programme. In August 2010, Woking facilitated a four day training programme for Miskolc which included site visits to RE installations and sustainable development projects around the Borough. The visit also incorporated learning around Woking's energy services company (ESCO) Thameswey Ltd, and a trip to a large scale combined heat and power (CHP) development project which the company is managing in Milton Keynes. Practical application of learning points was demonstrated through the development of a targeted learning document. Time was also dedicated to learning about the Council's monitoring and reporting requirements on carbon emissions and energy consumption.

## 2. How to organise a great Energy Day

Energy Days are meant to mobilize consumers, businesses and decision-makers to take a day to think about the future of European energy production and use. The basic concept of an Energy Day is to involve citizens and local stakeholders, preparing and participating in various activities. These could include site visits, local competitions, forums, exhibitions, etc.

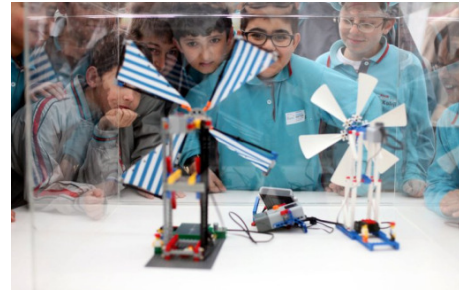


Local governments, playing a leadership role in their communities, can effectively organise Energy Days – and share their commitment to energy and climate goals. Some ideas for great events include the following:

- Involve local partners, stakeholders and citizens in the organizing process (inclusiveness helps to create ownership and interest);
- Choose an appropriate date in order to ensure the highest possible participation;
- Prepare a schedule of activities, also taking into account the audiences to be addressed: adults and/or children, citizens or professionals, businessmen etc.;
- Build a communication campaign before, during and after the Energy Day – use leaflets and posters, information in the local press, TV and radio, wide distribution of invitations.

**Useful hints:**

- Identify journalists interested in energy and environment topics.
- Plan the communication schedule on time.
- Organise a VIP to sponsor the day
- Spread the message through various activities, such as concerts, competitions, film festivals, and theatre plays. Use your imagination!
- When working with pupils, let them be the protagonists – to raise their interest: school competitions, school energy audits carried out by the students, guided interactive visits.



Source: Energy Days facebook profile

**For more information please visit:**

EU Sustainable Energy Week – [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)

Guidelines for Organizers -

[http://www.energyformayors.eu/images/stories/stories/energy\\_days/see\\_energydays\\_guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://www.energyformayors.eu/images/stories/stories/energy_days/see_energydays_guidelines_en.pdf)

Practical Examples -

[http://www.energyformayors.eu/images/stories/stories/energy\\_days/MIED%20recommendations%20from%202008%20local%20experiences.pdf](http://www.energyformayors.eu/images/stories/stories/energy_days/MIED%20recommendations%20from%202008%20local%20experiences.pdf)

EU Energy Days on Facebook –

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/EU-Energy-Days/172679319429447>

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**3. News snippets****From commitment to action: Submitting SEAPs**

While a number of municipal councils are still busy outlining how they intend to translate their Covenant of Mayors (CoM) commitments into concrete, measurable actions, many have already moved a step forward and submitted their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs), including the results of their Baseline Emissions Inventories (BEIs).



Close to 740 local governments have now uploaded their plan – to be submitted alongside the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), using the CoM template. These outline a number of key measures which are set to impact the living conditions of an estimated 68 million inhabitants. All submitted documents have been received for assessment by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

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**The European Energy Efficiency Fund**

With a current budget of € 265 million, the recently launched European Energy Efficiency Fund (EFF) will aim at financing sustainable energy projects across EU Member States.



The EEF is of particular relevance to Covenant Signatories and Coordinators, as it focuses on energy efficiency, small-scale renewable energy, and clean urban transport projects targeting municipal, local and regional authorities or public and private entities acting on their behalf.

The fund will pursue direct investments in climate mitigation projects - ranging from € 5 million to € 25 million. It will also offer financial products, including equities, senior debts, forfeiting

loans and mezzanine instruments. Also included will be investments in commercial banks, leasing companies and other financial institutions committed to financing projects of the final beneficiaries. Technical assistance to support investments will also be possible.

More details on: <http://eeef.lu>

## Toolbox of Methodologies – growing collection of tools for cities

During EU Sustainable Energy Week 2011 (EUSEW 2011), the Energy for Mayors project presented the **Toolbox of Methodologies on Climate and Energy**. This forms part a support package developed for organisations that are assisting cities and towns across Europe in developing Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs).



An innovative Toolbox created by ICLEI Europe, with a growing collection of different types of resources and methodologies in many languages, addressing many different topics. Icons are used to guide users to relevant elements in the Toolbox.

Resources include guide books, films, CO<sub>2</sub> calculators, Local Agenda 21 process guidance, and much more. The website shows a cycle with typical steps relevant to SEAP development, from setting targets to monitoring, and from financing actions to engaging citizens. Users are invited to register and add other useful resources, and to evaluate resources.

For more information please visit: [www.energyformayors.eu/toolbox](http://www.energyformayors.eu/toolbox)

## 4. Events list

Event name: **Sustainable NOW Final Congress: "Local and regional energy concepts" / Kongress "Kommunale und Regionale Energiekonzepte"**  
*(German-English simultaneous translation)*  
 Date: 30 June 2011, 10:30 to 16:30  
 Place: Filmakademie (Film Academy), Ludwigsburg, Germany  
 Web: <http://www.sustainable-now.eu>

Event name: **ICLEI European Convention 2011 "Cities in Europe 2020 - Enhance sustainability now!"**  
 Date: 12 - 14 September 2011  
 Place: Brussels, Belgium  
 Web: <http://convention2011.iclei-europe.org/>



Event name: **Local Renewables 2011: Green Buildings and Renewable Energy**  
 Date: 27 – 28 October 2011  
 Place: Freiburg (Germany)  
 Web: <http://www.local-renewables-conference.org/freiburg2011>



Event name: **Bio-energy conference**  
**Joint projects: MAKE-IT-BE final conference:**  
Date: 5 October 2011  
Place: Brussels, Belgium  
Web: <http://www.makeitbe.eu/events>



Event name: **Cities for Climate – Local policies to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>**  
**Local Accountability for Kyoto goals (LAKs) Project Final**  
**Conference**  
Date: 14 October 2011  
Place: Reggio Emilia (Italy)  
Web: <http://www.municipio.re.it/laks>



Event name: **CIVITAS Forum Conference 2011**  
Date: 17-19 October  
Place: Funchal (Portugal)  
Web: <http://www.civitas-initiative.org/index.php?id=96>



Event name: **Informed Cities Forum 2011**  
**Rio+20, local performance and the role of research**  
Date: 26 - 27 October 2011  
Place: Naples (Italy)  
Web: <http://informed-cities.iclei-europe.org/>



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**For any questions, comments or additional information, please get in touch with us:**

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