

## Press release

### Regional energy planning at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 15

*At an event in the frame of the COP 15, the project "North Sea - Sustainable Energy Planning" showed that through coordinated approaches interregional and international cooperation can support sustaining the larger goals for climate change.*

Climate change and climate protection are not only highly relevant on national, regional and local level. An active and targeted cross-border cooperation can make a big difference for reaching the goals for climate protection. On its event on 8 December 2009 in Copenhagen the North Sea - Sustainable Energy Planning project (North Sea - SEP) has shown how this can be achieved. The project, funded by the European Union within the INTERREG IVB North Sea Program used the Local Government Climate Lounge at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 15) to present its ideas and activities to a broader public.

The main aim of North Sea - SEP is to develop models and strategies for sustainable regional energy planning and management. Altogether 15 main partners and 11 associated institutions and municipalities from the North Sea riparian states Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Great Britain have formed a network under the lead of the Jade University of Applied Sciences Wilhelmshaven, Oldenburg, Elsfleth (Germany). The budget for project activities is 5 million Euros, half of which come from the European Union.

The main focus of the event in Copenhagen was set on presenting the project that is running until August 2012. Aim of the project is to create solutions for the special problems municipalities and counties are faced with in energy management of public facilities. Besides the larger goals of the overall project, presented by Tim Brauckmüller, the transnational project manager, there are various individual goals and activities in the partner regions that bring life into the network and that make exchange of knowledge and experience between actors and specialist possible.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Weisensee and Hans-Peter Ratzke of the Jade University of Applied Sciences for instance presented the activities from an academic point of view, the partner from Belgium, Dominiek Vandewiele of the Intercommunale Leiedal, visualised the problems and potentials of energy planning as a task of several governmental and administrative levels, and Annica Myrén and Merete Valbak offered insight into the perspective of the Danish city of Kolding regarding the possibilities for development in the frame of North Sea - SEP.

For more information on the aims, contents and partners of the project, please visit [www.northseasep.eu](http://www.northseasep.eu)

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