



01 News from within the project

Project Think Tank completed

Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneidewind, President of the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, a research institution with high national and international reputation in the fields of research on energy and environment related questions, has been appointed as the lead beneficiary's representative in the North Sea – SEP Think Tank. Information about the Wuppertal Institute is available at: <http://www.wupperinst.org/en/home/index.html>.

With this appointment the Think Tank is completed. Its role is to support the working process of the project partners.

Think Tank members are:

- John J. Becker (Germany),
- Donaat Cosaert (Belgium),
- Göran Fremrot (Sweden);
- Reinhard Koch (Austria);
- David Rodley (Scotland);
- Richard Laing (Scotland);
- Jan Sundquist (Sweden);
- Joop Kramer (Netherlands);
- Uwe Schneidewind (Germany)

A Scoop for North Sea – SEP (NL)

At the recent meeting of the NSR Monitoring Committee, held on 14-15 April in Groningen, there was an opportunity for current Interreg IVB projects in the North Netherlands to be presented.

The Queen's Commissioner in Groningen Mr. Max van den Berg, officially opened the event which was organized by the North Netherlands Alliance (SNN) and held in a section of the beautiful, historic Martini Church in the city centre. The information market offered an ideal chance to meet and share information and experiences with politicians, members of the Interreg Monitoring Committee and secretariat, and those involved in the programme through regional projects in the provinces of Drenthe, Fryslân and Groningen.



The North Sea – SEP project management team from Drenthe managed to 'strike' twice with regards to communication! North Sea – SEP folders and an eye-catching banner were printed especially for the occasion and our 'Scoop!' magazine was, coincidentally, hot from the press. This proved to be the perfect time and place to launch it.

Scoop! not only means 'new' or 'exclusive' but is also an acronym for Sustainability, Cooperation & Opportunities. North Sea – SEP has a two-page spread in the magazine which deals with the theme of sustainability and profiles 7 Interreg projects in the North Netherlands. This special edition, currently being translated into English, was received with great enthusiasm by all.

Scoop! and the North Sea – SEP project are also being promoted at the Grounds4Change Conference (on sustainability and climate

change) in Drenthe from 20 - 23 April. More than 350 participants are expected to attend (<http://www.drenthe.nl/groundsforchange>). Scoop! may be downloaded as pdf from the North Sea – SEP website. The English version will be available shortly and disseminated at the NSR Annual Meeting in Norway this summer.

For more information please contact:
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North Sea – SEP project meetings in Middelfart

In February (8.-11.02.10) the North Sea SEP partners and their Think Tank gathered in Middelfart (DK) to discuss the project's targets, development and current progress. The meeting was hosted by the Danish project partner Green Network and its sub partners Hedensted-, Vejle-, Fredericia-, Kolding- and Middelfart Kommune, which was represented by Johannes Lundsryd Jensen, chairman of "Environment & Energy" Middelfart, giving the political opening speech. Initiated by the Think Tank meeting, which functions as the project advisory board, supported by its Work Package Leaders, the project's progress and strategic elements were focused on.

The Think Tank members shared their experiences and positive views on North Sea – SEP and discussed about factors of success relating to energy planning, sustainability and best practices. On the following days, presentations and discussions continued through the Steering Committee meeting,



workshops, work package meetings and Tuesday's study trip. During the trip, project partners had the opportunity for bilateral discussions and addressing specific issues in their work packages. Visits were made at interesting and informative venues related to sustainable energy planning, such as the headquarters of Energinet, the national transmission system operator for electricity and natural gas, or Barritskov, where the concept of a promising biochar technology was presented by Thomas Harttung (founder of Aarstiderne, Black Carbon and Green Carbon).

„Energy turnaround OHZ 2030“ – protecting the environment and supporting the regional economy (DE)

All local authorities as well as the local businesses in the county of



Osterholz (project partner region) want to get ready for the future challenges of climate protection and energy management by taking the „Energy turnaround OHZ 2030“.

First objective of the strategy is to reduce the GHG emissions in the county of Osterholz according to the agreements by the EU and the national government. To achieve this, a concept of various measures is needed. The focus is on the use of renewable energy from different sources. But within the „Energy turnaround OHZ 2030“, monocropping of maize for biogas plants is to be avoided as well as setting up wind turbines like asparagus in the landscape.

The regional economy shall benefit on the long term from the new concept, too. About 150 million are spent by the citizens and businesses in the county every year for

electricity and heating. Most of the money is purchasing power, which leaves the county. The objective of the concept is to keep as much money as possible of these energy payments within the county. This money could then be invested in energy saving measures, technical solutions for a more efficient use of energy and in local energy production in order to protect the climate as well as to support and extend the local economy. The objective is to become as independent as possible from energy imports into the county by the year 2030. This initiative is supported by the North Sea – SEP project, which provides some of the planning principles.

North Sea – SEP project at the HANNOVER MESSE

The Jade University of Applied Sciences Oldenburg has presented the North Sea – SEP project at the HANNOVER MESSE 2010 from 19 to 23 April 2010.

The exhibition stand was within the Lower Saxony - German Pavilion in Hall 27 (Stand 30). During the whole event, a representative of the Jade University of Applied Sciences Oldenburg was present at the stand.



A “Climate paper” for the Kortrijk region (BE)

One Belgian North Sea – SEP partner, Imog develops and distributes the “Waste NewsPaper” 4 times a year to all its inhabitants in the region (110,000 mailboxes). This “Waste Paper” is periodically expanded with an extra “Climate Paper” (3x a year) about reduction in use of energy, renewable energy and climate control. This “Climate Paper” in magazine style can serve to integrate climate and energy measures in a

broader attitude of sustainability as a new way of living. In this way people will positively face new ideas, tips, good practices and the promotion of information sessions and training in the eco-service educational centre. The first two editions have been distributed (December and March) using the Trias Energetica as a supporting structure. They are also available at: <http://www.imog.be/nieuws.asp>

Photogrammetric Plotting in Grasberg municipality (DE)

The lead partner Jade University has finished the potential analysis for the implementation of solar power plants for the municipality of Grasberg (DE). Results will be presented to public on April, 28th in Grasberg under participation of local politicians, representatives from local industries from the energy sector and press.

Prior to the presentation in Grasberg, the results will be presented at a conference in Hannover on April, 19th organised by Kommunale Umwelt-Aktion U.A.N. – another German North Sea – SEP partner. The conference is on Solar Power in Lower Saxony and it addresses decision makers from municipalities, cities and counties to inform about technologies and funding possibilities (www.kuk-nds.de).



1 Marta Cieslar and Tanja Ekkel, evaluating the aerial pictures of Grasberg

For further information about partner or project activities, please take a look at www.northseasep.eu

02 External research news

New index to rank acceptability of onshore wind farms

The EU climate change and energy package has set a number of targets to be met by 2020, including 20 per cent of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources. Wind power is an important source of renewable energy but onshore wind farms are also associated with negative effects, such as their visual and sound impact. Before approving a wind farm, public bodies evaluate its benefits and costs through a form of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). However, EIAs do not tend to capture the interaction of the different impacts.

A new study has developed a scoring system that could help authorities approve proposals for onshore wind plants. It considered four aspects of a wind farm: the technical properties, the social impact, the environmental impact and the share of earnings offered as compensation for any negative effects.

The research established a single scoring tool to measure the net benefit associated with the building and running of wind plants. It considered the local environmental impact, the economic compensation for local communities, the technical characteristics of the plant, the social impact of the project and the interaction between these four elements.

As environmental impacts are very complex, the research proposed that they should be evaluated by a committee who assess impacts on a given scale that would be converted into a numerical score. The economic compensation could be expressed as a percentage of the expected income from the wind farm, based on the forecast of the wind supply. The technical impact indicates whether it can guarantee a certain amount of power for a given wind supply and is represented by the full 'load hours' of each turbine. A load hour is an hour in which a wind turbine produces energy at full capacity and represents annual production. Lastly, the

social impact of the plant is represented by the number of new employees hired by each wind farm.

The research devised an equation to score the wind farm proposals from these four elements. Depending on the context of the decision, the public body could place different emphasis on different elements. The method was investigated in the case of a proposed wind farm in Southern Italy with 15 wind turbines, each with a maximum power of 2 MW. The study assumed a green energy price of 180 per MWh, which gave the project an annual cash flow of EUR 11,340,000. It put the threshold at which a farm would be accepted at 80 per cent of the maximum score of 100.

The research explored the trade-off between the different aspects of the score. If the social impact or number of employees hired scored the maximum five points, the research indicated that a wind plant would require a

minimum of 30 points from the environmental impact in order for it to be accepted. If this was acquired, €347,004 would be needed in economic compensation. The researchers noted that both the economic and environmental impacts of a wind farm tended to fall as social impact increased.

By calculating the number of points scored by a wind farm the index can compare proposals or use a threshold to evaluate the acceptability of projects.

See:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/climate_action.htm

Source: Ciaccia, G., Doni, N. & Fontini, F. (2010). Auctioning wind power sites when environmental quality matters. *Energy Policy*. 38:4 (1734-1740).

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