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Impressions of the Midterm Conference



01 news from within the project

The North Sea SEP Midterm Conference in Assen (NL)

The project partners and many interested European guests gathered from 13-15 April in province of Drenthe, Netherlands to join the midterm conference. Political representatives and external experts from the partner regions gave their views on the future prospects for energy planning. The event was dedicated to interesting discussions, local action and innovation. Or to quote the host Ben van Os: "A day full of presentations on sustainability, with as common denominator, the North Sea regions. The word 'energy-planning' sounds like something technical and advanced but it quickly becomes apparent that we are talking here about ambitions and the drive to push forward. Whether it be local governments, those participating in the market, scientists or businessmen: all are devoted to sustainable development. The midterm conference offered a taste of what's brewing.

Conclusion: work is being done on all levels and with a wide range of instruments. The diversity is both inspiring and promising at the same time – sustainability is becoming more and more anchored in our daily lives."



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IMOG introduces Energy Mobile (BE)

If Moses won't go to the mountain, the mountain should go to Moses.

Imog developed a mobile exhibition on 15 m² to sensitize inhabitants on a sustainable energy planning in an interactive and fun way.

"I was born a market vendor", is a famous Flemish song. Although Imog do not conquer the world singing, with the Energy Mobile they will go from market place to market place, in order to convince the inhabitants of

sustainable energy planning.

They already had a compost mobile and the idea grew to sensitize people on places these would normally not get in contact with the issue. Imog had to develop a mobile exhibition in an interactive and understandable way in order to make such an extensive theme as "energy" as concrete as possible, and that on only 15 m².

They finally chose the 'Trias Energetica' as a basic scheme. It contains three very important things:



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1. Reduce your energy demand.

The less you consume, the less you pay? That seems pretty clear. Reducing energy demand in various ways: use energy wisely, good insulation, efficient lighting and choosing efficient appliances...

2. Opt for renewable energy.

Preferably choose green energy? This is possible by installing solar panels on your roof, but that may just as well be by buying green electricity from an energy supplier.

3. Using fossil fuels efficiently.

Despite rising energy prices we waste energy daily. A lot of devices have a standby consumption...

Within the space of the mobile market car (see picture), these three themes are further explored.



In an interactive and fun way, the public learns about the complex energy market, energy labels, different types of insulation materials, wind energy, types of lighting, heating, standby consumption....

The consumption of various devices can be checked with a power meter. You can generate power yourself with a trapper...

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Leiedal-municipalities switch to 100% green electricity (BE)

In June, eight municipalities that are associated within Leiedal, decided to switch to 100% green electricity, or electricity produced by sustainable energy sources like wind, water or biomass. Doing so, they avoid 9.788 tons of carbon emissions (according to Covenant of Mayors emission factor). This is the equivalent of 6.6 large wind turbines!

In October 2010, Leiedal analysed the energy prices municipalities pay. Leiedal observed large differences in electricity prices: one municipality paid up to 25% more than

others. So it was concluded that optimisation would be possible through professionalism and higher intermunicipal cooperation.

Municipalities are large energy users. These eight cities and municipalities use 34 GWh of electricity each year, and 62 GWh of gas, an equivalent of 10.000 households. It is mainly used for buildings and street lights. The switch to 100% green electricity is the first step in sustainable energy use. Energy efficiency and renewable energy production



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are other crucial issues in making municipalities more sustainable.

It was decided to organise a collective tendering procedure for the purchase of gas and electricity. A consultant experienced in the private sector was hired.

It appeared to be a great challenge to adapt experiences and professionalism from the private sector within public tendering procedures. After the liberalisation of the energy market, new players and new price formulas appeared. Nevertheless, it remained difficult for public authorities to benefit from these possibilities. Now, important steps are taken. An innovative approach has been developed by the municipalities and Leiedal,



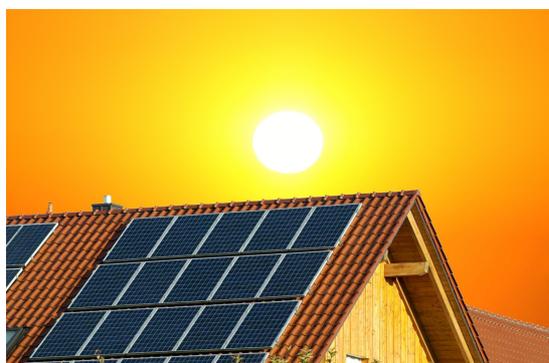
by transferring private experiences to the public sector.

Leiedal is an intermunicipal association of 13 cities and municipalities in the Kortrijk region (Belgium). Leiedal set up an intermunicipal network of facility managers involved with energy issues. The network wants to tackle the energy consumption and energy cost of municipalities through energy efficiency and renewable energy production. The common tendering procedure was one of the first actions of this network.

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Broadcasting the news of the photogrammetry plotting survey (SE)

Many citizens showed high interest in the evaluation of the potential for the installation of solar power plants based on aerial pictures taken of the city of Växjö.



The news of the survey realized in Växjö, by the Jade University of Applied Science in Oldenburg, was broadcasted on April 13th on regional television.

The managing director of the regional energy agency of southeast Sweden explained the survey and its results. The response of the broadcast has been great; many citizens want to know in more detail about the technique and the results. The interest of the survey may lead into the formation of a new regional solar energy network in the area of southeast Sweden.

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Energiting Sydost in Kronoberg (SE)

Energiting Sydost was arranged by the regional Energy Agency of Southeast Sweden on the 5th of May 2011 in Växjö. There were a little bit more than 100 participants registered, practitioners and politicians from municipalities, politicians from the region and representatives from different companies and the university.

The introduction was hold by the managing director of the company, a short presentation of the situation regarding energy planning in the region by Gunnar Nordmark, chairman for the regional council as well as for the Climate commission of Kronoberg and Ida Andreasson from the county administrative board.

During the day you could listen to lecturers with focus on energy efficiency in buildings and energy production, Energy planning, transports and behaviour issues.

The final discussion was video casted. It was lead by the officer for environment issues in the municipality of Malmö, Katarina Pelin. Members from the three regions of southeast Sweden participated in the discussion with the focus on tools and networks for energy planning.

Gunnar Nordmark was representing the regional Climate Commission. A conclusion from the discussion is the consensus of the relevance of the regional climate commissions for the regional energy planning.

The Triple Helix model of the networks has been a fruitful method to work together with the energy strategy.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Sea-Sustainable-Energy-Planning/120000841395926!>



...you can follow North Sea - SEP on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/northseasep>



Network meeting on Strategic Energy Planning (DK)

Green Network working group had a meeting on the 30th of August at "Advice House" in Vejle.



The subject of the meeting was "Developing Strategic Energy Planning".

Karl Spelling, Professor of Aalborg University gave a presentation of how the municipalities can work with Strategic Energy Planning.

He focused on long term planning towards the year 2050, where the goal is 100% renewable energy. There was a variety of discussions afterwards, where the main topics were:

- Is biomass a sustainable energy source?
- How can we involve the politicians in the strategic planning?
- How do we make the politicians realize that renewable energy can be an important income for the municipalities?

The meeting also resulted in a presentation for the next partner meeting on the 19th of September in Kortrijk in Belgium.

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Success of energy consultancy in Ritterhude (DE)

The first feedback of the involved energy consultants shows: The project: "renovate house – achieve benefits" in the community Ritterhude has been well accepted.

Within the project citizens of Ritterhude (with a focus on two settlements) free energy checks by energy consultants were offered to give them a straightforward and non-binding introduction into the energy-related subjects for renovating their homes. So far, three

quarters of the citizens, to which the energy consultants had talked, have showed interest.





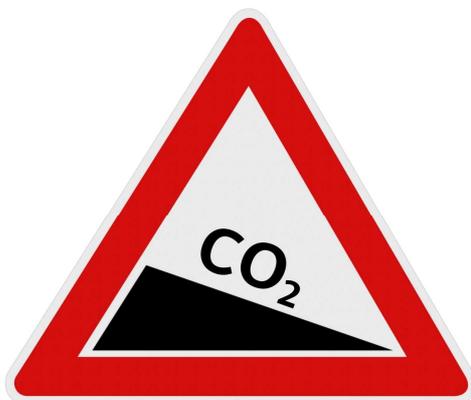
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Even in the parts of the community where energy consultants didn't offer their checks from "house to house" vivid interest was showed. Especially people of the middle-aged "silver generation" have accepted the offers. Overall, the energy consultants met mainly well-informed and prepared citizens.

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02 external research news

New European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEE-F)



On July 1st 2011, the Commission launched a new European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEE-F) as part of the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EPR). It will allocate around EUR 146 million from the EPR (3.7% of the total EPR envelope) towards a new financial facility dedicated to projects in energy efficiency and renewable energies, particularly in urban settings, achieving at least 20% energy saving or GHG/CO₂ emission reduction. Sustainable energy investments promoted by local, regional and

(where justified) national public authorities, could include: energy saving measures in public and private buildings; investments in high efficient combined heat and power (CHP), including micro-cogeneration and district heating/cooling networks; investment in decentralised renewable energy sources, including micro-generation; clean urban transport; the modernisation of infrastructure, such as street lighting and smart grids, as well as investment in sustainable energies with a potential for innovation and growth. Specific eligibility criteria with regard to economic viability and fit into local/regional CO₂ reduction plans are in place. The focus will be put on EE in view of the needs of public authorities based on the Commission's Energy Efficiency Plan 2011 and its proposal for an Energy Efficiency Directive of June 22nd.

This EU contribution comes from funds mobilised for the EPR in 2009 which could not immediately be allocated to projects in the sectors of infrastructure, off-shore wind and carbon capture and storage.



The setting up of the fund follows an agreement between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament in December 2010 to a European Commission proposal.

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/newsletter/dg/2011/0719newsletter.html#ancre4>

Social acceptability of renewable energy: reservations that should not be ignored

97% of the French are in favour of renewable energy according to a study conducted by L'Ademe in 2010. A figure which makes one think that its acceptance should pose no problem. But there is a difference between supporting a source of energy in theory and in accepting the establishment on your land of a power station. So renewable energy projects often give rise to reservations and fears at a local level. These cannot be reduced to the NIMBY phenomenon, or in other words to entirely selfish reservations. They have grown up in the particular context of the decentralisation and liberalisation of the energy sector.

In France the first wind turbines installed were already of a substantial size and the first farms were developed without real planning control over their positioning, causing tensions. Carried out by private players in the framework of specific objectives at a national and European level, the deployment of renewable energy projects of an industrial size moreover, give to the local populace concerned the impression of being exploited for others' profit, with little compensation in respect of the environmental and social impact involved.



The siting of projects is in the end often decided taking into consideration environmental and heritage constraints, but without considering the daily use of the area by its inhabitants and without consulting the local population.

Consultation however is very important. It must be introduced as soon as possible, ahead of such projects, to give people the opportunity to make their point of view count and to take part in the development of the project once a convincing case has been made. "



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In the case of strong opposition, the intervention of an outside mediator can be useful to maintain dialogue and to make it progress," explains Robert Douillet, environmental mediator for the SCOP Dialter, specialists in consultation and mediation for the regions.

Another interesting step consists of offering to the local inhabitants the opportunity to invest financially in the project alongside big business. The Societe Cooperative d'Interet Collectif (co-operative society of collective interest) (SCIC) Combrailles Durables, even offers to the local populace the opportunity to

become owners of the power stations by buying shares in co-operative ventures. "This allows them to stay in control of the technical choices and thus of the environmental and social impact of the installations," reasons Isabelle Garderes, co-founder of the organisation.

By: Geraldine Houot

For further information (in French only):

<http://www.dialter.fr>

<http://www.combraillesdurables.fr>

Project Create Acceptance

A project about Cultural influences on Renewable Energy Acceptance and Tools for the development of communication strategies to promote ACCEPTANCE among key actor groups.

Create Acceptance has been finalized in 2008. The main outcome of the project is the ESTEEM tool (Engage stake-holders through a systematic toolbox to manage new energy

projects). This tool was developed for projects managers of new energy projects who want to improve the societal acceptance of their project by stimulating the participation of stakeholders. The ESTEEM tool, including the complete manual of the tool and interesting background information is freely available via:

www.esteem-tool.eu.

Transparency Platform

Article 24 of the Directive on renewable energy requires the Commission to establish a platform for the publication of a range of

documents about renewable energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/transparency_platform_en.htm



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The EU budget for achieving the 2020 energy targets

The European Renewable Energy Council invites to the conference “The role of the EU Budget in achieving the 2020 energy and climate targets”.

This conference will take place in the European Parliament on October 19th 2011.

It will address the financing of renewable energy research and energy infrastructures in the next programming period (2014-2020).

The event is hosted by Ms Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament. <http://www.erec.org/>

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