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Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for Bioenergy in Europe

Proceedings of the public consultation meetings in the target regions

Deliverable 3.6

Supported by
INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE

Acknowledgements

This report has been produced as part of the project BioRegions. The logos of the partners cooperating in this project are shown below and more information about them and the project is available on www.bioregions.eu

The work for this report has been performed by Michael ten Donkelaar (ENVIROS, s.r.o.) with contributions of Ilze Dzene, Aiga Barisa (Ekodoma), Patrick Daly (County Westmeath), Liyana Adjarova (EAP), Bettina Maeck Chabourlin (CDC Trièves) and Tomáš Perutka (EAZK)

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1. Introduction

In each target region, the draft Biomass Action Plan was distributed to regional stakeholders. They had a chance to read through the draft plan and provide their feedback. A public consultation workshop was organised, where the main points of the plan have been presented and the local stakeholders had the opportunity to give their feedback to the draft plan.

The consultation workshops were held on the following days:

- Brumov-Bylnice and Slavičín region (Energy agency of the Zlín Region), Czech Republic – December 13, 2011
- Le Trièves (AMENAGEMENT SYNDICATE OF TRIEVES), France – March 9, 2012
- County Westmeath (Westmeath Community Development Ltd.), Ireland – April 17, 2012
- Limbaži region (Ekodoma), Latvia – May 10, 2012 and
- Salacgrīva Region (Ekodoma), Latvia – July 2, 2012
- Sredna Gora Region (Energy Agency of Plovdiv), Bulgaria, three separate workshops:
    - February 18 2012 - Svejen, Municipality of Brezovo
    - February 20 2012 - Municipality of Hisarya
    - March 30, 2012 - Plovdiv

This deliverable provides the complete proceedings of all consultation workshops.

2. Public consultation workshop Czech Republic

The process of Biomass action plan (BAP) creation was a little modified in the Czech target region. Some key local stakeholders actively contributed to creation of the BAP and other stakeholders were informed on regular project workshops. Finally, all key local stakeholders were acquainted with draft (semi-final) version of the BAP on public consultation workshop (December 2011).

Before the workshop. all stakeholders from the target region received a draft (semi-final) version of the BAP, so that they could give their comments already during the workshop. The draft version of the BAP was informally accepted in the frame of discussion between representatives of EAZK and the participants. Delegates of the towns Slavičín and Brumov-Bylnice promised to discuss the BAP in their Town Councils. EAZK committed itself to send participants of the workshop all updates of the document, resulting from BioRegions partner's consultations.

In the frame of BioRegions project, a workshop focused on public discussion about Action plan for „bioregion" establishment took place in Slavičín on Tuesday 13th of December 2011 from 10:00 to 13:00.

Target groups

The 17 participants of the workshop represented key local stakeholders important for successful implementation of the Action plan for „bioregion" establishment in the area of towns Brumov-Bylnice, Slavičín and their vicinity: delegates of the two towns, mayors of several villages from target region, representatives of local district heating system (DHS) operators, biomass producers, project coordinators EAZK and ENVIROS and also a representative of local newspaper.

Agenda of the workshop and list of participants

Table 1.1: Agenda of the public consultation workshop in the Czech Republic

Date: Tuesday, 13th of December 2011		
Time	**Content**	**Responsible**
9:00 – 10:00	Starting up of reconstructed boiler house of Slavičín DHS with new biomass boiler (1 MW) and tour on the plant.	BTH Slavičín Ltd. (Oldřich Kozáček) BIOPAL Technologie Ltd. (Pavel Urban)

10:00 – 11:00	Summarization of hitherto BioRegions outputs (evaluation of data collection/processing and surveys for elaboration of current situation in the target region; suitability of BTC creation under local conditions).	EAZK (Miroslava Knotková, Radek Sedlačík)
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation of the Draft Action Plan of the target region for next 10 years.	EAZK (Miroslava Knotková)
12:00 – 13:00	Discussion	

Table 1.2: List of participants of the public consultation workshop in the Czech Republic

	Name	**Organisation**	**E-mail**
1	Bača Miloslav	Slavičín town administration	investice@mesto-slavicin.cz
2	Bližňák Václav	Brumov-Bylnice town administration	vaclavbliznak@brumov-bylnice.cz
3	Floreš Stanislav	Naše Valašsko local newspaper	nasevalasko@seznam.cz
4	Goňa Antonín	Rokytnice village	starosta@rokytnice.org
5	Janík Martin	Valašské Klobouky town administration	janik@mu-vk.cz
6	Knotková Miroslava	EAZK	miroslava.knotkova@eazk.cz
7	Končický Jaroslav	Slavičín town administration	koncicky@mesto-slavicin.cz
8	Kozáček Oldřich	BTH Slavičín Ltd.	kozacek@bth-slavicin.cz
9	Krčmář Milan	Heat produstion Ltd.	krcmar@mu-vk.cz
10	Máček Robert	ENVIROS	robert.macek@enviros.cz
11	Obadal Miroslav	Brumov-Bylnice town administration	miroslavobadal@brumov-bylnice.cz
12	Popelka Josef	EAZK	josef.popelka@eazk.cz
13	Sedlačík Radek	EAZK	radek.sedlacik@eazk.cz
14	Slovák Jiří	Bohuslavice nad Vláří village	info@bohuslavicenadvlari.cz

15	Sukaná Božena	Šanov village	ousanov@volny.cz
16	Šerý Jaroslav	Brumov-Bylnice services	sluzby@brumov-bylnice.cz
17	Urban Pavel	BIOPAL Technologie Ltd.	biopal@biopal.cz

Minutes of the workshop

The public consultation workshop started with formal opening of reconstructed boiler house in residential area of Malé Pole (Slavičín) supplemented with guided tour on this plant. Connectiton of several smaler DHS into big one and instalation of new boiler (1 MW) for woodchips lead to decrease of fossil fuel import and to increase the share of local biomass on total energy consumption in the target region which is in agreement with objectives of the BioRegions project.

At the beginning, Mrs. Miroslava Knotková introduced hitherto progress of the BioRegions project including conclusions from two partner's visits in the target region focused on biofuel sustainability criteria and potential for Biomass Trade Centre (BTC) creation under local conditions. Mr. Radek Sedlačík picked up on the introduction part with presentation of the final outputs from questionnaire survey targeting on households (without DHS connection) in the target region and in neighbouring town of Valašské Klobouky and its nearest vicinity. This presentation included interpretation of the results from the view of current biofuel consumption and its future potential in the frame of designed Biomass action plan. The results from Vlašské Klobouky and its vicinity (out of the target region) indicate that a technical state (age) of boilers in households is more important issue than ensuring biofuel supply in that area.

The main part of the workshop was focused on the presentation of draft versions of **Biomass action plan** and **Analysis of Biomass trade centre creation**. Both of these documents were elaborated by EAZK in the frame of BioRegions project utilising experiences/comments from European project partners (Germany, Austria, Finland, Sweden) and with contribution from local stakeholders (municipalities, DHS operators, biomass producers). Workshop participants obtained printed and electronic versions of these documents. In the final discussion moderated by Mrs. Knotková, participant's proposals and comments were talked over and a formal hearing (adoption) of the Biomass action plan in Town Councils (Brumov-Bylnice, Slavičín) was agreed with representatives of these municipalities.

Participant's proposals and comments are listed below:

BTH Slavičín, Oldřich Kozáček, director

Answered additional questions about reconstructed boiler house in Slavičín and expressed interest to utilise BTC's services, moreover, Mr. Kozáček declared requirements of BTH concerning quantity and quality of biofuel provided by BTC.

Town of Slavičín, Jaroslav Končický, mayor

Mr. Končický supported hearing of the Biomass action plan on the Town Council meeting. Mayor also supported possible creation of BTC in Slavičín, probably by boiler house Malé Pole, in the future utilising experiences gained in planned BTC in Brumov-Bylnice.

Town of Brumov-Bylnice, Václav Bližňák, vice-mayor

Mr. Bližňák introduced workshop's participants with negotiations about utilisation farmers parcels in Brumov-Bylnice as fast-growing tree (FGT) plantation. Furthermore, Mr. Bližňák expressed support for municipality owned company Brumov-Bylnice services in BTC building. Vice-mayor also supported hearing of the Biomass action plan on the Town Council meeting.

EAZK, Miroslava Knotková, director

Complete information about planned FGT utilisation in the target region. In the near future, projects focused on FGT cannot be supported from the most suitable OP Cross-Border Cooperation Slovak- Czech republic 2007-2013. Moreover, change of land use from food production to FGT plantation is a time-consuming and administratively difficult process, therefore larger utilisation of FTG as bioenergy source is not realistic in the target region in the near future.

Village of Rokytnice, Antonín Goňa, mayor;

Village of Šanov, Božena Sukaná, mayor

Mr. Goňa and Mrs. Sukaná described their experiences with recent maintenance of green areas along roads and watercourses. Both municipalities would appreciate BTC services based on organisation of roadside biomass harvesting and its processing into biofuel utilised in the target region. Both mayors underlined the necessity to promote biomass as the most suitable fuel for family house heating and to avoid using low-quality fossil fuels and waste in household's boilers.

Brumov-Bylnice services, Jaroslav Šerý, director

Mr. Šerý noted to the household's space heating issue, that people who are firewood self-supplier consider this solution as costless and do not calculate the price of their own work (biomass transport and processing). Director of Brumov-Bylnice services described the future plans of its company in the field of bioenergy (incl. Waste biomass).

Town of Valašské Klobouky, Martin Janík, vice-mayor

Mr. Janík, representative of the Town of Valašské Klobouky, claimed the interest in BioRegions project even the town is just "an observer". Herewith, vice-mayor suggested using of questionnaire survey's outputs in planning municipality activities in the field of RES utilisation for space heating of public buildings and households.

Press release

Otevření rekonstruované kotelny ve Slavičíně a mezinárodní projekt BioRegions

V úterý 13. prosince 2011 proběhl ve Slavičíně seminář mezinárodního projektu **BioRegions**. Seminář byl zahájen slavnostním otevřením a prohlídkou rekonstruované kotelny centrálního zásobování teplem (CZT) na sídlišti Malé Pole s novým kotlem na biomasu o výkonu 1 MW. Rekonstrukce této kotelny provozované městskou společností BTH Slavičín byla realizována v rámci projektu **„Teplofikace sídliště Vlára z OZE K3, Slavičín“** s celkovými uznatelnými náklady 36 mil. Kč, přičemž dotace z EU činila 37 % této částky. Propojením systémů CZT na sídlištích Malé Pole a Vlára spolu s výstavbou dalšího kotle na dřevní štěpku bude zajištěna dlouhodobě příznivá cena tepla pro domácnosti.

Po prohlídce rekonstruované kotelny pokračovala diskuse nad návrhem **Akčního plánu pro biomasu** a **Analýzou vytvoření Biomasového obchodního centra**. Oba dokumenty byly vytvořeny v rámci projektu BioRegions, a do kterých Energetická agentura Zlínského kraje zapracovala dlouholeté zkušenosti projektových partnerů z Německa, Rakouska, Finska a Švédska.

Cílem tohoto projektu a představených dokumentů je vytvořit v regionu tvořeném městy Brumov-Bylnice, Slavičín a jejich nejbližším okolím dlouhodobě udržitelný místní trh s biomasou. Energie získaná z biomasy by pak pokrývala více než 1/3 spotřeby regionu (42 % spotřeby tepla a 1 % spotřeby elektřiny). Region by tak posílil svoji energetickou soběstačnost, konkurenceschopnost a snížil nezaměstnanost. Jedním z prostředků, jak docílit uvedených cílů je vytvoření Biomasového obchodního centra, které usnadní kontakt mezi dodavateli kotlů, producenty biomasy a zajistí potřebný komfort pro konečné spotřebitele, tedy hlavně domácnosti a obce.

Na závěr byli účastníci semináře z řad představitelů měst a obcí regionu a provozovatelů CZT seznámeni s konečnými výsledky dotazníkového průzkumu provedeného v letních měsících mezi obyvateli obcí cílového regionu. Z uvedeného průzkumu vyplývá, že vhodnou lokalitou pro vybudování Biomasového obchodního centra je kotelna CZT v Brumově-Bylnici provozovaná společností Služby města Brumov-Bylnice. V následující diskuzi byly probrány jednotlivé návrhy a připomínky účastníků semináře a dohodnuto projednání Akčního plánu pro biomasu na nejbližším jednání zastupitelstev měst Brumov-Bylnice a Slavičín.

Další informace o projektu BioRegions jsou dostupné na :

http://www.eazk.cz/rubrika/bioregions .

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Feedback from consultation workshop (in English)

Feedback to a draft version of the Biomass Action Plan	
Draft version of the Biomass Action Plan (BAP) was presented on public consultation workshop in Slavicin, 13th December 2011.	
Name of respondent	Oldřich Kozáček
Name of the organisation	BTH Slavičín spol. s r.o.
Stakeholder Type	Utilities
Your comments on the BAP	From my point of view, I would stress the role of general public as a biomass producer (as mentioned in chapter 6.1). A system of waste biomass collection from citizens could be inspired by waste recycling system (glass, plastics, etc.) which is successful in our conditions. The biomass trade centre should be a focus point of this system –> receive collected waste biomass from municipalities/utilities companies -> process the biomass into biofuel -> sell produced biofuel (e.g. to communal boiler houses). I have no other comments, because I have cooperated with EAZK on BAP designing.
Name of respondent	Jaroslav Šerý
Name of the organisation	Služby města Brumov-Bylnice
Stakeholder Type	Utilities
Your comments on the BAP	The municipal utility company (Brumov-Bylnice services) is prepared to build up Biomass trade centre. I attended a study visit in Achental and I think it is almost impossible to run similar centre in our region in near future. We should start in small scale – boiler house in Brumov-Bylnice (settlement Družba) could start as collecting point for waste biomass from citizens, municipalities and SMEs and, in addition, our company could provide long-time experiences and contacts to bigger biomass producers in the region. The boiler house has free storage capacity and can provide professional staff and technology for manipulation with biomass. Our company owned a suitable building next to the boiler house which could serve as training centre in the first phase.

Name of respondent	Božena Sukaná
Name of the organisation	Obec Šanov
Stakeholder Type	Municipality
Your comments on the BAP	First of all, thank you for invitation to the workshop. Recently, we have had to clean up some areas from bushes and it took time to find company which could do it for acceptable price. My note focuses on function of Biomass trade centre -> it should be easy for municipality (or other land owner) just to call on this centre and the staff will organise all things around harvesting and transport waste biomass out of our parcel. I have no other comments on BAP.
Name of respondent	Martin Janík
Name of the organisation	Město Valašské Klobouky
Stakeholder Type	Municipality
Your comments on the BAP	Town of Valašské Klobouky does not fall into project area, but we are glad to be “an observer” of this interesting project. We have a common Community Plan with our neighbour town Brumov-Bylnice and, if the BAP will be successful, our town will cooperate on its update for next period.
Name of respondent	Milan Krčmář
Name of the organisation	Výroba tepla, s. r. o.
Stakeholder Type	Utility
Your comments on the BAP	Our company is a heat supplier for town of Valašské Kobouky. There is no district heating system in this town and we run several smaller boilers for natural gas in (mostly) public buildings. At the moment, I have no comments on presented BAP, but we (our company) would appreciated to be informed about further development of the project because we would like to exchange experiences in the field of replacing old natural gas boilers by biomass boilers.

Name of respondent	Pavel Urban
Name of the organisation	Biopal technologie s.r.o.
Stakeholder Type	Bio-Energy Technology Providers
Your comments on the BAP	I would like, from my professional point of view, to highlight the technological site of the BAP, but I understand that too much technical details are not suitable for this type of strategic document.
Name of respondent	Václav Bližňák
Name of the organisation	Město Brumov-Bylnice
Stakeholder Type	Municipality
Your comments on the BAP	I have no comments on presented BAP, because our municipality has collaborated on its creation. However, I would ask EAZK to send us any new actualisation of this document, which may occur in following months.
Name of respondent	Jaroslav Končický
Name of the organisation	Město Slavičín
Stakeholder Type	Municipality
Your comments on the BAP	I have no important comments on presented version of the BAP at the moment. Our town Council will discuss this document and new comments/notes can naturally release from this discussion.
Note	All feedbacks were given by respondents in Czech and translated into English by EAZK's staff.

List of participants (consultation workshop, 13th Dec 2011)

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Zlínský kraj

Prezenční listina semináře projektu BioRegions

konaného v úterý 13. prosince 2011 v restauraci Záložna ve Slavičíně.

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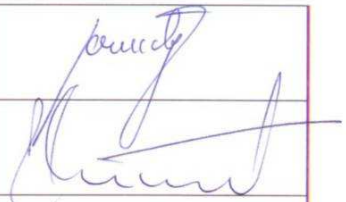
#	jméno	organizace	telefon	e-mail	podpis
1	Bača Miloslav	Město Slavičín	603 927 722	investice@mesto-slavicin.cz	
2	Blanař Zdeněk	Město Brumov-Bylnice	577 305 149	zdenekblanar@brumov-bylnice.cz	
3	Bližňák Václav	Město Brumov-Bylnice	577 305 148	vaclavbliznak@brumov-bylnice.cz	
4	Floreš Stanislav	Naše Valašsko	604 814 727	nasevalassko@seznam.cz	
5	Goňa Antonín	Obec Rokytnice	577 343 652	starosta@rokytnice.org	
6	Janík Martin	Město Valašské Klobouky	577 311 113	janik@mu-vk.cz	
7	Knotková Miroslava	Energetická agentura Zlínského kraje, o.p.s.	577 043 940	miroslava.knotkova@eazk.cz	

Seminář projektu BioRegions, 13.12.2011, Slavičín

8	Končický Jaroslav	Město Slavičín	577 004 807	koncicky@mesto-slavicin.cz	
9	Kozáček Oldřich	BTH Slavičín spol. s r.o.	577 341 041	kozacek@bth-slavicin.cz	
10	Krčmář Milan	Výroba tepla, s. r. o.	577 320 711	krcmar@mu-vk.cz	
11	Máček Robert	ENVIROS, s.r.o.	284 007 491	robert.macek@enviros.cz	
12	Popelka Josef	Energetická agentura Zlínského kraje, o.p.s.	577 043 204	josef.popelka@eazk.cz	
13	Sedlačík Radek	Energetická agentura Zlínského kraje, o.p.s.	577 043 941	radek.sedlacik@eazk.cz	
14	Strnad Václav	Obec Štítná nad Vláří-Popov	577 336 126	starosta@stitna-popov.cz	
15	Sukaná Božena	Obec Šanov	577 341 634	ousanov@volny.cz	
16	Šerý Jaroslav	Služny města Brumov-Bylnice	577 330 412	sluzby@brumov-bylnice.cz	
17	Urban Pavel	Biopal technologie s.r.o.	558 437 353	biopal@biopal.cz	

18	OBÁDAL MIROSLAV	ZRUČNOV - BYSTŘICE			
19	Slovák Jiří	obec Bohuslavice			
20					
21					
22					
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3. Public consultation workshop France

The final public consultation workshop in the Trièves region was held on the 9th of March 2012.

Participants of the workshop:

- Jérôme Fauconnier (Vice-president CDC Trièves (CCT)),
- Daniel Niot (councillor St. Martin de la Cluze),
- Solange Saulnier (mayor St Andéol),
- Christophe Chauvin (scientific IRSTEA, TENERRDIS),
- Bernhard Schauberger (BAT, Biomassehof Achental),
- Florin Malafosse (CCT, LEADER),
- Gérard Pollier (industrial CREANERGIE),
- Mylène Duaut (CCT, zones naturelles, charte forestière),
- Thierry Schoebel (councillor CCT),
- Frédéric Gaspard (pour bâtir autrement, Trièves compostage),
- Nathalie Bonato (CCT habitat, RE),
- Françoise Paris (CG Isère, Trièves territory),
- Guy Charron (CG Isère),
- Sara Magnon (councillor Gresse en Vercors),
- Guillaume Boissonet (scientific CEA Grenoble, TENERRDIS),
- Patrick Chion (president AFTBM),
- Marine Maçé (AFTBM),
- Julien Lecornué (CRPF),
- Remy Lecomte (ONF),
- M-Claire Brizion (mayor Clelles),
- Jennifer Geoffroy (FRAPNA),
- Lionel Courtois (CDRA ASI),
- J-Yves Lemenez (journalist Le Dauphiné Libéré),
- Hélène Foglar (FRAPNA),
- Bettina Maeck (projectmanager BioRegion CCT Trièves)

Excused : Brigitte Locatelli (CCT), Laurence Paulik (CCT), J-B Bellier (mayor St. Michel-lesPortes, CET), O. Allagnat et D. Joud (COFORET), L. Boisse (bois des alpes), F. Aubert (mayor Tréminis), Marie Mallet (SITADEL, CAI), Robert Cuchet (councillor Monestier du Percy)

Programme of the workshop:

1) The BioRegions project in some words

2) Presentation of the Achental par Bernhard Schauberger

3) Biomass action plan presentation

4) working groups on action sheets

5) Feedback, discussion, questions and written feedback

6) Site visits in the afternoon (woodchip boiler in Monestier de Clermont and biomass trading centre)

Workshop items and discussion

Mr Jérôme Fauconnier opens the public consultation officially

1) The BioRegions Project in some words

The region of Trièves participates in the European BioRegions project since 2010. The project supports the creation of five "bioenergy regions" in rural areas of Europe and the region o f Trièves is one of them. A bioenergy region aims to get at least one third of its energy supply from regional and sustainable biomass sources.

2) The « Ökomodell » Achental and BAT (Biomass trading centre)

<u>The example of Achental</u>

The Achental is a territory of 30 000 habitants with a surface of half of that of Trièves (300 km2).
The region has low unemployment (2.5%) and about 50 % of pensioners among its inhabitants. It is one of the 25 existing "Bioregions" in Germany.
The Achental region has focused in 1999 on a combination of nature protection and sustainable development with an extension of renewable energy sources.
Actually the Achental is already a bioregion because one third of its consumption comes from bioenergy.
The challenge is to become totally independent from outside fossil energy sources.

<u>The Biomass Trading Centre (BAT) in Achental</u>

The biomass trading centre can be considered as an important force for the local bioenergy market. BAT is managed as a public-private partnership and employs 6 persons. Founded in 2007, a turnover of 3 million was made in 2011.
Beside the bioenergy business, BAT offers services and consultations on energy related questions.
Moreover BAT generates several bioenergy projects in the region.
The municipality of Grassau offers a district heating system, supplying 500 households with heat.
Since the beginning of 2012, a wood-gasification plant operates on the same site as a flagship initiative supplying other 500 households with electricity and heat.

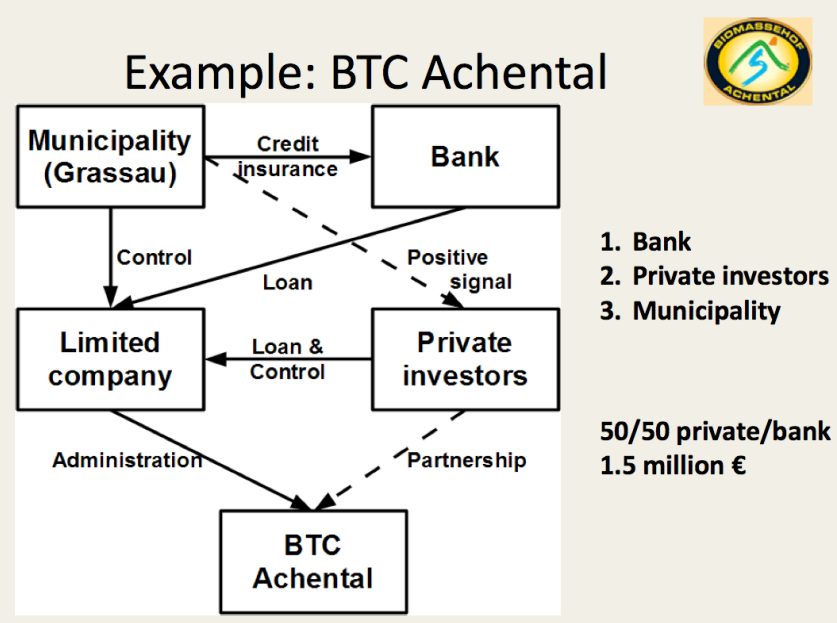
The BAT has become a tourist attraction with about 5000 to 10 000 tourists coming each year to visit the BAT.

Advantages:

- "50 / 50" investment (50% by privates and 50% by public sector) (see the scheme below).
- Good cooperation between communes
- Development of "business tourism"

- Creation of high regional value due to bioenergy
- Local investment
- No opposition from habitants
- Good relationship with nature protection associations

2.1) Scheme public-private financing BAT



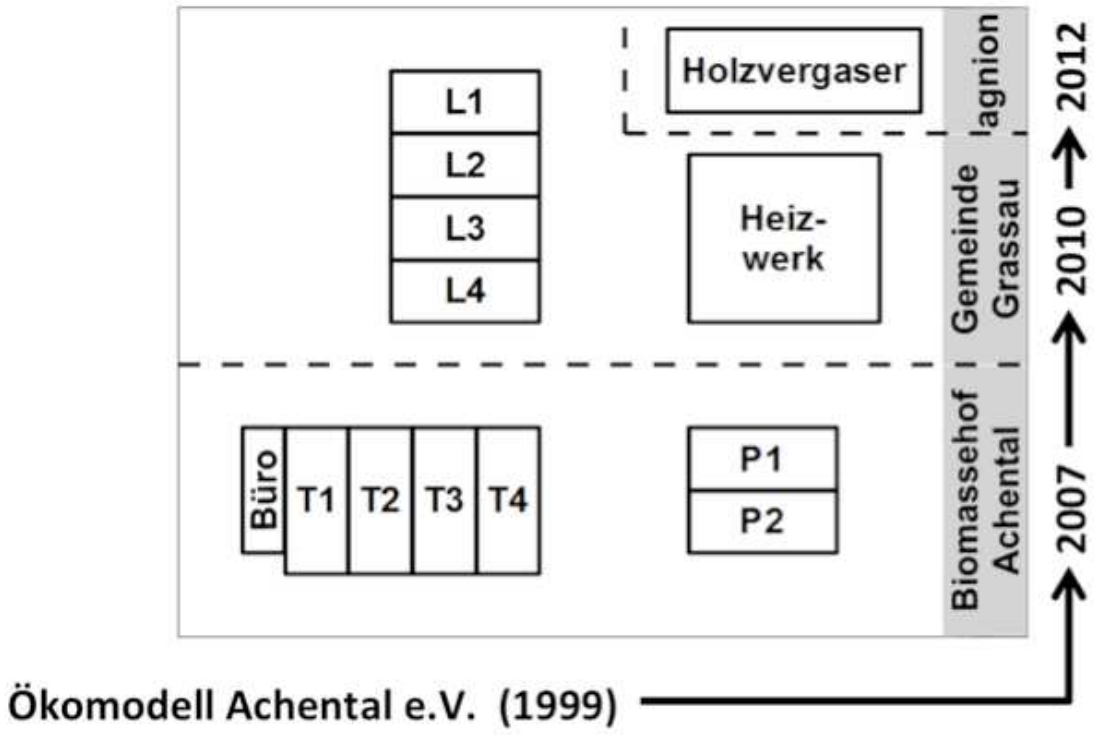
Disatavantages :

- Very long project: it started in 1996 and needed 9 years to mature.
- Very climate-depended
- Be careful with long running contracts=> prices are fixed in advance and can create problems of renegociation
- As the bioenergy market is a business with a small profit margin, the economical risks are high.

Biomass production:

- 6000 to 7000 tons/y of pelets commercialized.
- 12 000 m3/y of high quality woodchips is produced and commercialized.
- 22 000 to 28 000 m3/y of less quality woodchips .

2.2) BAT scheme with heating plant and wood gasification plant:



3) Presentation of action plan draft

In the introduction it was underlined that the action plan has been developed thanks to the local wood branch (forest Charta, regional supply plan (PAT), etc.), thanks to all the meetings held with partners and key-stakeholders who meet up regularly since 2010 and to the best practice visits in European best practice regions.

4) Workgroups on action sheets

4.1) Workgroup target 1: Increasing the bioenergy potential

Action 1

Increasing the bioenergy potential will not be possible in public forest without road construction and development of cable logging.

Road construction would permit the mobilization of 100 m3 of wood per year and per km. (Construction timber and bioenergy mixed).

Expected financial means needed : 10€/m3 for 15 years.

The actual potential of animation permits the construction of 1 km/y, which could be intensified in 5 to 10 years after the creation of a dossier with a large number of owners, road construction and harvest management.

With cable crane logging we should double the potential (200m3/km/y) but it will be rather more expensive! This will lead to more expensive biomass.

Action 2
Measures of restructuration in private forests
They need forcedly a long time because it is a movement of concentration privileging the acquisition of neighbour parcells.
It is difficult to do more. The constitution of forests in form of a company with several owners could be encouraged by progressive acquisition of parcells by the help of the AFTBM contest for the dialogue between owners.

Action 3
Researching optimized harvesting methods in slopes
The target is to maintain a regular flow of cable cut logging in Trièves in non exploited areas for keeping the level of extraction.
It does not really exist alternatives to cable crane logging in slopes, what means that we have to optimize these harvesting methods without having in mind to preserve areas for biodiversity.

Action 4
Changing forest management methods
Roadside sale management: increasing of this kind of management since 2010 for the public forest (10 000m3 commercialized on roadside sale from 25 000m3 wood harvested).

Concerning the private forest, the management could also be considered to change on the roadside sale.
Using wooden by-products (branches etc.): the whole tree has to be exploited in cable crane logging.
Using wood from road-side cuts for bioenergy.
Another option is the acquisition of small material adaptable for agricultural tractors....
For further information, please take a look to the following webside:

http://docpatrimoine.agroparistech.fr/IMG/pdf/memoires/FIF/fif17bonaime_rapport.pdf »

4.2) Workgroup target 2: Upgrading the efficiency of the biomass trading centre

Some propositions of the workgroup:

a) Increasing the turnover of woodchips sale from 4000 to 20 000 MAP in 10 years
   - Action 1: there will be an increasing of customer demand because:

   -of new projects in the Grenoble region
   -of an intended increasing consumption of existing installation in Grenoble (CCIAG)

- Action 2: accelerating drying of woodchips: benchmarking with BAT seems to be very interesting for economical and technical reasons.
  These two conditions permit to increase the efficiency of the BTC, responding to the demand by decreasing the drying period of the available woodchips stocks.

The workgroup suggests to analyse the feasibility of the following possibilities:

- Woodchips drying
- Timber wood drying
- Drying of sawdust coming from timber wood transformation and which could be sold dry to pellet producers.

Other points:

- The workgroup is highlighting that the wood mobilisation is a challenge to keep up with the demand. (cf. Workgroup 1). Another potential could be wood coming from the agricultural sector.
- It could be an interesting idea to imitate the BTC in Achental and to store and to distribute pellets over there.
- On the other hand, action 3 of topic C (using heat for pellet production) seems not to be realistic anymore because of several reasons: supply, investment, and technical complexity).

4.3) Workgroup target 3: Decreasing pollution by upgrading the efficiency of heating systems for privates.

Propositions of workgroups:

- Awareness rising for owners and attendance in order to upgrade their insulation and their heating systems.
- Training for craftsmen in cooperation with sustainable construction association “pour bâtir autrement”
- Financing could come from several sources (department, Rhône-Alpes-Region, ...)
- Establishing an energy- information service (at BTC?)
- Before changing heating systems, owners have to upgrade also their insulation

4.4) Workgroup target 4: Acceding to local and sustainable wood label “bois des alpes”

Results: Traceability

- Already qualifying lumberjacks with PEFC label
- Creating a list
- Identifying the PEFC parcels in Trièves
- For a better management of the “traceability”: instructing sawyers, lumberjacks and carpenters
- Upgrading management of work in wood sector
- Identifying the benefits and cost calculation

- Creating an efficient communication for promoting the label

4.5) Workgroup target 5 : Feasibility study about organic waste digestion project

- Organizing Best Practice Visits
- Following study of whey and liquid manure in 2013
- Cooperate with “Trièves Compostage”

5) Feedbacks and discussions:

Several topics were discussed after the working session:

- A BioRegions steering group meets up regularly since April 2011.
- 15% of the whole tree can be used as biomass.
- Trièves needs improved access to forest areas
- Frapna (saving nature association) keeps a low profile concerning cable crane logging.
- Tenerrdis suggest to have step by step experiences and not to go too fast; thoughts about forest management and exploitation
- Existence of an important “Grey market” of log wood in Trièves and too many old stoves in households that pollute the air
- The biomass trading centre
- How realize all these actions? Who will do this? How financing?
- Rhône Alps region: The PSADER could finance several actions
- CDC Trièves: we need an efficient cooperation and engagement between all stakeholders of the forest sector and a well organized animation

Next steps: creating several steering groups for actions that will be implemented soon ; find financing ; important motivation and interst to stay in touch with Achental.

4. Public consultation workshop Ireland

Summary Report and Meeting Minutes

A stakeholder consultation meeting was held in Mullingar at the offices of Westmeath Community Development on Tuesday 17th April 2012, to review and discuss the draft Bioenergy Action Plan for the County.

12 persons attended the workshop and apologies were received from a further 10 people / organisations who could not attend but offered to provide feedback in via the feedback form.

Presentations were made by Bernhard Schauberger from Biomassehof Achental GmbH& Co KG in Germany on the Achantal Bioenergy best practice region, its Biomass Trading Centre and a review of the principle actions of the other partner regions, and also by Patrick Daly who gave an overview of the draft action plan and facilitated the meeting, including a discussion on targets and stakeholder feedback and actions.

The principle feedback and discussions were as follows:

Targets:
Targets need to reflect the local situation, agricultural activity, energy systems and resource base, and as such, given the current low penetration of biomass and bioenergy an 'establishment' target of 5-10% was felt more realistic
It was proposed that sub targets were set for resources supply and demand.

Energy Efficiency:
Given the high estimated energy consumption per capita, it was proposed that energy efficiency and conservation should form a key part of the action plan with specific targets and actions for same.

Waste Utilisation:
It was discussed that in addition to energy efficiency utilisation of existing agricultural and forestry waste streams should be prioritised over land use transfer which was more longer term and complex.

Grass and Cattle Slurry:
Anaerobic Digestion was discussed as being an important technology and solution for utilisation of the significant volumes of cattle slurry produced in the county which was increasingly being restricted in land application under the nitrates directive.

Forestry:
The private forestry sector was noted as being important in terms of potential biomass resources as a significant portion of the stock was due for first thinnings.

Biomass Resources:
A review of the estimated biomass resources and use was proposed given, that the current consumption figures were based on grant aided boilers, that wood log supply was not factored in and that new figures for co-firing were available.

Each delegate gave individual feedback as noted in the minutes and Teagasc presented a draft of the BAP feedback form.

MEETING MINUTES

Bioenergy Action Plan Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Tuesday 17th April 2012 9.00 – 1.00 Mullingar

Westmeath Community Development Ltd.

In Attendance:

Thomas Flynn	Thomas Flynn and Sons Ltd	TF TFS
Tom Griffith	Mullingar Chamber of Commerce	TG MCC
Vincent Leavy	Next Generation Heat Ltd	VL NGH
Peter Nangle	Next Generation Heat Ltd	VL NGH
Liam Kelly	Teagasc	LK T
Charles Shiers	Bord Na Mona	CS BNM
Paddy Donnelly	Irish Farmers Association	PD IFA
Vincent Nally	Westmeath Forestry Growers Group	VN WFGG
Bernhard Schauberger	Biomassehof Achental GmbH& Co KG	BS BA
Joe Potter	Westmeath Community Development	JP WCD
Patrick Daly	Westmeath Community Development	PD WCD
David Hopkins	BESRAC	DH

Apologies Received:

Robert Oglee	Westmeath Forestry Growers Group
Ciaran Jordan	Westmeath County Council

Paula Kenny	Midlands Regional Authority
Briain Smyth	Biotricity
Dr Helen McHenry	Western Development Commission
Noel Gavigan	Irish BioEnergy Association
Barry Caslin	Teagasc
Bernadette Phelan	Western Development Commission - has changed jobs
Helen McHenry	Western Development Commission

Agenda:

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the draft Bioenergy Action Plan, discuss targets and ascertain feedback and actions from the key stakeholders.

Programme:

Introductions

Review of Achantal Bioenergy Regions

Summary of other Target Regions Actions

Overview of the Draft Co Westmeath Bioenergy Action Plan

Discussion on Targets

Stakeholder Feedback and Actions

Item	Notes	Action
1.0	**Presentation 1: Achental Bioenergy Region and Summary of other Regions Actions.** **Bernhard Schauberger Biomassehof Achental**	
1.1	In his talk about the bio-energy region of Achental, located in Southern Bavaria, Mr. Schauberger gave an overview about the history and the current developments of bio-energy in this region. In the beginning core facts about the valley in the Bavarian Alps regarding geography, economy, energy demand and energy production were shown. The importance of tourism for the region was emphasized and the rich history of the "Ökomodell Achental", founded already in 1999, to combine the protection of nature with a sustainable economic development and the extension of renewable energy production. Currently, the region produces about one third of its energy needs from local renewable sources, thus qualifying it as a "BioRegion". However, the long-term goal is to reach energy independency until 2020, which requires both intensified production along with ambitious efficiency measures. A major driving force of the local bio-energy market is the Biomass Trading Centre Achental (BAT). It was founded in 2007 and has reached an annual turnover of € 3 million. Apart from selling biofuels like wood	

	pellets and wood chips it provides services and consultation on energy issues. Additionally, the BAT serves as a promoter of different bio-energy projects in the region. Located on the same facilities, the municipality of Grassau offers a district heating service of 3 MW, powered by low-quality wood chips. Currently more than 500 households are connected to the plant. In 2012, a world-unique wood gasification plant (based on heat pipes) started operation, supplying electricity and heat for an additional 500 households. Both positive and negative experiences from the history of bio-energy were explained. Among the first are the excellent municipal cooperation, the regional value creation from bio-energy and the significant touristic importance of innovative and well-adapted bio-energy facilities. Among the latter are the necessity of a very long breath to get projects running, the proneness to errors in the low-margin business of biofuels and the often very difficult financing negotiations. In the second part of his talk, an overview of core projects and supportive measures across the other four target regions in the BioRegions project was provided. Additionally the new energy action plan for the Achental (to reach energy independency until 2020) was exhibited in short form.	
1.2	Discussion: There was valuable discussion around the topic of the BTC as follows: Recent estimates for bioenergy use in Achantal were at 31% - it was noted that this took 15 years to develop The BTC in Achantal is combined with the District Heating System serving an approx. 500 homes in an 11km radius. The DHS is owned by the local municipality. It was developed 11 years after the initial idea was developed. The BTC was a Public Private venture. . It was estimated that the BTC support 6 direct and circa 50 indirect jobs. It was noted that wood chip was a very low margin activity. Chips are generally received from a circa 40-50 km radius. Material was purchased on calorific value / moisture content. The region is implementing SRC Trials – in part due to a resource	

	limitation. The centre now also incorporates a research based wood gasifier – 1.3 MW 600 Kw of heat and 300 Kw elec. Circa 80% efficiency. Achental are developing a bioenergy yellow pages	
2.0	**Presentation 2 Draft Bioenergy Action Plan** **Patrick Daly WCD**	
2.1	Patrick Daly presented an overview of the draft Action Plan as follows Target Region Portrait - summary of the general characteristics, energy infrastructure and estimate of the county energy consumption profile. A general review of the relevant policy, plans and supports. Bioenergy Characteristics - a summary of the researched bioenergy resource and potential, current markets and key stakeholders A summary of potential strengths, weaknesses, opportunities threats. Setting the Bioregion Target - Questions about developing an overall vision and targets for the region.	
2.2	Discussion There was valuable discussion and feedback following the presentation as follows. JP noted that county development plan was under review – opportunity to input on bioenergy. Cattle Slurry: It was noted that the nitrates directive was limiting amount of slurry that could be spread on land, and most farmers were already spreading at intensive limit. Costs of transport were noted as high.	

	AD: Refit Tariffs were noted as not encouraging for AD, especially slurry use, at circa 13c per Kwh for 0.5 MW systems compared to NI at 25c. TF: noted that resources for AD are going to Northern Ireland. VN and PD (IFA) noted interest in small scale on farm biogass digesters based on study visit to example plant on diary farm in Achantal. BS: noted that small scale viability better when excess heat can be used. TF: Highlighted that farmers may reluctant to growing biomass due to long term contracts required which can cause problems with leasing of land and flexibility.	
3.0	**Establishing Targets**	
3.1	Patrick Daly presented summary of various national targets and review of current regional estimates and resources as basis for discussion.	
3.1	Discussion: There was general discussion around realism in setting targets given the current minimum level of biomass and bioenergy penetration. Overall it was noted that a 33% target was not realistic and even national targets may not be realistic given the reality at local level. CS suggested re-examination of national targets as later report altered s targets for biomass thermal energy and gives sector targets. CS noted Irish Bioenergy association engaged in a study on investment and employment in potential bioenergy sector, for reference. CS Suggested setting 2 separate targets. Supply side and steps needed to achieve and generating demand and improving energy efficiency and/or substitution.	

	PD noted current supply difficult to estimate. Only data available was grant aided boilers. PN: estimated that GHS Grant aided boilers in their experience represented circa 70% of total installed boilers. BS suggested targets should focus on energy efficiency given our high level of energy consumption per capita. BS noted transporting High Quality Biomass makes better economic sense that transporting low quality biomass. BS recommended that transport energy consumption should be put to the side as it is very complex. CS noted reductions in transport energy will probably be based on national plans rather then local. There was discussion around the drying of wood in Irish humid climate. Options of possible use of low grade heat to assist in drying, including AD application for biomass drying. Alternative farming activities such as mushroom tunnels were discussed as possible local heat applications for small scale AD. Overall it was felt that priority should be given to the optimisation and utilisation of existing waste streams from current agricultural and forestry applications. Land use transfer may be more complex and challenging at this stage. A biomass establishment target of between 5%-7% was proposed as being more realistic, and an over bioenergy target of 5-10%. CS: Noted error in power station energy production table and said he would provide updated information.	
4.0	**Stakeholder Feedback**	
4.1	Liam Kelly TEAGASC	
	Foretry advisor for 5 midlands counties including county Westmeath.	

	Noted that forestry is main contributor to biomass in other midlands counties. Seems this is not the case in Westmeath. PD noted that estimates were based on theoretical allocations of resource including grains, and that thinnings may represent most immediate and utilisable resource Noted that a lot of wood in Westmeath is burned as logs etc, which is not factored into resource calcs in the action plan. 30 to 40% of forestry in Westmeath is broadleaf which is mostly extracted as firewood. There was a lot of surplus wood after winter 2011 to 2012 due to milder weather conditions than previous 2 years. Proposing to train and provide workshops for growers to educate in relation to thinning. Growers generally employ harvesters for thinning and felling. Harvestor's generally trade the wood and dictate is destination and use based on market prices at the time. 40 to 50% of first thinning is pulp which is low grade and trades at approximately €25 to €30. Majority goes to energy, alot of this to Edenderry power as co-firing. Remainder of first thinning goes for stake and pallet manufacture and trades at approximately €45. Second thing similar with a lower % of pulp. Proposed Actions include: • Developing a questionnaire on thinning • Education re forestry • Thinning field day trails • Encouraging management of thinning PD Asked what is top priority? A: Management of forestry and encouraging smaller growers to cluster.	

4.2	Vincent Nally. Westmeath Forestry Growers Group	
	Group is still at formative stage They are currently scoping opportunities to exploit. There is uncertainty and lack of information in industry Group has spoken to consultants for advice on review of inventory studies and possible inventory of private forestry stock in county. Noted that hedgerows should be explored as potential energy source.	
4.3	Charles Shier Bord Na Mona	
	Edenderry Plant - Involved in co-firing since 2008 Displaced 150000 t of peat in 2011 and targeting 300000t by 2015. Encouraging growing of energy crops notably Willow Difficulties as some people are unwilling Existing Tarrif means BnM are restricted in price offer high to growers 3 yr gap before return on investment for growers - financing scheme needed to bridge this income gap. Active in forestry and trying to encourage more thinnings. Not possible with industrial growers, economics means BnM will only get a % of thinnings. BnM involved in better energy efficiency programme from Govt quota to utilities - internally, working with companies and households. Noted that waste was not considered in action plan as bioenergy source. Noted that restrictions on turf cutting will lead to a shift from turf burning to wood burning.	

4.4	Paddy Donnelly IFA	
	Economics don't stack up for farmers Incentives not there for growing willow etc. Would like to see a small scale AD pilot scheme or feasibility study to demonstrate economics of AD. Similar example to Austrian Small scale AD project which had a small investment of €25000 approx.	
4.5 a	Peter Nangle Next Gen Heat (Biomass Technology Supplier)	
	Supplier of biomass boilers Supplies most customers with pellets Encourages farmers to supply woodchip Interest/exploring straw as a bioenergy source Promoting multifuel boilers	
4.5 b	Vincent Leamy Next Gen Heat (Biomass Technology Supplier)	
	Promoting multifuel boilers Uses own mulitfuel boiler serving 4000 sq ft home.	
4.6	Tom Griffin Mullingar Chamber of Commerce	
	Want to be involved at early stage Looking for areas for job creation Represents about 150 companies	

	Can offer assistance in information events and networking	
4.7	Thomas Flynn Flynn Fuels	
	AD ties in with sustainable farming Has explored Beet crops which are suitable for AD Has planning permission for 1MW digester on farmland. Seeking an ESB grid connection for plant. Currently applying for waste license to allow waste to be used in AD REFIT tariffs on borderline of making economic sense for AD plant. Potential to utilise heat in future school to be used nearby. In discussion with local piggery for slurry supply to AD plant. Bank looking for 5yr supply contracts which may not be feasible. Exploring possible biomass depot and trade service Opportunity to convert grain stores into drying centre for woodchip etc. grain stores already exist and are unused.	
4.8	Joe Potter CEO Westmeath Community Development	
	Outlined role of WCD in project and in general as Rural Development Company Outlined possible financial supports to suitable innovative projects.	

BIOREGIONS Bioenergy Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop

Tuesday 17th April 2012 9.00 – 1.00 Mullingar

Westmeath Community Development Ltd.

Zone C, Mullingar Business Park, Clonmore, Mullingar, County Westmeath. Tel: 044-9348571

ATTENDEES

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
Joe Potts	Westmeath Comm. Dev.	
Thomas Flynn	Thomas Flynn & Sons Ltd	
Tom Griffin	Mullingar Chamber	
Vincent Leavy	Next Gen Heat Ltd	
Peter Wangle	Next Gen Heat Ltd.	Peter Wangle.
Brian Kelly	Teagasc	Brian Kelly
Charles Shiel	Bord na Mona	
Paddy Donnelly	I F A	P Donnelly
Vincent Valley	Westmeath Forestry growers / IRC	
Patrick Ray	Westmeath Community Dev	

DAVID HOPKINS	WESTMEATH COMMUNITY DEV.	
Bernhard Schuhmayer	Biomass Trading Centre Schwertal	B. Sch

BIOREGIONS Bioenergy Action Plan Stakeholder Workshop

Tuesday 17th April 2012 9.00 – 1.00 Mullingar

At the offices of Westmeath Community Development Ltd.

Zone C, Mullingar Business Park, Clonmore, Mullingar, County Westmeath. Tel: 044-9348571

You are invited to participate in a morning workshop to review , input and comment on a proposed Bioenergy Action Plan for County Westmeath and environs. If you cannot attend we would welcome your feedback in the attached Feedback Form.

Outline Programme

9.00 Registration and Coffee

9.30 – 10.30 Overview of Bioregions Project and the Draft Bioenergy Action Plan

Overview of Westmeath Region

Presentation of Bioenergy Characteristics

Review of SWOT Analysis

Proposing Targets for the Region

Proposing Actions

Reviewing Impact Assessment

Summary

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Review and Feedback on Action Plan

12.30 Summary and Close

5. Public consultation workshop Latvia - Limbazi region

According to the adoption procedure of local level policy planning documents (Fig.2) the public consultation event was organized within the period of three week public action plan consultation, on 10th May, 2012, at the premises of Limbazi municipality. Participants of the event are listed in the Table below.

No	Name, surname	Position
1	Ilze Dzene	Ekodoma Ltd. project manager
2	Aiga Barisa	Ekodoma Ltd. project assistant
3	Dagnija Blumberga	External expert
4	Jyrki Raitila	Senior Scientist, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
5	Aigars Legzdiņš	Mayor of Limbaži municipality
6	Gints Rožkalns	First vice-chair of Limbaži municipality
7	Agris Blumers	Executive director of Limbaži municipality
8	Ģirts Ieleja	head of the Development division of Limbaži municipality

Information about the public consultation event of Limbazi biomass action plan was published on municipality web site and disseminated to local bioenergy actors (biomass and bioenergy producers and suppliers, municipality representatives). Anyone interested had the opportunity to get introduced with the action plan by either downloading it from the municipality web site or visiting municipality premises where a printed version of the action plan was available. 18th of May, 2012, is the last day for submitting comments on the action plan.

The event was opened with a short welcome speech by Ms.Ilze Dzene and introduction to participants of the meeting. Afterwards biomass action plan for Limbazi target region was presented by Ms.Aiga Barisa. She shortly introduced the BioRegions project and the main activities implemented within the project up to date. Content of the action plan, regional fuel consumption and biomass potential, as well as bioenergy targets and proposed activities for the achievement of these targets were discussed within the presentation.

Second presentation was given by Mr.Jyrki Raitila who is the senior scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Ekodoma mentor in BioRegions project. He introduced the audience with Finnish experience in effective biomass supply chains. After the presentation Mr.Raitila received a number of

questions related to municipality role in regional energy planning in Finland, biomass trading centres, sustainable forest harvesting, and private and public sector involvement in heat supply at local level.

Discussion was continued with obtaining views on activities provided in the action plan. These activities include:

1) Installation of a biomass cogeneration plant in Limbazi city;

2) Replacement of fossil fuel boilers with renewable energy sources (mainly biomass) in municipality owned public buildings;

3) Installation of flue gas condensers in Limbazi district heating boiler houses;

4) Roadside biomass management pilot project;

5) Development of a regional biomass trade and logistic centre;

6) Development of a regional energy information and consultation centre;

7) Performing energy audits and placing building energy performance certificates in municipality owned public buildings;

8) Integration of energy efficiency and environmental criteria into the public procurement procedures, and;

9) Participation in Covenant of Mayors initiative.

The discussion outlined three major projects that seem the most interesting for Limbazi municipality. These are described below.

Development of a regional energy information and consultation centre is project idea that received the most support from participants of the event. This project is interesting for municipality because it is the most comprehensive one and includes many activities related public awareness raising and consulting about renewable energy and energy efficiency, monitoring existing energy situation in the region and providing future development trends. It was decided that the best strategy for the development of such centre is to try attracting European co-financing within an international project.

Replacement of fossil fuel boilers with renewable energy sources (mainly biomass) in municipality owned public buildings is urgent for municipality taking into account growing fossil fuel costs. There are three municipality owned public buildings in the region that are heated with fossil fuel (light fuel oil and heavy fuel oil) – one school and two sports halls. One of the sports halls is located close district heating network and potentially can be connected to it. In case of two buildings mainly technical questions must

be solved before the implementation of project. In one case also economical aspects should be taken into account because new fossil fuel boilers were installed only 2-3 years ago.

Installation of flue gas condensers in Limbazi district heating boiler houses is an important project for Limbazi district heating company 'Limbazu siltums' because it would allow reducing fuel consumption by up to 20%. It means that the same amount of heat energy could be produced with lower costs. Additional benefit is reduced air pollution with solid particulate matter by 90%.

In the end of meeting representatives of municipality were asked to give written feedback about the action plan. Ekodoma Ltd.had prepared short questionnaire (see Appendix) with following questions:

1. Please, give your opinion about the topicality of bioenergy in Limbazi region!

2. Are you satisfied with the of action plan? Do you have any recommendations for improvements?

3. Which of the proposed activities are the most promising for the region and should be implemented first?

Results of the questionnaire indicate that representatives of municipality agree that bioenergy topic is actual in Limbazi region, because the region has significant biomass potential that can be used to cover local fuel consumption. First redaction of the action plan fully satisfies municipality. Representatives of the municipality see that activities that should be implemented the first include the three previously mentioned activities (see above), as well as implementation of municipality building energy performance certification system and participation in Covenant of Mayors initiative.

Public consultation event of Limbazi regional Bioenergy Action Plan

Stakeholder feedback: results of the questionnaire

1. Are bioenergy questions topical in Limbazi region?

Yes	4
No	0

Arguments:

- Biomass demand by can be secured with local resources;
- Large regional biomass potential, and;
- Sustainable use of biomass shall be promoted.

2. Are you satisfied with the content of action plan?

Yes	4
No	0

Arguments:

- The action plan includes calculation of regional biomass potential, and;
- Many interesting project proposals are included in the action plan.

3. Which of the proposed activities are the most promising for the region and should be implemented first?

Installation of a biomass cogeneration plant	0
Replacement of fossil fuel boilers with renewable energy sources (mainly biomass) in municipality owned public buildings	2
Installation of flue gas condensers in Limbazi district heating boiler houses	1
Roadside biomass management pilot project	0

Development of a regional biomass trade and logistic centre	0
Development of a regional energy information and consultation centre	3
Performing energy audits and placing building energy performance certificates in municipality owned public buildings	1
Green public procurement	0
Participation in Covenant of Mayors initiative	1
Other	0

4. Additional comments*

* Participants of the public consultation event were welcomed to leave additional comments on the action plan, if they desired. Four comments were received.

Mr.Aigars Legziņš, Mayor of Limbaži municipality

Mr.Legzdiņš thinks that it is very important to increase the knowledge and awareness of local people about renewable energy and energy efficiency. He also thinks that the use of local biomass resources should be promoted as the regional biomass potential is large enough to secure local energy consumption. Therefore he supports the idea of development of a regional energy information and consultation centre. The centre would be responsible for providing local people with qualitative information on actual energy topics.

Mr.Gints Rožkalns, First vice-chair of Limbaži municipality

Mr.Rožkalns supports the idea of transferring from fossil to renewable fuels in municipality owned public buildings (beginning with Vilkene primary school). However, he mentions as well possible barriers delaying this process: technological (connection to district heating grid), economical (funding), and socio-economical (light fuel oil boilers in Vilkene primary school are recently installed and the director of the school is not willing to change them with biomass boilers).

Mr.Agris Blumers, Executive director of Limbaži municipality

Mr.Blumers is interested in possibility of installing flue gas condensers in Limbazi district heating boiler houses because such technology can provide considerable fuel savings. He suggests developing a business plan for this project proposal.

Mr.Ģirts Ieleja, Head of the Development division of Limbaži municipality

Mr.Ieleja is more interested in promotional and dissemination activities focused on wide involvement of local people. He explains that people have started to show greater interest in renewable energy projects and should be supported with an advice and reliable information. He is strongly willing to establish the regional energy information and consultation centre which would deal with these topics. He mentions that is very important to find a qualified expert with good communication skills who would be the leading person of this project.

6. Public consultation workshop Latvia - Salacgriva region

During July – December 2011 the first draft version of Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva region was developed. It was commented by BioRegions project partners during winter 2011/2012 and following steps were taken to improve the document. Based on experts feedback the action plan was improved and afterwards disseminated to local stakeholders. On 21st of June 2012 executive director of Salacgriva municipality signed a positioning paper providing support for the Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva municipality and BioRegions project activities (see Annex I).

The public consultation event

Public consultation event was organized after the formal adoption of the action plan on 2nd of July 2012 in Salacgriva. Participants of the event are listed in the Table below (see also Annex II).

No	Name, surname	Position
1	Ilze Dzene	Ekodoma Ltd. project manager
2	Aiga Barisa	Ekodoma Ltd. project assistant
3	Dagnija Blumberga	External expert, Riga Technical University
4	Juris Zālītis	Head of the Tourism information centre of Salacgriva
5	Ilga Tiesnese	Head of the Information division of Salacgriva municipality
6	Kaspars Neimanis	Information division of Salacgriva municipality
7	Jānis Zborovskis	Energy expert of Salacgriva municipality
8	Sarma Kacara	Project manager of Salacgriva municipality
9	Dzintra Eizenberga	Manager of Salacgriva Regional Business Support Centre
10	Jānis Cīrulis	Executive director of Salacgriva municipality
11	Līga Zālīte	Salacgriva municipality
12	Didzis Rozenbergs	Inhabitant of Svetciems (Salacgriva region)
13	Inārs Bikaunieks	Farm Jankalni, Salacgriva region
14	Liena Ozola	Salacgriva municipality

The main intention of the public consultation event was to introduce the audience with Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva region that had been prepared within BioRegions project and to promote the exchange of information between parties involved in the bio-energy sector.

The developed Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva region is a constituent part of regional level energy planning which is an important issue for local municipalities in Latvia. Therefore the public consultation event included broader perspective of bio-energy issues addressing the role of municipality in promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in their administrative territories and sharing previous experiences with regional level energy planning in Latvia. These issues in two separate presentations were introduced by Professor Dagnija Blumberga from Riga Technical University, Institute of Energy Systems and Environment (external expert of Ekodoma Ltd.) (see Annex III).

The event was opened with a short welcome speech by Ms.Ilze Dzene, Ekodoma Ltd., and participants of the meeting introduced themselves. Afterwards Professor D.Blumberga gave presentation about the municipality involvement in renewable energy (especially bioenergy) promotion, stressing various benefits of regional energy planning.

The Biomass action plan for Salacgriva region was presented by Ms.Aiga Barisa. She shortly reminded about the objectives of BioRegions project and summarized the main activities implemented within the project up to date. Content of the action plan, regional fuel consumption and biomass potential, as well as bioenergy targets and proposed activities for the achievement of these targets were discussed within the presentation.

The event continued with a discussion part where feedback on activities proposed in the action plan was given. These activities include:

1) Public awareness raising in regard to promotion of Green region's ideas;

2) Replacement of fossil fuel heating with heat from renewable energy sources (mainly biomass) in municipality owned public buildings;

3) Energy efficiency measures in municipality owned public buildings;

4) Performing energy audits and displaying building energy performance certificates in municipality owned public buildings;

5) Establishment of Building Energy Efficiency Fund to provide co-financing for multi-apartment building renovation;

6) Installation of a biomass cogeneration plant;

7) Installation of flue gas condenser in a biomass boiler house;

8) Roadside biomass management pilot project;

9) Development of a regional biomass trade and logistic centre;

10) Integration of energy efficiency and environmental criteria into the public procurement procedures;

11) Bioenergy tourism, and;

12) Participation in Covenant of Mayors initiative.

Municipality representatives expressed their support to proposed activities. But at the same time they explained that municipality involvement in investment projects is mainly dependent on availability of co-financing from different funds for these kinds of actions. Therefore it was decided first to focus on activities that do not require large investments. An opinion was expressed that possible involvement in larger scale projects (like development of regional biomass and logistic centre) should be discussed with neighbouring regions.

Green incentives are important for Salacgriva region since it has declared itself as the Green region by developing and signing the declaration of the Green municipality . A special interest was therefore dedicated to Covenant of Mayors initiative. Joining Covenant of Mayors is an opportunity for region to promote itself on a broader scale.

During the discussion part attendees were interested in such questions as the competitiveness of bioenergy compared to fossil fuels, the right choice between different wood fuel types and energy efficiency of heat production and utilization.

Professor Blumberga introduced the audience with some numbers characterizing energy production costs from different types of fuels. She explained factors that influence heat production costs and drew attention to wood fuel quality issues. She also stressed the role of energy demand and supply side management to ensure the efficiency of overall energy system.

In the end of meeting local stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback about the action plan in written format. Ekodoma Ltd.had prepared short questionnaire with following questions (see Annex):

1. Please, give your opinion about the topicality of bioenergy in Salacgriva region!

2. Are you satisfied with the content of action plan? Do you have any recommendations for improvements?

3. Which of the proposed activities are the most promising for the region and should be implemented first?

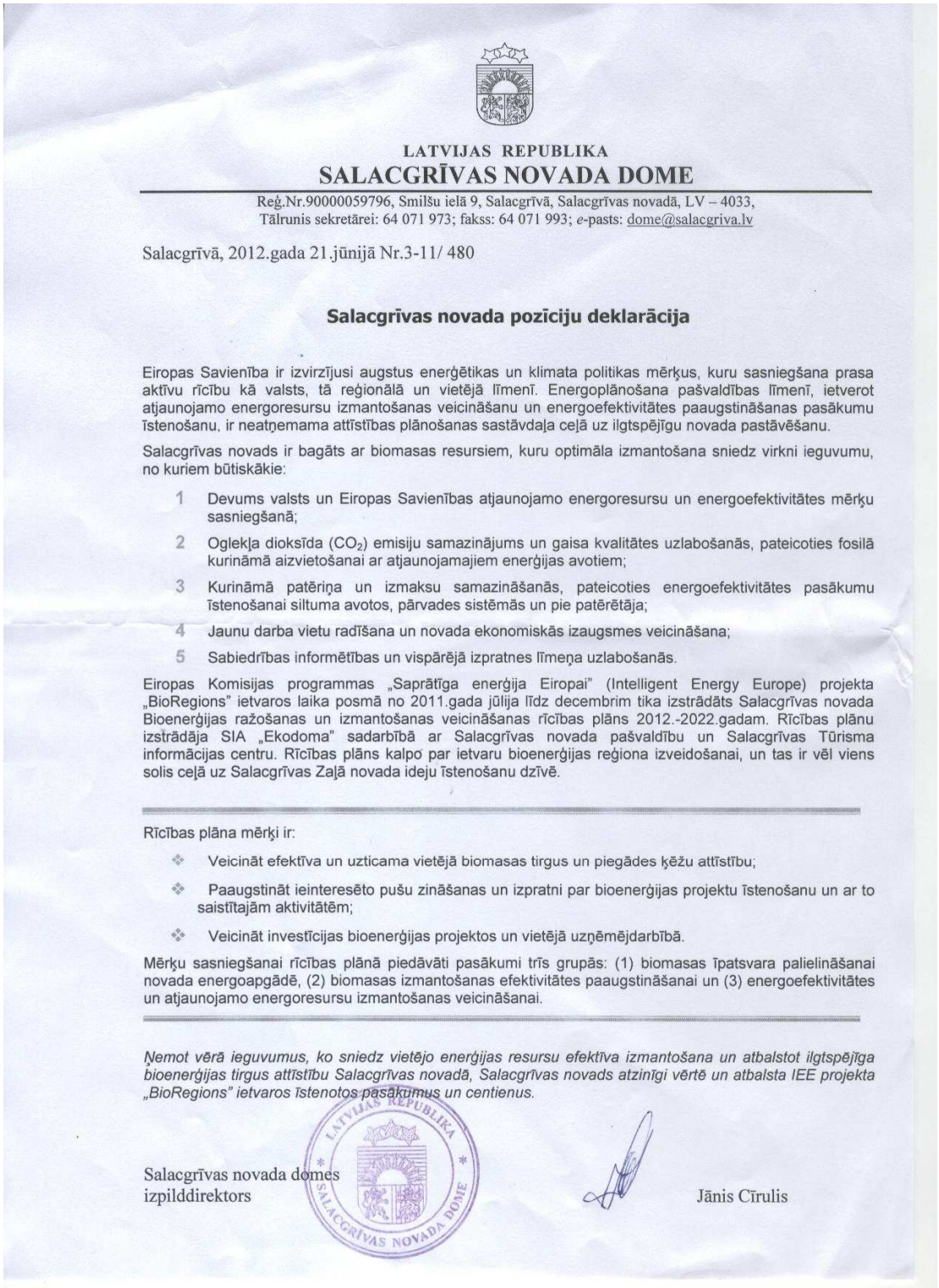
11 completed evaluation questionnaires were received. Results of the questionnaire indicate that bioenergy issues are an important topic for Salacgriva region because of such reasons as the locally available biomass potential, possibility to create new work places and stimulate local economy, as well as to increase the share of renewable energy in regional energy balance and to improve environmental quality. Local stakeholders find BioRegions initiative valuable and agree that activities included in the Biomass action plan would contribute to the achievement of long term goals of the municipality.

Representatives of Salacgriva municipality stress the necessity of local people knowledge raising about effective and sustainable use of local biomass resources. Therefore promotion of 'Salacgriva Green region`s' ideas through local media, municipality organized events and bioenergy tourism was one the most frequently mentioned measures under the third question about activities that should be implemented with the highest priority. Another important topic that should be paid attention to according to the results of questionnaire is the energy efficiency of municipality owned public buildings and heat supply infrastructure. But as mentioned already previously implementation of this kind of investment projects will depend on availability of free financial resources.

A comment was received from couple stakeholders that some of the proposed projects (e.g., building a biomass cogeneration plant or a biomass trade and logistics centre) are more applicable to private than public sector and should be implemented by private investors. Municipality should focus more on information dissemination activities because it has to deal with many issues and share its resources and capacity on solving other questions. Therefore networking with private sector should be promoted.

The event was closed with a conclusion that the developed Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva region is a step forward to implementation of Salacgriva Green region`s ideas into real life. The action plan is consistent with the overall development vision of the region and will be considered in future energy investment projects.

Signed positioning paper acknowledging support for the action plan



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKA
SALACGRĪVAS NOVADA DOME

Reģ.Nr.90000059796, Smilšu ielā 9, Salacgrīvā, Salacgrīvas novadā, LV – 4033,
Tālrunis sekretārei: 64 071 973; fakss: 64 071 993; *e*-pasts: dome@salacgriva.lv

Salacgrīvā, 2012.gada 21.jūnijā Nr.3-11/ 480

Salacgrīvas novada pozīciju deklarācija

Eiropas Savienība ir izvirzījusi augstus enerģētikas un klimata politikas mērķus, kuru sasniegšana prasa aktīvu rīcību kā valsts, tā reģionālā un vietējā līmenī. Energoplānošana pašvaldības līmenī, ietverot atjaunojamo energoresursu izmantošanas veicināšanu un energoefektivitātes paaugstināšanas pasākumu īstenošanu, ir neatņemama attīstības plānošanas sastāvdaļa ceļā uz ilgtspējīgu novada pastāvēšanu.

Salacgrīvas novads ir bagāts ar biomasas resursiem, kuru optimāla izmantošana sniedz virkni ieguvumu, no kuriem būtiskākie:

1. Devums valsts un Eiropas Savienības atjaunojamo energoresursu un energoefektivitātes mērķu sasniegšanā;
2. Oglekļa dioksīda (CO_2) emisiju samazinājums un gaisa kvalitātes uzlabošanās, pateicoties fosilā kurināmā aizvietošanai ar atjaunojamajiem enerģijas avotiem;
3. Kurināmā patēriņa un izmaksu samazināšanās, pateicoties energoefektivitātes pasākumu īstenošanai siltuma avotos, pārvades sistēmās un pie patērētāja;
4. Jaunu darba vietu radīšana un novada ekonomiskās izaugsmes veicināšana;
5. Sabiedrības informētības un vispārējā izpratnes līmeņa uzlabošanās.

Eiropas Komisijas programmas „Saprātīga enerģija Eiropai" (Intelligent Energy Europe) projekta „BioRegions" ietvaros laika posmā no 2011.gada jūlija līdz decembrim tika izstrādāts Salacgrīvas novada Bioenerģijas ražošanas un izmantošanas veicināšanas rīcības plāns 2012.-2022.gadam. Rīcības plānu izstrādāja SIA „Ekodoma" sadarbībā ar Salacgrīvas novada pašvaldību un Salacgrīvas Tūrisma informācijas centru. Rīcības plāns kalpo par ietvaru bioenerģijas reģiona izveidošanai, un tas ir vēl viens solis ceļā uz Salacgrīvas Zaļā novada ideju īstenošanu dzīvē.

Rīcības plāna mērķi ir:

- Veicināt efektīva un uzticama vietējā biomasas tirgus un piegādes ķēžu attīstību;
- Paaugstināt ieinteresēto pušu zināšanas un izpratni par bioenerģijas projektu īstenošanu un ar to saistītajām aktivitātēm;
- Veicināt investīcijas bioenerģijas projektos un vietējā uzņēmējdarbībā.

Mērķu sasniegšanai rīcības plānā piedāvāti pasākumi trīs grupās: (1) biomasas īpatsvara palielināšanai novada energoapgādē, (2) biomasas izmantošanas efektivitātes paaugstināšanai un (3) energoefektivitātes un atjaunojamo energoresursu izmantošanas veicināšanai.

Ņemot vērā ieguvumus, ko sniedz vietējo enerģijas resursu efektīva izmantošana un atbalstot ilgtspējīga bioenerģijas tirgus attīstību Salacgrīvas novadā, Salacgrīvas novads atzinīgi vērtē un atbalsta IEE projekta „BioRegions" ietvaros īstenotos pasākumus un centienus.

LATVIJAS REPUBLIKA SALACGRĪVAS NOVADA DOME

Salacgrīvas novada domes
izpilddirektors Jānis Cīrulis

List of participants

bioregions.eu Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for Bioenergy in Europe | Supported by INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE | RĪGA sia EKODOMA | SALACGRĪVAS NOVADS

Seminārs – diskusija par bioenerģijas attīstības iespējām Salacgrīvas novadā

2012.gada 2.jūlijā, Salacgrīvā, Rīgas ielā 10a

bioregions.eu

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Seminārs – diskusija par bioenerģijas attīstības iespējām Salacgrīvas novadā, 02/07/2012, Salacgrīvā

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Seminārs – diskusija par bioenerģijas attīstības iespējām Salacgrīvas novadā

2012.gada 2.jūlijā, Salacgrīvā, Rīgas ielā 10a

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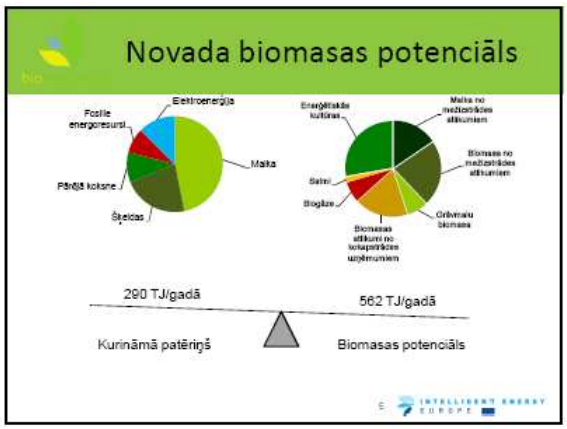
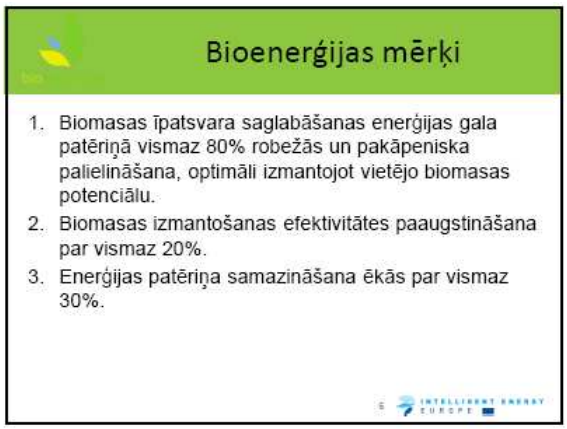
Seminārs – diskusija par bioenerģijas attīstības iespējām Salacgrīvas novadā, 02/07/2012, Salacgrīvā

Workshop materials

BioRegions project and Bioenergy action plan for Salacgriva region – Aiga Barisa, Ekodoma Ltd.





Pasākumu priekšlikumi

Biomasas īpatsvara palielināšana	Biomasas izmantošanas efektivitātes paaugstināšana	Energoefektivitātes un atjaunojamo energoresursu veicināšana
• Biomasas koģenerācijas stacijas būvniecība. • Pāreja uz atjaunojamo energoresursu izmantošanu pašvaldības ēku apkurē.	• Energoefektivitātes pasākumu īstenošana sabiedriskajās ēkās un siltumapgādes sistēmās. • Dūmgāzu kondensatora uzstādīšana biomasas katlu mājās. • Grāvmalu biomasas apsaimniekošanas pilotprojekts. • Biomasas tirdzniecības un loģistikas centra izveide.	• "Zaļā novada" ideju popularizēšana sabiedrībā. • Ēku energosertifikācijas sistēmas ieviešana. • Ēku energoefektivitātes fonda izveidošana. • Zaļais publiskais iepirkums. • Bioenerģijas tūrisms. • Darība Pilsētu mēru pakta iniciatīvā.

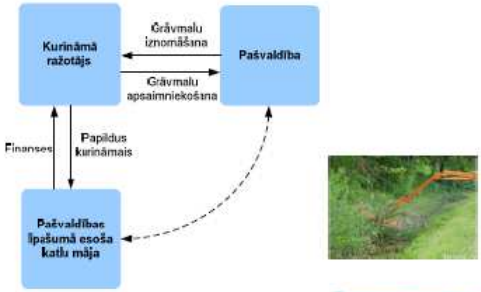
1. Biomasas īpatsvara palielināšana

- Biomasas koģenerācijas stacija;
- Bioenerģijas izmantošana pašvaldības ēkās un infrastruktūrā.

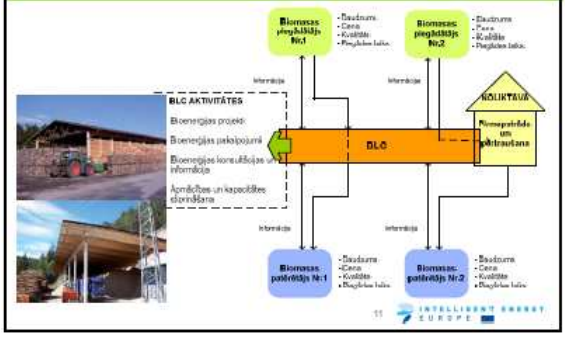
2. Biomasas izmantošanas efektivitātes paaugstināšana

- Dūmgāzu kondensators;
- Grāvmalu biomasas šķeldošanas pilotprojekts;
- Biomasas tirdzniecības un loģistikas centrs.

Grāvmalu biomasas šķeldošana



Biomasas tirdzniecības un loģistikas centrs

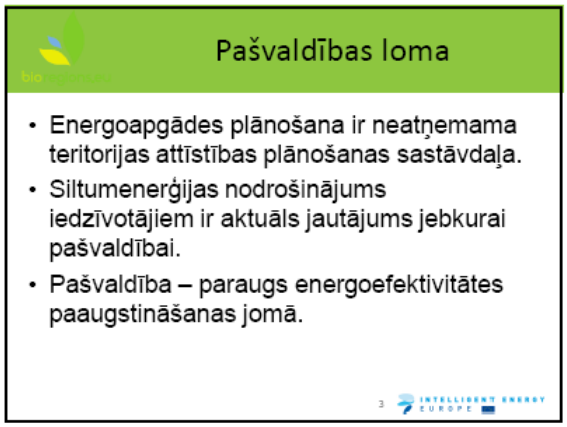


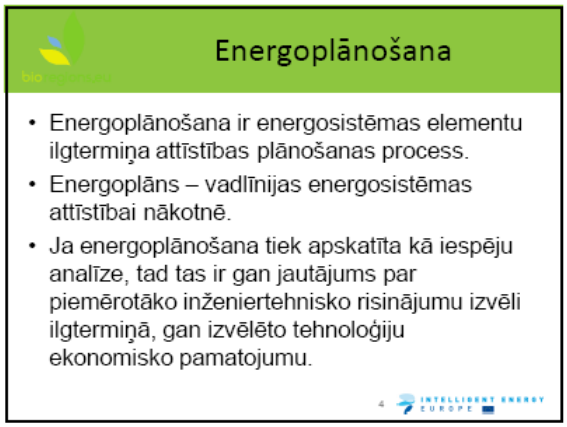
3. Enerģijas patēriņa samazināšana

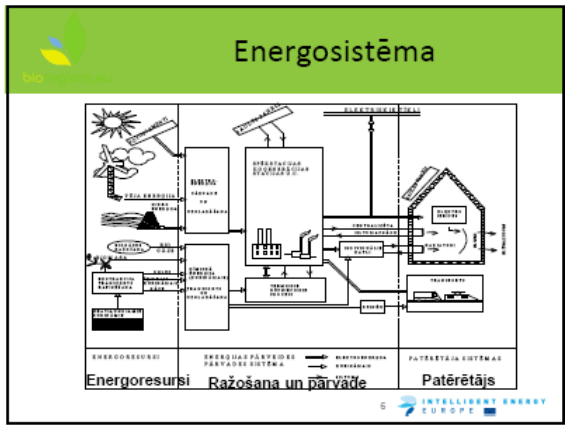
- Zaļā novada ideju popularizēšana sabiedrībā;
- Ēku energosertifikācija;
- Zaļais publiskais iepirkums;
- Bioenerģijas tūrisms;
- Pilsētu mēru pakts.

Pilsētu mēru pakts
Uzticīgi vietējās ilgtspējīgas enerģētikas ražošanas principam

The role of municipalities in promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency – prof.Dagnija Blumberga, Riga Technical University







Energosistēmas efektivitāte

Reģionālā (novadu) energoplānošana

- Vīzija
- Mērķis
- Uzdevumi
- Principi
- Ierobežojumi
- Attīstības hipotēze

Energoplāna saturs

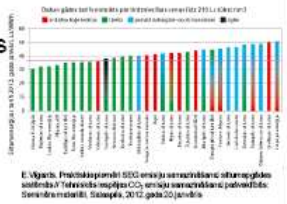
Energosistēmas elementi: energoresursi

- Atjaunojamie / neatjaunojamie
- Svarīgi saprast, kādi energoresursi tiks izmantoti nākotnē
- Energoresursu potenciāls novadā

Energosistēmas elementi: enerģijas ražošana

- Iedzīvotāju skaita samazināšanās nākotnē un tai sekojoša siltuma slodzes samazināšanās
- Siltumenerģijas tarifs
- Kurināmā izvēle

Enerģijas patēriņa samazināšana un vietējā atjaunojamo energoresursu tirgus attīstība ļaus samazināt izmaksas un veicināt ekonomisko aktivitāti novadā, radot jaunas darba vietas



Energosistēmas elementi: enerģijas pārvade

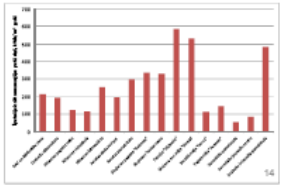
- Siltuma un elektroenerģijas zudumi energotīklos
- Ne vienmēr esošo trašu nomaiņa ir ekonomiski izdevīga

Energosistēmas elementi: enerģijas patērētājs

- Enerģijas patērētājs ir galvenais energosistēmas elements.
- Enerģijas patērētāju grupas (publiskās iestādes, mājsaimniecības, ražošanas un pakalpojumu sektors u.c.) atšķiras gan pēc lieluma, gan enerģijas pieprasījuma īpatnībām.
- Kā risināt siltuma parādu problēmu?

Pašvaldības ēkas

- Enerģijas un kurināmā patēriņa datu analīze (indikatori, līmeņatzīmes);
- Energaudits;
- Novada energopārvaldnieks.

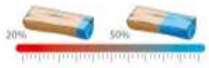


Daudzdzīvokļu mājas

- Atbalstam daudzdzīvokļu māju renovācijai no LIAA šobrīd vēl pieejami ~ 11 miljoni latu;
- Pieejams daudz informācijas par līdz šim īstenotiem projektiem;
- Sadarbība ar energoservisa kompānijām (ESKO);
- Ēkas energopārvaldnieks;
- Iespēja izmantot jaunus tehnoloģiskus risinājums (piem., kombinēta saules-granulu apkure).

Vienģimenes mājas

- Energoefektivitātes pasākumi;
- Apkures sistēmu efektivitāte;
- Kurināmā izvēle



Previous experience with regional level energy planning in Latvia – professor Dagnija Blumberga, Riga Technical University

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Reģionālie tīkli ilgtspējīga bioenerģijas tirgus attīstībai Eiropā

INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE

Salacgrīva, 2012.gada 2.jūlijs

Energoplānošanas pieredze Latvijas pašvaldībās

Prof.Dagnija Blumberga
Rīgas Tehniskā universitāte

www.bioregions.eu

Energoplānošana pašvaldībās

- Energoplānošana pašvaldību līmenī – lielākoties vienīgi teritorijas attīstības plānu ietvaros
- Pēdējā laikā parādās tendence izstrādāt detalizētākus dokumentus dažādu Eiropas projektu ietvaros
  - Jēkabpils, Jelgavas, Tukuma, Rīgas ilgtspējīgas enerģētikas rīcības plāni (Covenant of Mayors in the Central Baltic Capitals, Model);
  - Izstrādes stadijā IERP Salaspils, Lielvārdes, Ogres, Ikšķiles un Ķeguma novadu pašvaldībās (Conurbant)
  - Limbažu novada bioenerģijas ražošanas un izmantošanas veicināšanas rīcības plāns (BioRegions);
  - Krāslavas novada enerģijas stratēģija (PEA)
  - Amatas un Beverīnas novadu zaļās enerģijas rīcības plāni (WoodEnergy)

Reģionālās plānošanas galvenās komponentes

Enerģijas bāzes situācijas noteikšana	• Resursi - ražošana - patēriņš
Prioritāšu noteikšana	• Iespējas un iespējamais
Scenāriju veidošana	• Iespējas, kapacitāte, alternatīvas
Rīcības plāns	• Aktivitātes, resursi, laika grafiks
Ieviešana	• Investīcijas, vadība, novērtējums

Rīcības plāna izstrāde

Prioritātes un rīcības

Augstas prioritātes pasākumi – jāveic nekavējoši 1-2 gadu laikā

Vidējas prioritāte pasākumi – jāsteno nākamo 4-5 gadu laikā

Zemas prioritātes pasākumi – jāplāno un jāsteno pēc augstāk minēto pasākumu veikšanas

Augstas prioritātes pasākumi

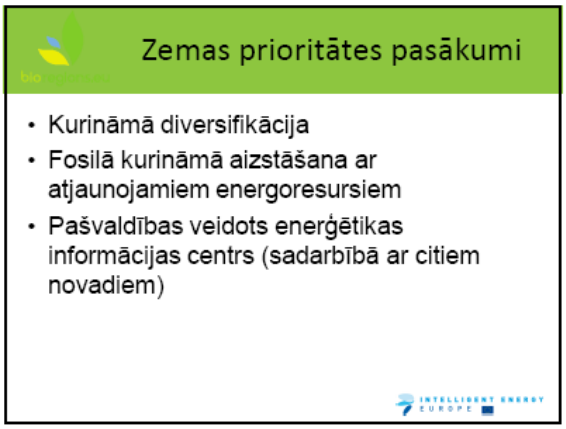
1. Jāveic organizatoriskas un administrat

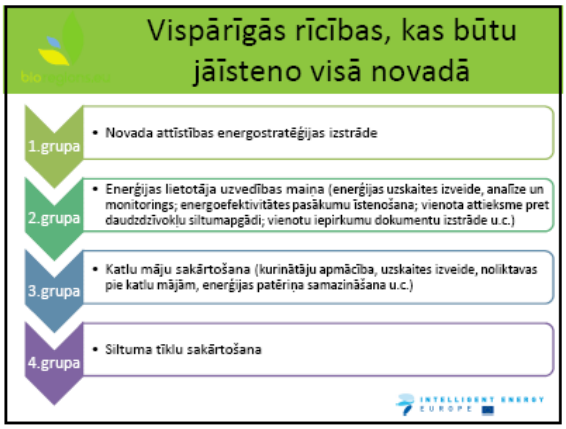
Augstas prioritātes pasākumi

2. Katlu mājas personāla centralizētas un uz rezultātu virzītas apmācības
3. Energoresursu kvalitātes kritēriju noteikšana iepirkumos un pašu gatavotajai malkai
4. Energopārvaldības ieviešana (datu uzskaite, analīze un rīcība)
5. Apsaimniekošanas maksas ieviešana ēkās
6. Individuālās apkures dzīvokļos reorganizācija
7. Energoavota darbināšanas efektivitāte un uzraudzība

Vidējas prioritātes pasākumi

- Energoefektivitātes pasākumi ēkās
- Energoefektivitātes pasākumi energoavotos
- Centralizētas biomasas uzglabāšanas vietas izveide
- Sabiedrības informēšanas pasākumi
- Pašvaldības atbalsts energoefektivitātes pasākumu veikšanai
- Ēku enerģijas patēriņa publicēšana





Stakeholder feedback: results of the questionnaire

1. Are bioenergy questions topical in Salacgriva region?

Yes	11
No	0

Arguments:

- Large local biomass potential;
- Opportunity to create new work places and stimulate local economy;
- Increased share of renewable energy sources, and;
- Improved environmental quality.

2. Are you satisfied with the content of action plan?

Yes	11
No	0

Arguments:

- The action plan is in line with Salacgriva Green region's ideas;
- The action plan helps to promote local bioenergy sector, and;
- The action plan includes a variety of activities.

3. Which of the proposed activities are the most promising for the region and should be implemented first?

Installation of a biomass cogeneration plant	0
Replacement of fossil fuel boilers with renewable energy sources (mainly biomass) in municipality owned public buildings	3
Installation of flue gas condenser in biomass boiler house	0
Roadside biomass management pilot project	1
Development of a regional biomass trade and logistic centre	1
Performing energy audits and placing building energy performance certificates in municipality owned public buildings	2
Public awareness raising about Green region's ideas	7
Energy efficiency measures in municipality owned public buildings	5
Green public procurement	3
Participation in Covenant of Mayors initiative	2
Establishment of Building Energy Efficiency Fund for attracting co-financing for multi-apartment building renovation	5
Bioenergy tourism	4

4. Additional comments*

* Participants of the public consultation event were welcomed to leave additional comments on the action plan, if they desired. Four comments were received.

Mr.Juris Zālītis, Head of the Tourism information centre of Salacgriva

Mr.Zālītis has participated in BioRegions from the beginning of the project and is well informed about project activities. Since he is employed in local tourism sector, he sees that BioRegions activities can be guided as well in this direction. He explains that the already existing 'Green energy route' which includes visits to renewable energy demonstration projects has demonstrated interest from both local people and region guests. He suggests that the existing tourism route could be improved by incorporating one ore more biomass demonstration projects. This would be a good way of disseminating positive experience of biomass use in the region and elsewhere.

Mr.Jānis Cīrulis, Executive director of Salacgriva municipality

As the executive director of Salacgriva municipality, Mr.Cīrulis is interested in development of the region. He thinks that local people should be informed about benefits from wider use of bioenergy. He stresses the necessity to increase energy efficiency in both private and public sector since it is a possibility to reduce energy costs which is an important aspect at current economical situation.

Jānis Zborovskis, Energy expert of Salacgriva municipality

Mr.Zborovskis has recently become an energy expert in Salacgriva municipality. This position was created by the municipality to manage municipality's energy systems and energy related questions. He thinks that BioRegions activities well fit into regions development vision and he looks forward to further cooperation.

Mr.Guntis Kārkliņš, Chief architect of Salacgriva municipality

Mr.Kārkliņš is a member of the BioRegions local working group in Salacgriva region. He thinks that project proposals included in the Bioenergy action plan are generally good and follows the development vision of the region. However, he explains that implementation of any of these projects mainly depends on availability of funding. From one side the municipality is interested in developing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects but from the other side there are as well many other investment projects that municipality has to deal with.

7. Public consultation workshops Bulgaria

In the Sredna Gora Region (Energy Agency of Plovdiv), Bulgaria, three separate workshops were organised on the following dates :

- February 18 2012 - Svejen, Municipality of Brezovo
- February 20 2012 - Municipality of Hisarya
- March 30, 2012 - Plovdiv

Minutes of First Public consultation workshop

- Date: February 18, 2012 (10:00- 14:00)
- Location: Svejen, Municipality of Brezovo

Participants

Deputy Mayor	Dimitar Tomov
Municipal Council of Brezovo, member	Rangel Rangelov
Municipal Council of Brezovo, member	Filip Georgiev
Municipal Council of Brezovo, member	Ivan Muevski
Municipal Council of Brezovo, member	Milko Sarafov
Municipal Council of Brezovo, member	Ivan Baramski
Local Entrepreneur	Stoyan Chorbadjijski
Local Entrepreneur	Valentin Dojchinov
Energy Agency of Plovdiv	Liyana Adjarova
Energy Agency of Plovdiv	Vladimir Valkov

Moderator: Liyana Adjarova – Energy Agency of Plovdiv

Agenda:

- Presentation of BioRegions Project –V. Valkov
- Presentation of Regional Biomass Plan-2012
- Discussion on energy consumption of Municipality of Brezovo
- Discussions on possibility for fuel replacement in the Municipality of Brezovo
- Discussion on the biomass availability

Discussions/decisions:

1. EAP's study within BioRegions is a useful start for RES heating based on solid biofuelsl implementation. Municipality of Brezovo is far from natural gas network, biomass is the only real alternative for inexpensive heating for the public buildings.

2. Analyzing the energy consumption of municipal buildings based on oil it is obvious the municipality should undertake the fossil fuels replacement.

3. Discussions about possibilities for fossil fuels replacement in public buildings. – first priority should be the replacement by biofuels in 4 public buildings where heating takes a biggest share of the energy budget of the municipality. For this purpose the municipality should that part in the PPP with other stakeholders.

4. Discussions about available municipal biomass resources. The EAP analyses proved that municipal forest resources are enough for the biofuel demand. Total biomass resource allows creation of BLC for production of at lest 5 000 t pellets, chips and briquettes.

5. It is recommended that EAP and Mr. Muevski to negotiate with the local entrepreneur Mr.Garigov with the objective for creation of BLC in the site owned by Gorski Svyat LTD.

Follow-up actions:

1. Search and negotiations for a suitable site for the Creation of BLC Development of a business plan for the biofuels in the Municipality of Brezovo

Photos of the first public consultation meeting




Minutes of Second Public consultation workshop

- Date: February 20, 2012 (13:00 - 14.30)
- Location: Hisarya City Hall

Participants

1. Municipal Council Chair	Peno Boinovski
2. Member of the Municipal Council, Chair of the Tourism Council	Boiko Gawrilov
3. Hotel Owner	Stoyan Naidenov
4. Hotel Owner	Ivan Nataldjijski

5. Member of the Municipal Council,	Atanas Kukovsi
6.. Member of the Municipal Council,	Rangel Spasov
7. Member of the Municipal Council,	Penka Piryankova
8. Member of the Municipal Council,	Wyara Grishina
9. Director of school	Ivan Chavov
10. Member of the Municipal Council, manager of municipal wastes company	Neno Kostov
11. Member of the Municipal Council,	Stoyan Najdenov
12. Member of the Municipal Council,	Valko Makaveev
13. Member of the Municipal Council,	Boyanka Ivanova
14. Member of the Municipal Council,	Georgi Kamburski
15. Member of the Municipal Council, teacher	Neli Kacarska
16. Mayor	Penka Ganeva
17. Deputy-Mayor	Asen Surchev
18. Energy Agency of Plovdiv	Liyana Adjarova
19. Energy Agency of Plovdiv	Vladimir Valkov

Moderator : Liyana Adjarova – Energy Agency of Plovdiv

Agenda:

- Presentation of BioRegions Project –V. Valkov
- Presentation of Regional Biomass Plan-2012
- Discussion on energy consumption of Municipality of Hisarya
- Discussions on possibility for fuel replacement in the Municipality of Hisarya
- Discussion on the biomass availability

Discussions/decisions:

1. EAP presented studies within BioRegions Project. The findings are good foundation to start replacement of expensive oil with biomass that is real alternative for the municipality of Hisarya. The city of Hisarya is historical place that is far from the natural gas network (40 км). Individual heating of public and residential buildings Biomass is the solution for this type of cities where construction of heating network is not appropriate. The alternative of compressed natural gas is not a good solution
2. Regional Biomass Plan 2020 was presented
3. Energy Consumption of the public buildings shows fossil fuels are economically feasible. The households are heated by burning coal and firewood that is the main reason for air pollution during the winter. Bad air quality is not acceptable for such resort as the city of Hisarya.
4. First step should be given to the replacement of oil by biomass in 7 public buildings because of the essential part of the municipal building. For this purpose the municipality should start studies for the production of the solid biofuels. The Municipal council should discuss the compressed natural gas supply . The availability of modern biofuels for the households will resolve air pollution problems.
5. The available biomass resources are enough for the biofuels local supply. The total biomass in the area of the municipality would allow production of 8 000 – 10 000 t pallets, chips and briquettes without the local firewood market to be destroyed

Follow-up activities

1. Search for partners and suitable site for creation of BLC in the municipality of Hisarya
2. Development of a business plan for solid biofuels production

Minutes of Third Public consultation workshop

The third public consultation workshop was held in the framework of the National Conference on Energy, Environment, Climate and green economy in Plovdiv on March 30.

One whole panel was dedicated to the BioRegions project and the Action Plan. From the 185 participants in the forum, 28 were direct BioRegions stakeholders and the Bulgarian project team received feedback from 13 of them. Most of the feedback gathered during it was really included in the

Action Plan. Moreover the proceedings of the forum, included in its final document are mostly based on the BioRegions project.

FINAL DOCUMENT from the NATIONAL CONFERENCE „ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, AND GREEN ECONOMY", 30.03.2012

ORGANIZED BY:

ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN ENERGY AGENCIES, **ENERGY AGENCY OF PLOVDIV**, INTERNATIONAL FAIR – PLOVDIV, ASSOCIATION FOR PLOVDIV, CLUSTER GREEN SYNERGY

A debate on municipal energy policies, priorities, and best practices took place on March 30th 2012 at the International Fair in Plovdiv. 185 representatives from municipalities, business, and energy agencies participated in the debate.

For more than 10 years the Bulgarian energy agencies have been actively working to support municipalities on their way to sustainable development. During that time strategies, programmes, and municipal plans have been drafted and multiple projects concerning energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and mobility have been implemented. The best energy practices across Europe have been promoted through a number of meetings, seminars, and conferences.

The Association of Bulgarian Energy Agencies (ABEA) started the procedure for becoming a supporting structure to the Covenant of Mayors initiative that aims to meet the EU's 20/20/20 objectives: improved energy efficiency, increase of the share of renewable energy sources, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. ABEA considers municipalities as core partners for the implementation of local sustainable energy policies and for applying for European funds for projects and campaigns regarding innovative energy saving technologies.

The emphasis in the discussions was placed around the following topics:

1) The use of coal, briquettes, and wood in old combustion units for residential heating is the main reason for air pollution with particulate matter in the big cities. Through the international project "BioRegions" large scale solutions to this problem have been proposed. They are based on municipal energy policies, planning, and efficient use of local energy sources at reasonable prices;

2) Fuel oil for heating in public buildings is the most expensive heating source to use and this has been an unresolved issue at national level for years. The fuel switch from oil to local energy sources has been implemented in a number of places in Europe and even in few Bulgarian municipalities. This is a priority for local energy planning that also has implications nationally. Making modern biomass and innovative technologies price competitive and thus, reducing the market share of fuel oil and electricity for heating, could significantly optimize the energy balance of the municipalities and the country in general;

3) The use of biomass and other RES is a win-win solution that will simultaneously improve air quality in cities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

4) The rural and mountainous regions have significant bioenergy potential. In addition to the environmental benefits, developing bioenergy contributes to the creation of jobs, local development, and tourism. The establishment of logistic centers for the utilization of local biomass and the production of biofuels is a necessary solution for the implementation of the technical characteristics for heating with 90% COP;

5) The new Forest Law that introduces innovative management of forests, including municipal ones, gives the opportunity for efficient environmental and social policies regarding the adoption of RES in municipalities. In addition, the objective of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan for Bulgaria until 2020 is 16% share of RES in the final energy consumption, out of which 54% of this target is earmarked for RES heating and cooling.

The participants in the forum were introduced to currently running projects, analyses, and concrete suggestions such as:

- BioRegion "Sredna Gora" – grand pilot plan for sustainable utilization of local biomass until 2020
- Funding mechanisms for financing municipal and business EE and RES initiatives
- Best practices and innovations in the areas of EE and RES such as: establishment of the cluster "Green Synergy", planning for sustainable use of energy in municipalities, energy and climate competitions, trainings for installers of small photovoltaic systems, methods and actions of the energy agencies when cooperating with municipalities, etc.

A separate topic of the conference was modernization and development of sustainable urban transport. Reports on the following matters were presented:

- Strategies for alternative modes of mobility;
- Public transportation quality improvement system – project ENERQI;
- Increasing access for handicapped people;
- Mobility management in business areas.

The forum and the following discussions showed that in the past few years a number of municipalities are following models from other European cities and working towards air quality improvements, efficient energy use, sustainable transport, and modern ways to ensure mobility.

SUGGESTIONS:

The shared experiences and best practices from across Europe and Bulgaria show that there are significant unutilized opportunities for energy efficient and sustainable development through:

1. Changing the means of heating of households who use low quality coal and wood, burning them with low COP. The solution is RES sources of heating to be adopted and especially wood briquettes and pellets with over 85% COP.

2. Widespread switching of fuel oil used for heating in public buildings with modern efficient bio-fuels;

3. Increase the number of district heating users in the big cities, as well as widespread connection to the gas grid of factories, public buildings, and households (where this is economically feasible);

4. Establishment of a common set of indicators, policies, and mechanisms for sustainable development at municipal level. These will become integral part of the national energy strategy and national climate change action plan;

5. Establishment of logistic centers for the production and distribution of modern bio-fuels for households and municipalities as an alternative to inefficient ways of heating. Successful market competition of biomass and innovative technologies with heating with fuel oil and electricity will assure cheaper means of heating and optimization of the country's energy balance;

6. Applying the lessons learned from the international project "BioRegions" into national solutions for energy policies which ensure the country's energy independence at affordable price. The development of bioregions that make use of innovative technologies is a new field that is not only in line with European requirements regarding climate change, but also is the main solution for improving local

air quality and health of the population. The bioregion “Sredna Gora” in particular could be considered the start of a national programme that could spur the utilization of biomass for energy. The adoption of such practices will provide the missing link between forest management and the bio-fuel and modern heating installations’ business.

7. Providing incentives for adoption of RES on the part of the final energy consumer – households and municipalities who could maintain competitive environment for the energy business. Examples are: the preferential programme “1000 solar roofs” in Germany, financial assistance for households to purchase biomass combustion units in Austria, Czech Republic, and Slovenia, ban on fossil fuels for heating in Sweden, cooperatively owned wind parks in Denmark, etc.).