

European Conference on Local Energy Action

The Annual Event of Energy Management Agencies in Europe
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Conclusions from the Parallel Sessions

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The parallel sessions focused on:

- Integration of energy objectives into local development;
- Directive on energy performance and buildings;
- Ensuring adequate contribution of transport sector to the use of energy.

The conclusions from these parallel sessions will form an essential element in the preparation of the work programme for ManagEnergy activities in 2004.

Conclusions in seven points:

1. Energy Agencies should give particular attention to the implementation of Directives that can have a significant impact at a local level. These include:
 - **Buildings** – The Directive on energy performance of buildings can become a major field of activity for local actors. Agencies and other local actors can also play a major role in supporting its implementation. The provision of information to owners and tenants on building standards and labels, as well as the provisions arising from the Directive in certification of buildings and in the inspection of equipment are the key work areas.
 - **Transport** – There is a need to support the Directive on bio fuels at local level, possibly through joint activities with local transport bodies,
 - **Electricity** – There is a need to make known and encourage initiatives to meet targets set in the White Paper on renewable energy sources in relation to energy demand.
2. There is a need to continuously improving advice, motivation, technical support and training activities in order to achieve measurable results. Priority will be given to education initiatives, for children, young people and teachers.
3. Partnership is an essential element of EU funded activities, but many projects could be also regarded as “business opportunities” for energy agencies in providing public services.
4. We promote local activities through the slogan “Think Globally – Act Locally”. More weight has to be given to the concept of global thinking by National Associations of Energy Agencies, as well as by the Reflection Group, in order to identify opportunities for their members to act at local and regional levels.

5. With relevance to Energy Intelligent – Europe programme, there is a need to develop local energy indicators in order to develop more efficient local activities as follows:
 - Building sector
 - During next year, special effort and attention should be given to the Accession and Candidate countries to enable them to profit from the knowledge and experience that lies within the established Member States.
 - Local action to support the Directive on energy performance of buildings is a priority.
 - Retrofitting of social housing is a key area that deserves immediate attention.
 - There is a real need to increase the number of sustainable buildings in Europe.
 - Transport sector
 - It is important to facilitate the development of mobility plans for schools, industry etc.
 - The relationship between local energy actors and Regional Development Agencies should be improved through better co-ordination of activities. Better links between local and regional groups can facilitate development in the use of renewables in transport and other sectors. They can also lead to increased energy efficiency.
 - It should be noted that the STEER programme is open for the training of agencies on the energy aspect of transport.
 - Horizontal actions
 - The tasks within the Horizontal Key Action 2 in the Intelligent Energy – Europe programme will provide a major reference of activity for energy local action.
6. ManagEnergy should continue playing greater role in the sharing of information. The link between energy agencies and municipalities should be reinforced. Municipalities could be more active in the energy field. This could be achieved in collaboration in joint actions with energy agencies and other local actors.
7. Energy agencies are often well placed with links to municipalities as an essential element of their implementation strategies. However, there is still a need for training in the management of agencies, especially for those that started only a short time ago, and even more so for those that are expected to start up in the near future.