



EVALUATION AND OUTLOOK

Presented by the
City of Stuttgart
in collaboration with
Energie Cités and Climate Alliance

Evaluation

For the City of Stuttgart as host it was a challenge to have so many energy experts as guests. The ambitious target of 200 to 300 delegates was not quite achieved. However, with almost 180 delegates from 22 countries and 22 exhibitors, the first conference of its kind nevertheless met its aspiration of becoming a European platform for municipal energy experts. The following conclusions about the conference concept can be drawn from the point of view of the organizers:

- Delegates, speakers and exhibitors provided very positive feedback about the conference programme with its mix of plenary presentations and discussions, topical workshops, site visits and an exhibition.
- Delegates regarded the choice of topics and the opportunity to discuss them in detail as very positive. While this approach limited the number of topics that could be discussed, it did improve the quality of the discussion.
- Numerous delegates provided very positive feedback on the presentation by Prof. von Weizsäcker. A pleasant ambience and an expert outlook beyond the horizon are elements that round off such an event very appropriately.
- The success of a conference is not least determined by the quality of the simultaneous translation. The work of the interpreters was praised as excellent several times during the conference.
- Exhibitors confirmed that they met their precise target group. While some exhibitors were very satisfied, others would have benefited from somewhat more attention. Since the exhibition was of key significance for us for several reasons, there is room for optimization for future events.

If the concept of the event is maintained, and the analysis of the conference questionnaires suggested that it should, during programme development and conference announcements the workshop concept in particular should be introduced more precisely, since in some cases there appeared to be some misunderstandings. Delegates suggested that the programme could be designed such that each workshop round could feature 10 speakers, rather than offering parallel workshops.

Delegates also suggested that follow-up events should ensure strong presence and integration of the European Commission and MEPs.

Energy management has not yet reached the required status in all European municipalities for achieving maximum cost savings and reduction of environmental impacts. The examples from numerous successful municipalities demonstrated the immense savings potential that can be tapped through energy management. The workshops can be summarized as follows:

- Since the boundary conditions in individual countries are very different, they should be explained first in any discussion. If a German speaker talks about the Building Energy Conservation Ordinance, for example, colleagues from Slovakia or Ireland will first have to be told what it is all about. This means that discussions may take longer before they come to the point.
- Basic conditions in the electricity market are still very different. While electricity purchasing is a key aspect for almost all colleagues, when comparing different approaches it is important to thoroughly check whether the basic conditions are similar or even identical.
- One of the open questions was how to analyse energy consumption data. While standards such as the VDI 3807 procedure exist in individual countries, there are often no associated regulations. It would be useful to develop a European standard for this purpose.
- Some delegates were surprised about the number of energy management tools available on the market, e.g. for consumption monitoring. There is an urgent need for better communication in this area.

- It was interesting to note that distance between municipalities does not necessarily lead to very different approaches. The presentation from Christchurch, New Zealand, showed many parallels with the Stuttgart approach.
- Funding of cost-effective energy conservation projects is a key problem in all municipalities. A range of solutions is available on the market, which were discussed in detail. It became clear that there is no single solution that fits all municipalities, but each energy manager has to find a suitable model for small and large projects that fits the particular local boundary conditions. Money is by no means the only barrier to implementation. Sometimes it may even be just an excuse.
- Many delegates regarded local regulations such as the "solar ordinance" in Pamplona, energy decrees or energy guidelines as beneficial. However, the discussion also showed that for each town, even within the same country, an appropriate local solution has to be found. Environmental costs can then also be considered. Recommendations from the national or European municipal associations or from the European Commission are helpful.
- Environment-friendly utilization of wood is a promising theme in many locations. This was demonstrated not only by the interest in the site visit, but also in the workshops on this subject. However, it also became clear that biomass combustion requires appropriate logistics, which often have to be developed from scratch.

In fringe discussions many delegates stressed the usefulness and need for exchange of information beyond national borders. Networking of municipal energy officers is a desirable goal, not only for enabling exchange of information beyond national boundaries, but also for raising the status of energy management in Brussels.

The European Commission and the national municipal associations should therefore ensure regular exchange of information both on a European and on a national level and establish a database of municipal energy officers.

Internet presentation and webcasting

During both days, the conference was broadcast live on the Internet via the managenergy website. All plenary sessions and also the three workshops that took place in the "König Karl Saal" room were transmitted. The keynote speech by Prof. von Weizsäcker on the evening of the first day of the conference was recorded. At times, more than 50 delegates followed the event live on the Internet. Noterik will prepare a detailed analysis.

Information about the event will continue to be available on the Internet at

- www.managenergy.net/conference/ecmem04.html
This site contains recordings of presentations, selected workshops, the keynote speech, ppt slides of the workshops and selected photographs
- www.energie-cites.org news section
Short summaries, conference papers and ppt slides
- www.klimabuendnis.org/english/update/framset.htm
Conference papers, ppt slides

Outlook

In Germany, an ongoing demand for exchange of information has been identified. The 10th German conference of municipal energy officers will take place in March 2005 in Hagen in Westphalia.

It is assumed that similar exchanges also take place in other countries on a more or less regular basis, although no information on this is currently available.

In Stuttgart, the Polish EC Brec network signalled its willingness to organize the 2nd European conference, without being able to specify a venue or date at this stage. CEMR,

Energie-Cités and Climate Alliance as co-organizers of the 1st conference declared their willingness to support EC Brec with preparation and management of the conference, as far as possible.

In summary we note that energy management can tap a large, cost-effective potential for energy savings. This applies not only to the new member states, but also to the EU15. We hope that this finding will cause the European Commission to redouble its efforts to convince municipalities of the need for and benefits of energy management.

Energy management forms a bracket and is an extremely effective implementation tool for many aims of the European Commission in the areas of renewables and energy efficiency. The projects presented during the two-day conference demonstrated this impressively.