



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT  
DIRECTORATE D - New Energies & Demand Management

## **ManagEnergy: European Partnership on Local and Regional Energy and Transport Action**

Follow-up Action to the Conference on Local and Regional Energy Management Agencies  
held on 6 November 2001

### **Introduction**

Sustainable development is a fundamental objective of the European Union Treaties. The recent, Laeken, European Council invited everyone involved to help improve policy co-ordination and actions related to sustainable development. To achieve the desired objectives requires aspects of economics, energy, transport, social, environmental and other relevant policies to be considered in comprehensive manner, resulting in mutual reinforcement. This requires global solutions to problems and needs that are often local in nature. Or to put it in another way, sustainable global impact cannot be achieved without extensive local action.

The Commission's Green Paper on Security of Energy Supply sketches out a long-term sustainable energy strategy based on the need for strong action in favour of energy demand side management with an emphasis on dispersed energy supplies. The Green Paper indicates the need for a real change in consumer behaviour in order to achieve a better control of energy consumption. At the same time both the transport and construction industries will have to adopt an active energy savings policy linked to diversification in favour of non-polluting energy. This concept is endorsed by the White Paper on European Transport Policy for 2010.

The ideas expressed in the Green and White papers are reinforced by existing and proposed European legislation, such as the directives on energy efficiency in buildings, on the promotion of bio-fuels and on electricity from renewables. This provides a legal framework for action at the local level. The Action Plans on energy efficiency and renewable energies together with the Work Programmes for SAVE, ALTENER and FP5 (Fifth RTD Framework Programme) provide a framework within which we can act together at local and regional level. Such activities will be continued within the next energy and research programmes (FP6 and Intelligent Energy for Europe).

## Potential of local action

Local and regional energy action draws its strength from the fact that it is developed and implemented by those who have the best knowledge about local needs and conditions and have a direct link to local decision makers. At the local level much of the effort comes from the relevant energy agencies that are able to advise their clients taking into account local conditions and changes in energy consumption patterns. These agencies also provide information on national and European energy policies, as well as measures taken at local level. Hence, they have considerable influence on local energy policy decision making.

Energy agencies support the introduction of good energy management practices and the concept of sustainability at local and regional level. Many of them participate in transnational activities and can provide information to local and national policy makers and stakeholders, guidance to local energy consumers, energy efficiency auditing and a series of other activities based on specific local needs. In addition they can promote new and innovative energy technologies, increasing market penetration through broad and general information dissemination. This is done in the spirit of subsidiarity, action at local level is taken by those who can do it most efficiently.

Local knowledge and expertise can lead to great success, as has been demonstrated in the context of Agenda 21, or within energy programmes such as SAVE and ALTENER. This expertise and the underlying information is available but not easy to find or communicate. While varying local conditions, different cultures and languages enriches the solutions offered, they make it more challenging to collaborate and communicate the successes to others. By establishing effective means to enable people to benefit from the experiences of others the implementation of Community policy objectives can be considerably enhanced. As the White Paper on European Governance states, "there should be more flexibility in the means provided for development and implementation of Community proposals and measures affecting local conditions". To achieve this, the **managEnergy** activities detailed below have been initiated to focus on this challenge *in thinking globally and acting locally*, hence creating the necessary links. This strengthens future proposals for specific activities as described in the work programmes for SAVE and ALTENER *Calls for Proposals 2001-2002*, which anticipates reinforced local action for the benefit of sustainable energy demand based on rational use of energy, use of renewable energy sources and cleaner urban transport.

## Strategy on two levels ; managEnergy

The Commission's initiative **managEnergy** was launched as a result of the first European Conference on all local and regional energy management agencies held on 6 November 2001 in Brussels, the conclusions and other outcomes of which can be viewed under 'events' on the new website: <http://www.managenergy.net/>. **ManagEnergy** aims to provide European support for local energy and transport activities. This support will include improved dissemination of good practice, facilitate transnational co-operation based on selected themes and improve contacts between those promoting local, regional, national and European actions of relevance to local and regional energy action and development.

**ManagEnergy** aims to facilitate global thinking on strategic local issues and support local actors in the capacity building process, resulting in better use of available solutions to sustainable energy and transport problems.

### **Reflection group – global thinking**

As sustainable development requires global solutions, the Commission will facilitate a series of meetings of a reflection group (see annex) made up from those responsible for local and regional energy and transport action in the EU and Candidate Countries. This will enable issues such as forthcoming Community energy legislation or programme action that bears relevance for local energy and transport policy implementation, priorities of calls for proposals for energy and transport programmes, priority themes for thematic workshops (below) etc. to be discussed before implementation.

The objectives of the reflection group are to:

- advise the Commission on local initiatives, partnerships and good practice that can help identify policy priorities of the EU, for example, on local initiatives concerning domestic buildings that address the objectives of the buildings directive;
- suggest supplementary areas of action, which can be particularly recommended on the basis of the experiences at local and regional level and
- disseminate Community policies and project results to local and regional level actors.

Reflection group meetings will allow the Commission and those responsible for implementing local and regional energy and transport policies to be in direct and informal contact with each other. Participants of the reflection group should include representatives of associations or networks of local, regional and national energy agencies and similar energy actors implementing Community energy policies at local and regional level. Additionally, representative of other European organisations and Community institutions could be invited to take part in the reflection group meetings where appropriate. The benefits of this think tank are obvious: locally relevant Community energy and transport legislation and action will benefit from the expertise of local actors, and local actors will benefit from better formulated Commission proposals and measures.

These meetings with particular knowledge on energy and transport issues at local and regional level, should help establish cohesion among key local actors and help identify and share common objectives. The first reflection group meeting is planned for the spring of 2002.

### **Support to local energy and transport action**

**ManagEnergy** will offer a process of capacity building within given themes identified on the basis of the expertise available at local and regional levels (see annex). The themes will be selected in collaboration with the reflection group and hence reflect the interests of their members. This capacity building process will include a series of thematic work shops for the transfer of good practice in the EU and Central and Eastern European Countries. In each workshops, a number of 'peer' agencies will be able to learn from the experiences

of a smaller number of 'host' agencies and others who have been involved in successfully implementing good practice policies and practices within the selected area of energy use and management. The workshops will use systematic approaches to develop concrete strategies for replication of good practice within the peer agencies. The ultimate aim of the workshops is the replication of good practice throughout Europe, either through joint projects or directly by the participating organisations.

The thematic workshops will be transmitted via the Internet by means of a multilingual web cast allowing anyone interested to benefit from these events. Aimed at those directly involved with energy action and policies in the EU and Candidate Countries, this will enable a much wider audience to watch and hear all the workshop presentations and discussions conveniently from their own computer screens. This will save time and resources and allow many people to benefit from each others experiences, especially those case histories that are recognised as 'good practice'. In addition, these events will enable those interested, but not present in person, to join in through an interactive Internet chat linking the 'virtual' participants with the workshops.

### **Annual conferences**

The **ManagEnergy** initiative will also promote a series of annual conferences covering local energy management. These conferences will bring together the deliberations of the reflection group, the workshops and other topical energy and transport activities. They will allow people with a wide range of diverse interests to discuss the results achieved under this initiative, as well as to propose ways to go forward. These annual conferences will be transmitted through web casts similar to those proposed for the workshops.

The next annual conference will take place on 21-22 October 2002 in Brussels.

The annual conferences will be an occasion that will enable specific European recognition of contributions to the development, implementation and replication of good practice. It is anticipated that the reflection group will play a crucial role in selecting the best of the good practice to be presented, enabling this to be recognised, published and disseminated.

### **ManagEnergy website**

Workshops and conferences as well as the everyday activities of local and regional energy and transport actors will be promoted through the new **ManagEnergy** web site (<http://www.managenergy.net/>), which will contribute to the transfer of locally relevant experience and information on energy efficiency, renewables and clean urban transport. This website will provide:

- Profiles including addresses of energy agencies and other relevant organisations focusing on renewables, energy efficiency and clean urban transport at local and regional level;
- Case studies illustrating good energy practice within Europe;
- Access to relevant EU and national legislation, norms, standards, etc.;
- An interactive thematic discussion forum;
- Partner search function;

- Activities related to the development of new Community energy and transport legislation and action relevant to local and regional level;
- Details of a series of thematic workshops and conferences leading to training in good practice;
- Publications produced by energy agencies and other energy and transport actors.

These information services, which are being managed on behalf of the European Commission, will be run by a service provider ([www.stem.se](http://www.stem.se)) and a website manager ([www.cplpress.com/sps/](http://www.cplpress.com/sps/)).

## **Close**

It is important to find ways for people to connect with the EU and its activities. The **ManagEnergy** initiative has been designed in collaboration between the European Commission, local and regional energy management agencies and other relevant actors. The activity will allow local and regional authorities, energy actors and the civil society to fully benefit from the learning of successful energy and transport activities and policies elsewhere in Europe. Local actors will be able to participate directly in the formulation of strategies for replication of good practice and get direct advice for their questions from other experts at local and European level. The replication potential that exists within the existing energy agencies and other actors are low hanging fruits easy to harvest for the benefit of sustainable local development.

# **ManagEnergy**

**European Partnership  
on Local Energy and Transport Action**

# ManagEnergy Reflection Group

**COMMISSION**  
(SERVICE PROVIDER)

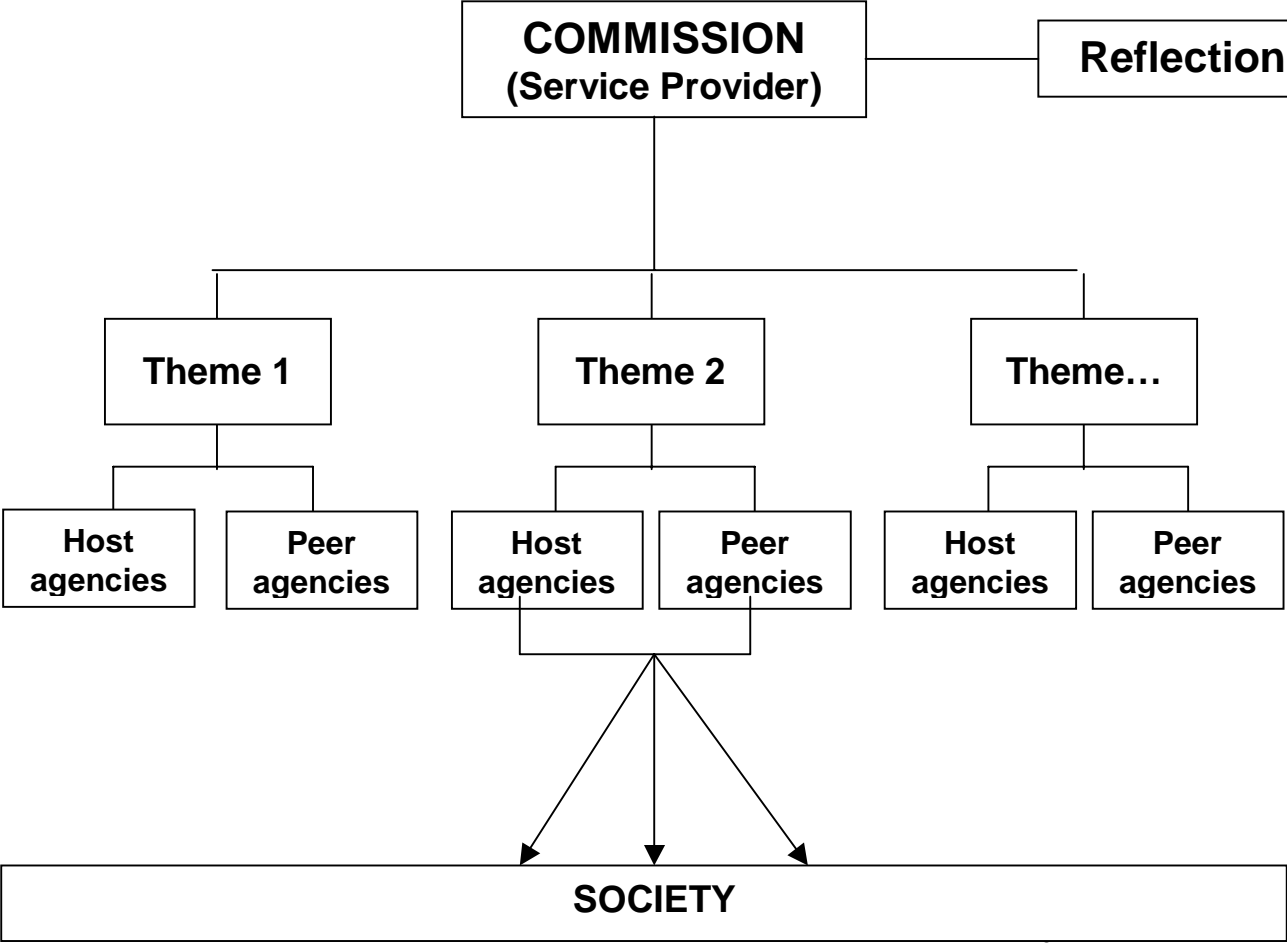
**Associations of  
Local and  
Regional Energy  
Agencies  
in the EU**

**Associations of  
Local and  
Regional Energy  
Agencies  
in the CEECs**

**European  
Networks and  
Associations :  
EnR  
Fedarene  
Energie-Cites  
Islenet  
OPET**

**Professional  
and Industrial  
Associations,  
NGOs...**

# ManagEnergy Local Action



**POLICY PRIORITIES**

- availability of good practice

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

- through 'reel' and 'virtual' facilities

**DISSEMINATION through**

- energy agencies and other organisations
- web, publications, events
- associations, networks, reflection group

**REPLICATION**