

Collaboration Agreement between the Energy Agency of La Ribera and the Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria Bank.s.a.

Agència Energètica de la Ribera, Spain

Summary

The Agència Energètica de la Ribera (AER) is an autonomous organism of the Consorcio Medioambiental de la Ribera, which is formed by the county councils of the Ribera Alta and Ribera Baja. It is a SAVE Agency, that is working from July 2001. The funding of the Agency corresponds to the SAVE programme of the Energy & Transport DG of the European Commission and the county councils of the la Ribera Alta and Ribera Baja. Thus, the work scope of the Agency includes 47 villages with a population of 270.000 inhabitants of the Valencian counties Ribera Alta and Ribera Baixa. The collaboration agreement between the Energy Agency and the Bank BBVA, within the Renewable Energy Plan of the AER, has as main goal the promotion of renewable energy systems, offering loans with an interest more favourable and reducing this way the economical barrier that the implementation of these systems faces nowadays in our region.

End-user area	Target Audience	Technical
<input type="checkbox"/> New buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment of buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Households	<input type="checkbox"/> Heating
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> Property owners	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools and universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Appliances
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision makers	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal initiatives (municipal regulations, directives, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local and regional authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> CHP
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport companies	<input type="checkbox"/> District Heating
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar energy
<input type="checkbox"/> User behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> ESCOs	<input type="checkbox"/> Biomass
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Architects and engineers	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro power
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Context

The Agència Energètica de la Ribera (AER) is an autonomous organism of the Consorcio Medioambiental de la Ribera, which is formed by the county councils of the Ribera Alta and Ribera Baja. It is a SAVE Agency, that is working from July 2001. The funding of the Agency corresponds to the SAVE program of DGTREN of the European Commission and the county councils of the la Ribera Alta and Ribera Baja. Thus, the work scope of the Agency includes to 47 villages with a population of 270.000 inhabitants of the Valencian counties Ribera Alta and Ribera Baixa. The collaboration agreement between the Energy Agency and the Bank BBVA, within the Renewable Energy Plan of the AER, has as main goal the promotion of renewable energy systems, offering loans

with an interest more favourable and reducing this way the economical barrier that the implementation of these systems faces nowadays in our region. In the Valencian community and specifically in the work region of the Agency, the introduction of renewable energy installations is very reduced, so a high promotion of these systems is very important. The collaboration agreement with the Bank Bilbao Vizcaya (BBVA) was carried out with the finality of reducing the economical barriers that suppose nowadays the introduction of these systems.

Objectives

The collaboration Agreements between the Energy Agency with the Bank BBVA, has as main goal the promotion of renewable energy systems, offering loans with an interest more favourable and reducing this way the economical barrier that the introduction of these systems faces nowadays in the region of La Ribera in Valencia.

Process

The collaboration Agreements between the Agència Energètica de la Ribera (AER) and the Bank BBVA, is included in the Renewable Energy Plan of the AER. In this Plan the Agency offers information, assessment, contact with enterprise and installers of renewable energies to all the work sector of the Agency (people, councils, enterprise, commercial,...). At the same time, the Agency manage to apply for the grants of the Instituto para la Diversificación y Ahorro Energético (IDAE) and the Agencia Valenciana de la Energía (AVEN). In order to complete this Plan and give more facilities to the introduction of these installations, the Agreement with the Bank BBVA was carried out, with the finality of offering to all the population sectors loans of the not funded part with an interest more favorable. This way the economical barriers that most of the times make the installation not possible are reduced. The agreement was signed the 12th march 2002.

In order to realize agreements with different financial entities to get loans with a lower interest, the Agency addressed to several ones. The only response obtained was from the BBVA Bank. The reasons the other gave us were that the number of annual installations was not secure and then, the benefits of the banks were unknown.

Financial resources and partners

The project has no economic cost for the Energy Agency. People who want to ask for the loan go directly to the bank office.

Results

The signature of the Agreement took place the 12th march 2002. The funding program of the Agencia Valenciana de la Energía (AVEN) by the time the Agreement was spread out, was closed. So in the first year no project within this agreement was done. Then in the next AVEN funding program, year 2003, where the Agreement was in progress four installations have been made. These installations have received the AVEN and IDAE grant. However, it has to be taken into account, that the systems that apply for these types of loans are the ones with more investment on them, so photovoltaic solar energy. In the cases of heat solar installations, the investment required is lower, so people tend to not make loans.

Lessons learned and repeatability

The realization of the Agreement with the Bank is a very positive step and it is easy to repeat, in the case the financial entities decide to promote this type of actions. With this kind of agreements, the introduction of renewable energy installations is promoted, because the economical barrier that the installation of these systems supposes nowadays in our region is reduced.

To all the entities that are interested in this project, we recommend to get contact with different financial entities in order to promote and support these kind of installations, offering low interest loans.

Contact for more information:

Project Web Site: www.aer-ribera.com
Organisation / Agency: AGENCIA ENERGETICA DE LA RIBERA
Main contact M^a PILAR PEREZ CASAÑ
Address: C/ JOSE DOLZ, 2. 46600 ALZIRA-VALENCIA-SPAIN
Tel: +0034 96 241 4142
Fax: +0034 96 241 41 72
E-mail: aer@aer-ribera.com
Web Site: www.aer-ribera.com