



La Ribera Route of Energy

Agència Energètica de la Ribera, Spain

Summary

The Agència Energètica de la Ribera (AER) is an autonomous organism of the Consorci Mediambiental de la Ribera, which is formed by the county councils of the Ribera Alta and Ribera Baixa. It is a SAVE Agency that has been working since July 2001. One of the main aims of the AER is to promote an energy saving culture and renewable energies in our educational centres. In this frame the AER created "La Ribera Route of Energy" addressed to all the Educational Centres with technological areas and Workshop-Schools of La Ribera. La Ribera Route of the energy consists of guided visits to different renewable energy plants.

End-user area

- New buildings
- Refurbishment of buildings
- Transport and mobility
- Financial instruments
- Industry
- Legal initiatives (regulations, directives, etc)
- Planning issues
- Sustainable communities
- User behaviour
- Education
- Other

Target Audience

- Citizens
- Households
- Property owners
- Schools and universities
- Decision makers
- Local and regional authorities
- Transport companies
- Utilities
- ESCOs
- Architects and engineers
- Financial institutions
- Other

Technical

- Energy efficiency
- Heating
- Cooling
- Appliances
- Lighting
- CHP
- District Heating
- Solar energy
- Biomass
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Hydro power
- Other

Context

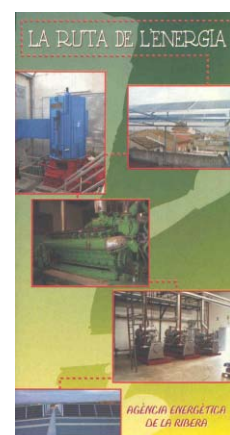
La Agència Energètica de la Ribera (AER) is an autonomous organism of the Consorci Mediambiental de la Ribera (CMR), organization formed by the County Council of La Ribera Alta and La Ribera Baixa. The agency has been created within the framework of the European program SAVE II-2000. The goals of the AER are the introduction of an energy saving culture, the advantage of the endogenous energy sources and to contribute, through the renewable energies, to the sustainable development of our region.

Following these renewable directives of awareness in energy matter and rational use of energy, the AER organized "La Ribera Route of Energy" directed to all educational centres of the region. The edition of the route for the 2004-05 school year is the third edition.

Objectives

Within the framework of the activity program that the AER offered in educational matter, the agency organized this route with the following aims:

- Show people the renewable energy potential in our region.
- To promote and motivate the students, professors and parents on rational use of energy, presenting the environmental problematic associated to the conventional power plants.
- Dissemination of AER activities.





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In the beginning the goals that the AER planned for this project were 10 visits par year, and in this last school-year we have done 12 visits. So we are improving our initial goals and that shows us the interest of the project by the educational community and for that reason in following scholar-years, we will extend the project to different areas outside La Ribera.

Process

The route was directed to educational centres with students of 1st level of ESO (12-14 years old), 2nd level of ESO (14-16), "bachillerato" (2nd year secondary school) (16-18) and Workshop-Schools of La Ribera.

At the beginning of the scholar year the AER sends to all educational centres information about the route and the route leaflet. During the 2004-05 school year, the AER prepares six plant visits: The visits consist of a cogeneration plant in a building material production industry, a mini hydro power plant, a photovoltaic power plant, a solar thermal plant in a covered swimming pool and a trigeneration plant in a fruit and vegetable industry.

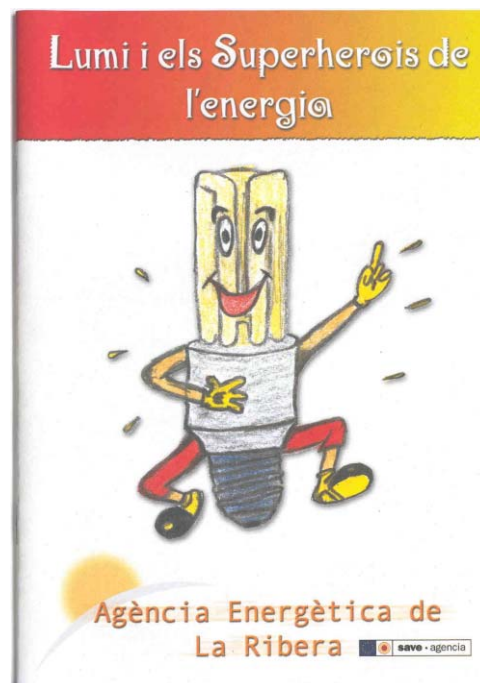
AER has already contacted several enterprises or local authorities to ask them about the possibility of visiting their plants.

The educational centre can choose the plants they want to visit and the date. The AER staff go with the students as monitors in order to explain the students each technology, its application, its environmental impact and some other information together with the staff of the different entities.

In the visit the AER gives energy documentation to the students in order to promote the energy education on renewable energies and energy saving. Thus, AER give two comics (published and elaborated by the AER) with activities for the students that explains renewable energies and energy saving. Teachers must develop the comic activities and these activities strengthen the knowledge learned by the students. The following figure shows the front of the two comics.



Front of renewable energy comic



Front of energy saving comic

During the first two school years, more than 700 students participated in the route.

The personnel of the agency work out entirely the project, from the contact with the educative centres and other participant organizations, design and development of the leaflets and posters.



In the following pictures two of the visits are shown:

A visit to the cogeneration plant



A visit to the mini hydro power plant



Financial resources and partners

The Agència Energètica de la Ribera, entity is co financed by the Mancomunitat de la Ribera Alta and La Ribera Baixa and the European program SAVE II-2000. The agency paid for all the expenses associated to the organization and management, material, on the order of 2,000 €. School centres pay the transport of the students to the different plants.

Industry and local authority owners of the plants are collaborating with the project on a voluntary basis.

Results

During the first two school years more than 700 students have participated in La Ribera Route of Energy. In the following table can be seen the major facts of this projects. The total number for these years is 14 visits and 775 students.

Course	N ^a visits	N ^a students
2002-03	5	250
2003-04	9	525
2004-05	12	660
Total	26	1.435

The route has an amplified repercussion in the local and regional press, in local radio and television, which helps to spread the knowledge of our agency.

The AER is satisfied with the results obtained in these three years and we want to extend the project to more educational centres outside the county of La Ribera, because we have been requested to do it. Nevertheless, we want to increase the dissemination through all the centres in La Ribera.

The AER has received good commentaries and suggestion of the teachers of the groups that have done the energy route, through a test that we pass them after the visit.



Lessons learned and repeatability

As a result of its low economic cost, from the AER we think that it is a very interesting project for promotion and citizen awareness in renewable and energy saving. Students learn about renewable energy and energy saving seeing real plants that strengthens the theory they learn at school, so the knowledge they finally get is higher. The repeatability is quite easy. The things to do are getting contact with the different enterprises that have renewable energies or energy saving measures for the possibility of making visits and also see to that the installation are appropriated for the student visits.

Because of the great results and satisfaction of the three routes, the AER will continue with this project and it will be extended outside the area of La Ribera.

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Printed reports or other literature available:

Title: InfoAER Cost: 0€