



Creation and leading of the operational demonstrative sites network

Regional Agency for Energy on Reunion Island, France – Reunion Island

Summary

Because of its insularity, Reunion Island has to pay attention to its energy production and consumption. One of the most important aim for the Regional Agency for Energy on Reunion Island is to disseminate good practices with renewable and energy efficiency technologies. Such a sustainable energy step needs to be approved by all kind of public. So ARER has created a network of operational demonstrative site. This action is supported by the agency and all its members and several partners also.

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

Context

In 1980, Reunion Island was autonomous in electric power thanks to the hydraulic power. In 2000, Reunion Island is autonomous in electric power only with 50%, thanks to hydraulics and to crop waste. The Reunion Regional council's aim for 2025: Reunion Island will be autonomous in electric power thanks to renewable energies.

The reduction of consumption of energy and the use of renewable energies are thus an important local stake since the islands can depend only on the energy resources fossil from other countries. It appeared essential to promote the energy efficiency and renewable energies.

All of the partners and actors of energy decided to create Regional Agency for Energy on Reunion Island in order to promote this sustainable energy step. One of the actions of the agency is to raise the public awareness of such a sustainable energy way on the Reunion Island in order to take part in the world effort against the global warming.

The network of operational demonstrative sites shows the good practices on Reunion Island.

Objectives

The aim is to create and lead of the operational demonstrative sites network including the whole range of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies on Reunion Island's new buildings and to promote sustainable communities.



This network targets the citizens, schools and universities, decision makers, local and regional authorities, architects and engineers in a sustainable way for energy efficiency and renewable energies such as solar energy or wind.

Process

The first step was to create and publish the Reunion chart of demonstrative sites and their technical forms and to identify potential sites in order to diversify the sites so as to represent the whole range of Clean Energy Technologies.

Then the methods used are:

- Organizing the animation and discovery visits of these sites with the help of the ARER team.
- To disseminate technical information relating to the network of demonstrative sites.
- A systematic evaluation of methods and results of the demonstrative sites network needs

Financial resources and partners

This action is led in the whole Reunion region (France) and is supported by the Regional Agency for Energy in Reunion (ARER) and all her members (EDF, ADEME, regional council, municipalities).

For the beginning of the project all the costs for 5 sites were supported by the regional agency. The total cost (publication) was 10 k€ (1,6 k€ for each site and 2 k€ for the web page on ARER website).

The cost of the project is now divided on own ARER financial resources and each demonstrative site partner. The financial resources asked for the partner are used to give information on the demonstrative site by a publication. And the costs are 1,6 k€ for each site publication.

Results

People who live in Reunion can now see and visit different kind of sites using renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. They can have technical information about those technologies and disseminate with their colleagues, friends, family etc.

The environmental education is direct. The environmental benefits are indirect: people can see the benefits of a sustainable energy step and then can decide to use those technologies. Less fossil energy could be consumed.

International and cooperation benefits are direct: international authorities, citizens and engineers come to Reunion to see what can be done or use in energy technologies.

Social benefits are indirect. Jobs are created because of the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies (solar domestic hot water or photovoltaic system).

Lessons learned and repeatability

More people are now informed about energy technologies and their utilities. Several targets are interested by this network: citizens, schools, local authorities, engineers and international public. In one year, the network includes 10 sites and is planned to be increased. Inhabitants of Reunion Island visit the energy agency more frequently to be advised on their future project after visiting a site.

The problem encountered was financial difficulties. At the beginning of the project, ARER was alone to support the publication's costs. Fortunately, more and more partners of the demonstrative sites are sensitised with the network which also can be a good advertising for them.

Such a network can easily be repeated in another region with few costs with the coordination of a regional agency.



Contact for more information:

Project Web Site:

<http://www.arer.org/fra/pages/panorama/carte/carte.htm>

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