

## ***The Climate Menu: effective local energy policy from a local Dutch case to EU wide replication***

***Ecofys, The Netherlands***

### **Summary**

The Dutch government has made a new set of agreements, of which the general goal is to improve the effectiveness of public policy by setting very clear and concrete targets.

Within this Agreement, goals are also formulated for climate policy. These goals have been worked out in the so-called Climate Menu for regional and local authorities. The aim of the Menu is to integrate the climate targets in all policy areas of the municipality, from traffic and transport to agricultural policy, and to remove the barriers for the implementation of the climate policy.

Several municipalities have used the Climate menu successfully. It is expected that in the next five years about 80% of the Dutch municipalities will launch the Climate menu approach. Municipalities are stimulated to do so by a subsidy of the national government that is based on the climate menu.

The next step is to develop a Climate menu on a European scale for all European regional and local authorities. For this purpose, Ecofys has launched the European project EU Climate Menu in the framework of the Altener program. This project will start in 2003.

<b>End-user area</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Technical</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizens	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment of buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Households	<input type="checkbox"/> Heating
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> Property owners	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Local and regional authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> CHP
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Financial institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydro power
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### **Context**

The main reason for launching the Climate menu approach is achieving the Dutch Kyoto and RES targets by means of climate policy. From the point of view of Climate policy, two tendencies are of importance.

The first is the increasing responsibility of both local and regional authorities in achieving the Kyoto Climate protocol and related targets:

- They carry responsibilities for many policy areas that are of great importance for energy and climate policy
- They are the administration level that is the closest to the people and therefore have a role in creating support for climate and energy policy
- They generate many activities that require energy and produce CO<sub>2</sub>

These aspects are intensified by the liberalisation of the energy market, now that energy companies carry less responsibility of in the field of energy saving.

The second is, there is mutual understanding that a Climate Policy, due to the many target groups and policy areas involved, requires an integral approach where targets are set in all municipal policy areas, including the energy sector, traffic, agriculture and the built environment. Yet, approaches and integrated solutions to abate climate conditions keep stumbling over institutional barriers.

The problem addressed with the Climate menu approach therefore concerns barriers, in particular the inability of local authorities to materialise climate policy, and the integration of climate policy with other, non-environmental policy areas<sup>1</sup>.

The Climate menu approach is developed for all regional and local authorities in the Netherlands. To give an impression about the project specifics and results, a few of the municipalities who use or have used the Climate menu are spotlighted here. To illustrate European replication of the Climate menu approach, a try out of the Climate menu with the English regional authority South Cambridgeshire District Council is described as well.

## **Objectives**

Main objective for the Climate menu approach is to develop a consensus based regional or local climate policy and lay down defined targets and actions for different policy themes.

## **Process**

Technologies demonstrated and reasons for choice, with brief details of any competitive cost/benefit studies carried out in selecting the given approach over alternatives.

The methodology used is the Climate Menu. The menu refers to a 'table of targets' for local authorities. The targets are spread over three levels of ambition and eight work themes. The targets in the first level (Active) reflect the translation of the national CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets for the local level. The two following levels are more ambitious (Forerunner and Innovative).

The Menu works as a communication tool that enables transparent consultation and decisionmaking about ambition levels, themes and targets for the climate policy. A Climate scan defines the start situation of the authority and is as such the beginning of the Climate menu procedure.

In general, the formulation of local Climate policy and achievement of the chosen targets should be realised by the authority in 4 years. 4 years is the average period between 2 local elections.

### Phase 1: testcases

In the Dutch municipality of Tilburg, one of the 1<sup>st</sup> testcases for the climate menu, formulation of the energy policy started in 2000. In 2001, the energy policy was formulated and more than 80 concrete projects were identified to be carried out in the next 4 years. In January 2002 the energy policy plan was decreed by a resolution of the city council and a booklet about the Tilburg energy

policy was published. In 2002 the first concrete projects were started. One of them, a windpark, is ready for realisation now

**Phase 2: national replication**

As one of many Dutch municipalities, in 2001 the Dutch municipalities of Amstelveen formulated their climate policy by means of the climate menu. In 2002 many official barriers were identified and removed. The climate policy is now discussed with local interest groups and projects are defined.

**Phase 3: European replication**

In 2002, Ecofys initiated the Altener project 'A European Climate Menu for an integrated Local Climate Policy', aiming to create, test and disseminate a European Climate Menu. This project will officially start on Jan 1, 2003 and has a duration of 20 months. One of the partners in this project is South Cambridgeshire District Council in the UK. They tested the Climate menu for the UK situation in the fall of 2002 and prepare their first project, on solar water heaters, now.

**Financial resources and partners**

In The Netherlands, the financial contribution of the national authority to the regional or local authority is 50 % of its budget for proposed Climate policy activities. The number of inhabitants and the area size determines the contribution ceiling. Eligible costs are costs for personnel, communication and research. The contribution of the European Commission to the Altener project is also 50%, mainly used for personnel cost. The total cost of the European project is budgeted at 497.702 €.

Main partners in the phases and projects previously described are:

Phase	Name	Town	country
all	Ecofys BV( and international affiliates)	Utrecht	The Netherlands
1	Municipality of Tilburg	Tilburg	The Netherlands
2	Municipality of Amstelveen	Amstelveen	The Netherlands
3	South Cambridgeshire District Council	South Cambridgeshire	The United Kingdom
	Municipality Cardedeu	Cardedeu	Spain
	Energy Agency Sofena	Sofena	Bulgaria
	Energy Agency Potenza	Potenza	Italy
	Miljöaktion Värmland	Värmland	Sweden
	Municipality Maastricht	Maastricht	The Netherlands
	Municipality Gelsenkirchen	Gelsenkirchen	Germany
	City of Gdansk	Gdansk	Poland
	Municipality Pniewy	Pniewy	Poland
	Climate Alliance	Frankfurt am Main	Germany

For the Dutch government, Ecofys developed large parts of the Climate Menu and tools associated with it. Ecofys also assists local authorities with the formulation and implementation of their energy policy.

**Results**

Generally in The Netherlands, local authorities use the Climate menu to achieve their share of the Kyoto CO<sub>2</sub> targets. This target is for the Netherlands 6% CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction in 2010; local targets are in line with this percentage. Renewable energy is one of the themes in the climate menu. Depending of the possibilities of the local municipality renewable energy targets varying form 1-10%

of the local energy consumption are defined. In Tilburg, the first windpark is now planned which will produce the equivalent of the electricity consumption of more than 1000 households.

The Climate menu also helps to quantify the manpower needed to implement local energy policy. For example, the municipality of Tilburg appointed two extra persons for co-ordination of the implementation of the Tilburg climate policy. The follow-up projects will certainly lead to extra jobs in the Tilburg region.

Concerning behavioural changes, in both Tilburg and Amstelveen the climate policy is now integrated through the work of the whole municipal organisation instead of concentrated in the work of one official.

### **Lessons learned and repeatability**

Experiences are that the Climate menu approach clarifies the rather complex process of integral climate policy making. By using the Menu, points of departure are given for the consultations about the choices to be made. Climate policy plans based on the Climate menu are well structured.

Involved policy makers find the climate menu approach very easy to understand, as is also shown in the example of the South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The formulation of concrete activities in order to achieve the chosen targets remains a subject of concern. Therefore a supplementary tool was developed, called the Climate planner. With help of this Climate planner, authorities can find activities that match the targets. Per activity process phases, costs and duration are described.

The structured and easy to use Climate Menu approach is highly suitable for replication everywhere in Europe. The problems addressed as described in the introduction -being the barriers, in particular the inability of local authorities to materialise climate policy, and the integration of climate policy with other, non-environmental policy areas- apply to all European regional and local authorities.

In January 2003 an Altener project called the EU Climate Menu will start, aiming at developing and testing a European Climate menu. A functional connection with ManagEnergy is anticipated as well. Regional and local authorities are invited to join the project to develop their own climate policy and at the same time enhance the EU Climate menu.

Please contact the person mentioned underneath.

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Printed reports or other literature available:  
Title: Energiekoersen en Energiedaden (Tilburg plan)