

European Energy Award® The European certification and quality management system for energy efficient communities

Beratungs- und Service-Gesellschaft Umwelt mbH

Summary

The European Energy Award® (eea®) is a European certification and quality management system which rewards cities and towns with a label for outstanding efforts in the field of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies.

It consists of three main elements:

- Establishment of a *total quality management system (TQM)* for communal energy-related activities
- *Certification and award* for energy-related achievements in two award categories and *control of success* through regular audits
- Establishment of a *network within the community and between communities* through increased co-operation and communication

The European Energy Award® is a qualified instrument for steering and controlling communal energy policy in order to review systematically all energy-related activities to date, identify strengths, weaknesses and potential for improvement and, above all, implement effectively energy efficient measures. These successful efforts made in the communal energy policy are presented to public through a European assessment and award. The standardised assessment permits a benchmarking among the eea® communities. Access to the know-how and experiences of leading energy cities throughout Europe is obtained.

The eea® is based on experiences with forerunner national certification systems carried out in Switzerland and Austria for almost 8 years (Energiestadt Schweiz, e5 programme). It was developed within the 5th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and has been successfully implemented in several communities in Switzerland, Austria and Germany since 2002. With support of SAVE II these active regions were now enlarged by Basque region/Spain, Ireland, Liguria/Italy, Lithuania and Slovakia in order to disseminate the certification and management approach for energy efficient communities throughout Europe.

End-user area	Target Audience	Technical
<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 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 checked="" 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

European communities realised lots of projects which have led to increased energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in the last two decades. In the most countries, energy legislation has been advanced and profound knowledge of technologies is available. Nevertheless, there still exists a lack of a systematic and effective implementation of those measures and a regular control of success on local level. For this, the European Energy Award® supports to overcome this lack through appropriate certification and management tools as well as training and communication measures.

Objectives

The overall objective of the SAVE II project called “Eurena” is to support improved *steering* of the communal energy policy, the *implementation* of energy efficient measures and of projects to introduce sustainable mobility as well as an increase in the use of renewable energies on the local level with the assistance of the certification and management tools of the eea®. The main goals are:

- Adapting the eea® tools and procedures to country specific conditions and testing them in different communities of the participating countries and regions.
- Training advisers and auditors in each region in a way to support the implementation of the certification procedure and assess the communal energy policy
- Setting-up a quality assurance system for the activities in these different regions
- Providing comprehensive communication and dissemination campaigns accompanying the local energy activities
- Take off implementation of the European certification and quality management system in several communities

Process

The tools and methodologies used in the eea® are the results of the research and development project realised in the 5. FPR and based on the experiences made in 11 model tests during the research project and in about 140 Swiss and Austrian communities applying the forerunner national certification systems for years. Other approaches like environmental management systems, indicator

systems, Local Agenda 21 approaches, etc. were analysed and taken into consideration during the development phase of the tools.

The main tools and methodologies are:

- The **Audit tool**

The audit tool is the central tool of the European Energy Award[®]. It is a checklist for carrying out the energy reviews, serves as a planning aid, and can be used as a benchmark for the external audit and certification. An integral component of the audit-tool is a catalogue of measures based on Ms Excel which specifies approximately 90 concrete measures of energy efficient measures assigned to six local action fields and allocates value points between 1 and 10 per measure for the assessment.

The six local action fields are:

- Development and Regional Planning
- Communal Buildings, Facilities
- Supply, Disposal
- Mobility
- Internal organisation
- Communication and Co-operation

- The **Certification procedure**

- The **Guidebook** which presents the process-orientated procedure step by step.
- The **Good-Practice-Catalogue**, a collection of good examples of local practice.
- Further **Management tools**

Duration of the SAVE II project "Eurena" 1 February 2003 – 31 January 2005

A selection of participating eea[®] cities is, in Germany: Bonn, Rehna, Remscheid, Rommerskirchen, Rostock, Wülfrath and in Austria: Götzis, Frastanz, Hallein, Krumbach, Schwarzach, Thüringen. Certified eea[®] cities are:

Germany: Bielefeld, Solingen, Wuppertal

Austria: Dornbirn

Switzerland: Leuk, Luzern, Zug

Financial resources and partners

Total costs: 815.000 Euro Funds by the EC: 353.000 Euro. The partners were: B.&S.U. Beratungs- und Service-Gesellschaft Umwelt mbH, Berlin/Germany; E.V.A. Energieverwertungsgesellschaft, Wien/Austria; Brandes Energie, Zürich/Switzerland; Irish Energy Centre, Bandon/ Ireland
EVE Ente Vasco de Energía, Bilbao/Spain; LEI Lithuanian Energy Institute, Kaunas/Lithuania
ARE Agenzia Regionale per l'energia Liguria, Genova/Italy; ECB Energy Centre Bratislava, Bratislava/Slovakia; SIR Salzburg Institute for Regional Planning and Housing, Salzburg/Austria; ET Energy Tyrol, Innsbruck/Austria.

Results

The total energy savings stimulated by the project within the next 2-3 years is estimated as 196.000 MWh and the cost savings as 3,92 Mio. EURO.

The implementation of the certification scheme up to now has shown that the following benefits can be achieved:

- Increase of implementation of energy saving measures on local level and of speed to implement projects

Consequently, the communal budgets have been freeing up by reducing energy costs and investments have been done strengthening local markets.

- Energy as an issue has been integrated into the cities marketing activities (“*eea*[®] city”)
- Improvement of the local and regional added value
- Creation of attractive and modern working fields and thus jobs

It is expected that about 66 jobs will be created or maintained in the field of accredited *eea*[®] adviser, accredited *eea*[®] auditor and regional *eea*[®] programme managers.

- Due to the administrative and process-orientated arrangements within the community, “impossible” projects are more likely to be realised
- The co-operation between municipal departments, public services, etc. has been improved significantly
- The integration of the citizens into the certification procedure (e.g. in the framework of Local Agenda 21) has improved the image of the public institutions and increased public awareness
- The awarding ceremony has increased public awareness

Lessons learned and repeatability

Positive aspects of project implementation will be added at a later stage and problems encountered and how (if) overcome will be added at a later stage.

This is one of the most important aims of the project to implement an adequately functioning certification and management system for energy efficient communities throughout Europe adapted to the respective country specific conditions.

Contact for more information:

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Printed reports or other literature available:
Title: brochure: The European Energy Award®