

The City of Porto and Energy 2020

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The City of Porto has a long-standing tradition as the economic capital of the Northern Region of Portugal, with a broad spectrum of commercial and industrial activities benefiting, namely, from its river and sea ports. Porto is also the major Portuguese centre of R&D.

Many industries and urban activities pioneered in the use of innovative technological solutions ahead of their time in the area of energy. Examples are the use of gas for urban mobility, or the use of natural resources, such as dedicated hydroelectrical facilities for industrial units.

To ensure the viability of the investment in the hydro energy resources of the national barrage program in the North of Portugal in the 50's, Porto was transformed in an almost electricity exclusive city.

These outstanding facts in the history of Porto assume today a new twofold, significant role:

- showing the leadership of Porto and its region in the use of proximity energy with hints of innovation and expressions of national energy policies aimed at the use of endogenous resources with the example of the municipal adhesion; and
- determining, today, within a transition frame, the need for a specific diversification policy. This means to use for heat purposes natural gas instead of electricity for environmental reasons as the Portuguese mix is still very carbonic. This is sometimes difficult as there are some incoherencies in the national energy services, namely on the energy prices.

This is the frame in which Porto decided, in 2006, to take a new route in the area of energy and environment, namely, in how the former interferes with the latter in the new reality of CO₂ impact in global warming and climate change.

The Porto Energy Agency was created with the support of the *Intelligent Energy Europe* program together with four other European cities (Riga, Bordeaux, Murcia and Latina). This gave the opportunity to Porto to draw a strategy and define a program for energy, of which we are very proud. Indeed, the welcome and encouragement received from the stakeholders and most notably from the European Commission, are an incentive to further pursue the defined goals.

Porto City Council, following the elaboration in close relation to Porto Energy Agency, of its Sustainability Strategy and the participation in the Covenant of Mayors, approved, in October 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

The Sustainability Strategy is a comprehensive document structured around the “8 plus axis”:

- boosting Porto as a “brand”, among other reasons, taking advantage of the added value of the famous Porto Wine, renowned by the millions of visitors who every year quest for the City;
- the urban renovation as a cyclopic challenge for a city that is home to an Historical Centre, declared World Heritage by Unesco and has social housing for around 1/6 of its population;
- mobility as a critical factor for a city where the daily commuting surpasses 50% of its resident population;
- environment, where energy issues assume again municipal expression;
- education; leisure; competitiveness; and governance.

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan was led by the Municipality, coordinated by Porto Energy Agency and involved the main actors of the city. It is a programmatic document with ambitious goals regarding the reduction of CO₂ emissions of around 45% in 2020 compared to 2004. As for 50 years ago, the energy policy contribution in favor of the Government's renewables is also present here, lowering the CO₂ emissions of the electricity mix which, for the aforementioned historical reasons, is still today the dominant energy vector in the City.

In its turn, the Porto Municipality, through its policy measures in the metropolitan context, is committed in giving its contribution to a CO₂ emissions reduction of around 25% by intervening in mobility, continuing to favor public transportation and "soft" alternatives; and, in buildings, benefiting of the ongoing and future rehabilitation programs.

Other energy efficiency actions will have a very specific energy hallmark, such as in the case of public lighting, the gravity water supply system, the diffusion of solar hot water and the creation of a district heating/cooling network to supply around one hundred institutional and service buildings in downtown Porto.

This plan is made of action both from the municipality and the other stakeholders on the City, such as the Metro (subway) and the Urban Rehabilitation Society.

Most recently, the Porto Energy Agency has extended its territorial scope to the Municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Porto north of the Douro River. This decision will allow for higher coherence in leading proximity energy policies, with particular emphasis on energy efficiency and demand side management.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that the priority of Porto Energy Agency is not the actions oriented to the population, although some are developed. Since the beginning, our main priority is focused on structural actions, namely: the energy status diagnosis and, then, the strategy definition. We intend to influence the decision centres, either at the municipality, at the central level, or with the several stakeholders - most of them being associated to the Porto Energy Agency. In our opinion, this is the most adequate way to promote sustainability.

From the work developed in the last 4 years clearly overcomes the strategy to undertaken in the next 10 years. Now we are working together with other municipalities in a subject that requires a supra-municipal scale. Representing the City of Porto, I am pleased to express great satisfaction for the progress made and hope for what lies ahead.

About the action of Porto Energy Agency, its President, Professor Oliveira Fernandes will present in detail our actions and our goals.

Thank you very much.