

Working Group 1

“From dispersed actions to the preparation of an integrated and participative Municipal action plan”

Main points of the Working Group

Requires:

- Commitment of the council with nominated “Energy Champions” within the elected executive to bring energy and sustainability issues to their attention.
- All projects benefit from using S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed) business case including emissions and economic targets.
- Local actions should involve local partners and NGOs in both the planning and execution of action plans.
- Include Communication and Education tools to “Brand” the municipality in a positive way.
- Be selective about the actions implemented to maintain quality – you can’t do everything at once!
- Use a dedicated monitoring and evaluation process for actions, could be software or use of external, independent accreditation.

Conclusion of the working group:

Learn from “Best Practice” national and European guidelines

“Don’t re-invent the wheel!”

Working Group 2

“From punctual information to the creation of a Local Forum and the promotion of Energy Citizenship”

Main points of the Working Group

- Reach citizens through familiar existing channels in the home or Sporting/Public events.
- Use simple non-technical language to engage citizens.
- The Municipality must be, or try to be a “Shining Example”!
- Have common objectives for the Municipality and Citizens created by informed consultation.
- Education on the key issues is key to the above process.
- Public policy must have a clear roadmap for energy sustainability and identify the key actions required.
- Integration with other environmental issues such as waste, landscape, etc. is important.

Conclusion of the working group:

Most participants of the group believed they were at the beginning of this process

Working Group 3

“From isolated purchases to the stimulation of a local sustainable energy market”

Main points of the Working Group

Positive Points:

- Local communities can benefit through a financial offset provided by an external investor.
- A local sustainable energy market can provide long-term employment.

Negative Points:

- Long term contracts could reduce local accountability for actions by an external investor.
- Current energy markets are turbulent!

Methods for engagement with developers

- Develop sympathetic local policies and laws.
- Encourage voluntary agreements, but ultimately include defined term and conditions of contracts and a method of dispute resolution, e.g. by external arbitration.
- Encourage sustainable procurement locally
- Encourage local financial involvement e.g. community owned collective or private shares.
- Use multi channelled communication via local organisations e.g. Energy Agencies, Sports clubs (via sponsorship), etc.

Key success factors

- Long term vision to develop Urban Sustainability plans based on local conditions.
- Use of S.M.A.R.T (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed) business cases.
- Positive communication with local population through familiar channels.
- “Product placement” e.g. Solar Power at a football stadium.
- Political support with environmental stamina/endurance.

Working Group 4

“From individual social assistance to a fuel poverty & employment policy”

Main points of the Working Group

- Climate change affects the poor more than richer members of society.
- For policies and behaviour to change, it must be demonstrated to politicians that there is a problem.
- Policies that address “Fuel Poverty” show multiple social advantages in both health and economics terms.
- Activate and use existing channels for communication, especially to ethnic and minority groups.
- Solutions must work technically and must be carried out to a good standard e.g. draft proofing and insulation.
- Use training and implementation to create new jobs and promote community strength (cohesion) in difficult areas.

Group conclusion/statement

“A warm, dry and healthy home is a right, not a privilege”