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Promoting Energy efficiency to Local Organisations
through dissemination Partnerships in Europe
Best Actions for Collaboration in Countries
for a High efficient Use of energy in Structural funds

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Local Energy Agency working towards Sustainability -

Almada - Portugal

(project supported by SAVE)

The energy programming is a key action for the Local Energy Management Agency of Almada, AGENEAL work plan, and its results are of paramount importance to the support of the City of Almada environmental action plan.

Target Groups	Sector	Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority - Decision makers - Domestic consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DSM - Monitoring & Management - Information

ANALYSIS

In 1998 the City Council of Almada decided to set up a Municipal Environmental Plan, based on the increasing needs of its population concerning environmental protection and better quality of life, and aiming to act in a more structured way in the prevention and resolution of environmental problems of the Municipality.

With the ultimate goal of operationalizing and optimising the elaboration of the Municipal Environmental Plan, the Municipality of Almada decided to create a new municipal body among the municipal structure: the Municipal Environmental Plan Department.

This structure, formed by a team of 8-10 new technical persons, with different and complementary backgrounds (chemical engineering, environmental engineering, geology, biology, architecture, environmental information and awareness, among others), answers directly to the Mayor and has as its essential mission the coordination of the AL21 process in Almada, providing the necessary dynamics to put into practise policies and principles of sustainable development, including promoting the partnerships necessary for successful implementation.

The creation of a Local Energy Management Agency, AGENEAL, was one the first "deliverables" of the Environmental Action Plan. Energy and environmental concerns formed the basis of the Municipality decision to set up a local energy agency, with the support of SAVE Programme and many other local actors.

The main objectives of AGENEAL are the promotion of energy efficiency in all sectors of activity, the improvement of the market penetration of renewable energies and less damaging fuel energies. Closer co-operation with the Municipality, and in particular with the Municipal Environmental Plan, is not only desirable, but a practical everyday need.



AGENEAL Agência Municipal de Energia de Almada



AGENEAL - Local Energy Management Agency of Almada

Almada 21 Office - Municipal Environment House

COST AND BENEFITS

Some following positive results have already been achieved in the energy field.

- The setting-up of a local energy management agency
- The Energy Programming
- The selection of energy indicators
- The provision of energy advice
- The development of actions pursuing the reduction of energy bills for the Municipality, the reduction of pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases, the Integration in Local Agenda 21, the improvement of the quality of urban life (sustainable development), the increasing of the penetration of renewable energy technologies, the diversification of energy technologies

PARTNERSHIP

The development and build up of partnerships is an essential part/step of the plan and in Almada this is intended to be a democratic and cooperative process. Different committees are being set up to guarantee the broad participation of the local community, citizens, other local actors and several entities and competent institutions. The involvement of different technical departments, municipal councilmen and political groups, social groups (including poor and disadvantaged), all groups of interests (business, economic and education), community groups and neighbourhood commissions and non-governmental organisations, is a necessary condition to formulate a collective strategy for sustainable development. Citizens participating in thematic forums will also be launched.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The State of the Environment Report indicators will be the primary tool for assessing Almada's environmental, social and economic situation, as well as existing administrative policies.

These indicators have been selected according to the OCDE pressure:state:response approach. Existing State of the Environment Reports obtained from cities throughout the world have been reviewed in order to assist the selection of indicators. This is obviously a desirable methodology given that indicators should allow for comparison of existing environmental conditions and their subsequent evolution on a world-wide basis.

A draft list of indicators integrating environmental, developmental, social and economic dimensions has been compiled to provide a starting point to measure the effectiveness of programmes and actions already implemented and the needs to be fulfilled.

Not surprisingly, energy has been selected as one of the individual chapters in the State of the Environment Report, due to the contribution of energy consumption to greenhouse gas emissions. The raw data used to quantify the existing energy situation will be obtained from the Energy Atlas, whose compilation is underway.

The Report will culminate with an exercise to calculate the Municipal Ecological Balance and the "ecological footprint" of the city and of some typical families of Almada, according to their social and economic standards.

In Almada the Action Plan will be simultaneously a strategic and a programmatic tool. Strategic because it will be an instrument of regulatory nature, integrating environmental and socio-economic concepts in local planning and management, whilst contemplating a set of measures for protection and improvement of environment and the standard of living of the population. Programmatic because it will identify objectives, targets and the most relevant actions to be taken, whilst providing an implementation schedule compatible with the available resources.

TO KNOW MORE

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USEFUL INFORMATION

List of Internet sites

[Web site of AGENEAL / http://www.ageneal.pt/](http://www.ageneal.pt/)

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