



penelope bacchus

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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Combined-gas solar systems diffusion campaign

- Sicily - Palermo - Italy

The campaign, addressed to families and communities, is intended to inform users on natural gas back-up solar thermal systems and support them, even financially, in the legal and technical aspects related to the systems installation. A training course for technicians is also provided.

Target Groups	Sector	Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy utilities - Domestic consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy supply - Buildings (including municipal properties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information - Education and training

ANALYSIS

MOTIVATION

The Campaign (carried out from 1999 to 2001) is a promotional and demonstrative initiative addressed to families living in buildings' upper floors or in single houses as well as collective buildings such as hotels, gymnasiums, hospitals.

This initiative is based on the willingness of the Palermo local Gas and Energy Company (AMG) of improving its role in achieving the energy and environmental goals envisaged in the European and Italian White Paper on Renewable Energy Sources by evolving from selling natural gas to supplying innovative energy services.

Palermo is located in Southern Italy, in a very sunny region: the average daily value of total solar radiation is about 5,5 kWh/m² on a 30° inclined south oriented surface.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Campaign is based on four actions:

Action A:

Training courses, funded and organised by AMG and by the Italian Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment (ENEA), have been organised locally for technicians on how to design, install and maintain combined gas-solar systems.

Action B:

It was addressed only to single families still using electric heater to produce hot water and that are interested to shift to a combined system. AMG, through a specific "front office" (call-free phone line and a dedicated Web site) provides the families with:

A list of trained and qualified technicians who have signed a "voluntary agreements" with AMG to install the combined gas-solar systems at special prices,

Legal assistance to obtain tax reduction on investments (1.500 EUR per each system, approximately 36% of the total amount) and to obtain a special 5 years loan negotiated between AMG and a national Bank, In selected cases, AMG provides also a 50 EUR grant.

Action C:

AMG has also installed at its own expenses the combined system in the 15 most representative cases.

Action D:

The same support provided to single families, has been provided also to other organisations such as hospitals, schools, gymnasiums, hotels.

COST AND BENEFITS

GENERAL

Estimates based on the updated Italian tariff system (the cost of kWh grows with the consumption), the special prices agreed for the installation of each combined system and the tax reduction due to the Italian laws, says that the pay-back time for conversion from electric heaters to the combined solar-gas system is less than four years (see fig. 1).

AMG envisaged an investments for installation of combined systems in collective buildings of about 25.000 EUR for Action C and about 300.000 EUR for Action D.

A TEST CASE

A first test case has been developed in 1999, in a Tennis Club; the hot water needs (approximately 10 m³/day) were originally satisfied by two old gasoline boilers with a total costs of 13.000 EUR/year. A combined system with 110 m² of capturing surface and two new natural gas boilers (100 kW each) has been installed.(Fig. 2)

It has been estimated an energy saving of about 70.000 kWh/year, an economic savings of about 3.500 EUR/year and a decrease of 3.500 kg CO₂/year.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

PARTNERSHIP

ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment)
 CODIF (National Consortium of Energy Utilities)
 Banca Sant'Angelo (locally originated bank)
 Legambiente (Leading national environmentalist association)
 ISES Italia
 EUROSOLAR
 Kioto Club (Association of industries promoting environmentally-sound products and processes)
 MEDEA (Mediterranean Agency for Renewable Energies and Water)

RECOMMENDATIONS

OBSTACLES

The smaller target groups as domestic consumers and small enterprises are usually not enough aware of the possibility to get access to national and regional fundings made available in the energy sector. Even though these target groups would intend to renew their thermal systems, the main obstacles for them are the bureaucracy and the lack of information related to the legal and technical aspects. In addition, very few expert and trained technicians are available in some regions, especially in South Italy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Once the National or Regional Authorities approve funds in the energy sector, it is crucial for the success of these initiatives and laws to support the smallest target groups in getting timely and targeted information as well as legal and technical support. In this perspective it is also crucial for these target groups to have only one officially recognised front desk.

TO KNOW MORE

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USEFUL INFORMATION

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