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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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Comparative energy choice studies in public buildings - Savoie department (73) - France

Comparative energy choice studies compulsory for all buildings constructed by municipalities and their coalition applying for department subsidies

Target Groups	Sector	Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority - Regional authorities - Decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buildings (including municipal properties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment / appliances - Monitoring & Management

ANALYSIS

1990 : FIRST PROPOSAL FROM ASDER

In 1990, at the proposal of ASDER, the General Council of Savoie unanimously passed a motion calling for comparative energy choice studies for all buildings constructed by municipal authorities applying for department subsidies.

These studies are an integral part of all municipal development plans incorporating a domestic hot water and/or heating system, are conducted by the usual private engineers and consultants. The mission of ASDER is to ensure that the studies are equitable, clear and understood by the city councils. Until 1995, city councils were free to choose any energy solution they pleased, even if it was not the most suitable in light of the study.

1995: NEW TERMS ADDED TO THE PACKAGE

In 1995, new terms were added to the package:

- If the recommended solution is not the one chosen, the heating and hot water lots are deducted from the subsidizable amount;
- If the municipality chooses a renewable energy solution, it receives a subsidy bonus of 10 points, renewable without limit, and boiler replacement operations will qualify for department aid;
- The scheme now covers social housing.

The study guards against irrational choices of energy and installation techniques. It also represents an opportunity to consider the adoption of less traditional solutions, such as solar heat and energy wood.

COST AND BENEFITS

After ten years of existence, the scheme has been a success:

- At first, compulsory comparative energy studies were seen as a constraint. Today, they are a standard requirement for building owners, who programme their investments in advance to allow time for the design team to get its work done;
- The quality of the studies has improved considerably, and the performance of the buildings covered by the studies has been as predicted;
- The easy, all-electric approach to energy installations has practically disappeared;
- Several renewable energy installations are now in operation (wood boilers, solar heat).

A survey of the municipal authorities which have implemented comparative studies shows that:

- 70 % of those questioned agree that owners see the survey as essential for their energy choice;
- In 20 % of cases, the studies have led owners to substitute their original choice for an energy solution that is economically and environmentally sounder;
- 50 % of respondents feel the overall quality of the surveys to be good.

Other departments operate similar schemes, though none have made the comparative studies compulsory (Drôme, Isère, Haute-Savoie, Lot).

PARTNERSHIP

An "ENERGY WORKING GROUP" has been set up. Chaired by a Vice-President of the General Council, it comprises local representatives, technicians (from the department, the region, ADEME, DDE, DDAF), the consultant engineers' association, CAUE, the university, EDF, Gaz de France and ASDER.

The group meets only once or twice every year, but this is enough to outline local energy policies (comparative studies, energy wood plan, DSM, rural electrification, bioclimatic housing and, in the near future, solar heat). This united approach avoids zero-sum outcomes and encourages innovation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO KNOW MORE

Name organisation : [ASDER \(Association savoyarde pour le développement des énergies renouvelables\)](#)
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USEFUL INFORMATION

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