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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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Regional Network for Energy Accounting Services -

Waldviertel / Lower Austria - Austria

Energy controlling based on an intranet solution supports energy efficiency activities in buildings for more than 30 communities, the regional administration's offices and a few commercial energy consumers.

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

ANALYSIS

The small energy agency in the rural area of Waldviertel (Lower Austria) established an intranet-based energy accounting system for communities, regional administrations and commercial energy consumers. This service is supposed to be a basis for further energy efficiency activities with the partners.

THE IDEA

Energy accounting is an important tool for municipalities and other medium and large sized energy consumers to monitor and to assess the energy demand and energy costs of its buildings and energy-consuming facilities: it offers valuable data for the evaluation and planning of energy retrofits or other energy management measures and is therefore an important basis to save both energy and costs.

Two major obstacles make it difficult for some institutions to implement energy controlling:

If the number of (comparable) buildings or facilities is rather small it might be difficult to interpret the energy consumption figures. A network with a critical number of comparable buildings and facilities allows benchmarking of key indicators and might introduce some aspects of an "energy efficiency" competition.

The implementation of an energy accounting system requires some preliminary activities and decisions, like choosing and implementing a software system, decision about standardised guidelines for the collection of master data (e.g. building data) and key indicators in order to make them later comparable.

THE IMPLEMENTATION

The energy agency provides a server with energy accounting software, accessible for the partners via intranet and internet for the input of energy consumption and cost data (an internet based data input is planned for the near future). Reports and benchmarks can be easily calculated on the client side. As additional service the agency can supply interpretation and advice for specific measures to reduce energy costs and consumption. The project has been started in 1999 as a continuous service.

COST AND BENEFITS

Energy accounting has an obvious relation to accounting at a company's level. Like accounting and controlling have the function to balance and monitor the flow of money, energy accounting's aim is to balance and monitor the flow of energy and related costs continuously.

Energy accounting by itself does not reduce energy demand or costs. But it is the basis to identify weaknesses and to select and prioritise appropriate measures for the improvement of the energy system. It has been shown that energy accounting can raise the awareness of responsible persons for energy demand of certain uses. This awareness can by itself result in the reduction of energy demand (sometimes with very little or even without any investments).

Typical reduction of the energy consumption ranges between 5 and 15% based on identified weak points and optimisations. In several cases is the accumulated data base a reliable starting point for energy performance contracting for public buildings and street lighting with an expected increase in energy efficiency of about 30%.

PARTNERSHIP

Currently more than 30 communities in the region are working with the system. The regional administration of Lower Austria started to implement the tool in their 21 district offices followed by the administrative centre itself. The next step will be to include 20 bakeries of the region; several other commercial sectors should follow a successful implementation.

For the agency energy accounting is supposed to be the source for further efficiency measures and projects by building up a reliable partnership linked with a rough assessment of energy related weaknesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Key-factors for the successful implementation of energy accounting in this project may be summarised as follows:

- A general political (or high level) commitment for the implementation of energy-accounting as well as a co-ordinating person will ease the cross-department work and communication.
- The implementation of energy-accounting and energy book-keeping will demand certain financial and personal resources. The efforts for the running process will be comparable low, but personal resources are often in competition with other tasks.
- Every single person involved in energy accounting should therefore be well-informed about targets and benefits of energy accounting.
- Translate the technical results into understandable language and communicate them regularly to the responsible persons and decision makers. Include proposal for improving measures if suitable.

TO KNOW MORE

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USEFUL INFORMATION

List of Internet sites

[Energieagentur Waldviertel Website \(only in German\) / http://www.wvnet.at/energieagentur/main2.htm](http://www.wvnet.at/energieagentur/main2.htm)

[Energy accounting in municipalities - Key factors for the successful implementation \(German and English\) / http://www.eva.ac.at/projekte/ebh.htm](http://www.eva.ac.at/projekte/ebh.htm)

[Energy accounting in municipalities - Software \(only in German\) / http://www.eva.ac.at/service/ebh.htm](http://www.eva.ac.at/service/ebh.htm)

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