

## Sustainable energy communities in action

Welcome to this 6<sup>th</sup> and final edition of the Sustainable **NOW** e-Newsletter. This newsletter provides an overview of results of the project **European Sustainable Energy Communities - effective Integrated Local Energy Action today (Sustainable NOW)**. The focus is on guidance developed to develop sustainable energy communities from an integrated management perspective.

Previous newsletters are available on the project website – [www.sustainable-now.eu](http://www.sustainable-now.eu).

---

### CONTENTS

1. Developing LEAP planning capacity
  - a. Optimising exchange: clustering partners by type
  - b. Building capacity: sharing expertise and offering guidance
2. Tools and guidance for local governments
3. Events

---

## This newsletter summarises the achievements of the partners and guidance developed during the Sustainable NOW project.

### 1. Developing LEAP planning capacity

The **Sustainable NOW** project – running from September 2008 to August 2011 – had as main goal the development (or improvement) of Local Energy Action Plans (LEAPs) - *also called Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) in the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative*.

Start-up local governments were invited to partner and learn from experts as well as more advanced local and provincial governments. The latter were keen to share their knowledge and experiences, to help develop capacity in the learning communities, but were also interested in further building their own expertise by exchanging with peers. Both groups were supported by expert partners and networks dealing with municipalities and the topic of energy – these provided technical support to develop LEAPs and present useful guidance material.

The integrated management approach formed a cornerstone of the Sustainable NOW project, with guidance offered to the partner communities to explore this approach in their LEAP development.



### 1.1 Optimising exchange: clustering partners by type

The partners in the project were divided into the following clusters that interact with one another, to optimise exchange in the learning and support programme:

- **‘Circle of Learning’ – start-up communities, also a cluster of small communities in an area**
  - Municipality of Burgas, Bulgaria
  - City of Miskolc, Hungary
  - City of Ludwigsburg, Germany
  - Rosignano Marittimo Municipality, Italy
  - Mountain Community – Municipalities Association “Trasimeno – Middle Tiber”, Italy
- **‘Circle of Excellence’ – advanced cities, towns and provinces**
  - Municipality of Bologna, Italy
  - City of Ludwigsburg, Germany
  - Rosignano Marittimo Municipality, Italy
  - City of Munich, Germany
  - Province of Siena, Italy
  - Woking Borough Council, United Kingdom
- **Local government networks (European and national)**
  - Coordinamento Agenda 21 Locali Italiane – *Italian network of local governments*
  - Climate Alliance – *European network of municipalities addressing climate change*
  - ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat – *European network of municipalities addressing local sustainable development*
- **Thematic experts (theme specific)**
  - Banca Etica – *sustainable finances*
  - Ecovision GmbH – *planning renewable energy projects*
  - Trecodome – *sustainable buildings*



### 1.2 Building capacity: Sharing expertise and offering guidance

The project’s main aim was to develop capacity to strengthen the role of local and provincial governments as political and administrative bodies guiding communities in the sustainable energy transition, overcoming non-technical barriers and creating tangible results for sustainability.

This was done by following several steps:

- **Identifying basic levels of development in each municipality partner** (e.g. status regarding target setting and LEAP development) to identify main challenges and needs for specific knowledge and guidance
  - a. Outcome: Assessment report per municipality used as basis throughout the project, also to monitor developments.



- **Creating circles to bring together municipalities** with a similar level of development (start-up or more advanced)
  - a. Outcome: Two circles of engagement created (“circle of learning” and “circle of excellence”), with two partners engaged in both circles as they had expertise in particular areas and needed support in others.
  - b. Benefits for “circle of learning” partners:
    - Gain tailor-made assistance and support with specific, local challenges;
    - Discuss barriers and steps forward for dealing with particular issues throughout the LEAP process;
    - Identify replicable factors in areas where the ‘advanced’ (twined) city has attained particular success.
- **Exploring relevant issues within the circles**, to determine which partner could pool which level of know-how and identify similar challenges / questions.
  - a. Outcome: an outline of typical challenges and a first exploration of potential solutions, available tools and outlining first action steps.
- **Exchanging between the two circles** (learning and advanced) to identify solutions and match potential partners
  - a. Outcome: A more detailed outline of typical challenges and more in-depth exploration of potential solutions, available tools.
  - b. Outcome: A staff trainee programme where the learning municipality gains an insight into technical and planning issues from the advanced community
  - c. Outcome: Workshops to exchange and explore specific topics more in-depth
  - d. Outcome: Presenting an integrated management system for LEAP development
  - e. Outcome: Exploring financing options
- **Developing guidance material and tools:**
  - a. Developing a Local Energy Action Plan wizard to support decision-making
  - b. Identifying actions, explained by brief case studies (outlining process steps and indicators) to help extract guidance that can be used in the LEAP wizard
  - c. Developing a Process Management Landscape Tool offering step-by-step guidance to an integrated, cyclical, sustainable energy management methodology.
  - d. Developing an online database to collect useful resources for local governments, relevant to local climate and energy action.
- **Starting LEAP development / improvement within the municipalities:**
  - a. Outcome: Starting LEAP development in the learning communities, including stakeholder involvement and exploring how to apply an integrated cyclical management approach
  - b. Outcome: Identify next level of questions and refer these to the available experts
  - c. Outcome: First draft LEAPs available in the 5 learning communities
  - d. Outcome: Exploring the option to join the Covenant of Mayors (CoM)
- **Sharing results with others:**
  - a. Outcome: Six e-Newsletters
  - b. Outcome: National conferences in Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy
  - c. Outcome: Final results brochure “Sustainable NOW – Ways to successful sustainable energy action planning”
  - d. Outcome: Final Public Report



## 2. Tools and guidance for local governments

A range of tools and guidance material was developed in the Sustainable NOW project, or offered to the partner municipalities, to support them with their LEAP development.



### Decision-making support:

- **The Sustainable Energy Communities Web Portal: Your sustainable energy entry point** – Practical support for cities and towns across Europe, with basic guidance, tools and links to support the development of Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) - [www.sustainable-now.eu/webportal](http://www.sustainable-now.eu/webportal)
- **Integrated management process** - A Process Management Landscape Tool was developed to provide step-by-step guidance to an integrated, cyclical, sustainable energy management methodology, providing examples of action by local governments.
- **LEAP Wizard:** A web-based decision making support tool for local governments presenting case studies of sustainable energy actions in a way that supports optimal replication and decision making by other cities – <http://wizard.sustainable-now.eu>
- **Resource Database** – The *Toolbox of Methodologies on Climate and Energy* is an online collection of tools and resources in many different languages to assist local governments and their partners in planning local climate and energy action (*reports, videos, weblinks, etc..*) – <http://toolbox.climate-protection.eu>



**"The tools and strategies developed as part of the Sustainable NOW project have enabled Burgas to make a confident transition onto becoming a sustainable energy city"**- Atanaska Nikolova, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Burgas

### Greenhouse Gas Inventory Support:

#### General guidance and advice:

- **International Local Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis Protocol (IEAP)** - General principles for all local governments, regardless of location, when inventorying GHGs from its government operations and community as a whole - it outlines the type of GHGs, boundaries and scopes to be addressed - [www.iclei.org/ghgprotocol](http://www.iclei.org/ghgprotocol)
- **Sustainable NOW Energy and Emissions Monitoring Report** – sharing the city partners' approaches regarding data collection and monitoring energy projects and emissions reduction developments - [http://cms.iclei-europe.org/fileadmin/template/projects/sustainable\\_now/files/Energy\\_and\\_emissions\\_monitoring\\_report\\_Deliverable\\_4.3\\_.pdf](http://cms.iclei-europe.org/fileadmin/template/projects/sustainable_now/files/Energy_and_emissions_monitoring_report_Deliverable_4.3_.pdf)

**ICLEI Europe offers the following support:**

- **Basic Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Toolkit of the European Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign** – [www.iclei-europe.org/ccp](http://www.iclei-europe.org/ccp) (*free tool, CCP Campaign registration required*)
  - This free tool for CCP Europe participants and ICLEI members was developed to support local governments in Europe with their 1<sup>st</sup> baseline emissions inventory. The toolkit contains a simple-to-use excel spreadsheet, a guidebook and FAQ to guide municipal staff through their first GHG inventory.
  - It can be used for Covenant of Mayors reporting.
- **HEAT+ tool** – <http://heat.iclei.org> (*costs apply*)
  - The Harmonised Emissions Analysis Tool Plus is ICLEI's newest software for GHG reduction planning and monitoring tool. It is designed to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions and common air pollutants (such as CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, and VOC).
  - This tool is available to all local governments in Europe, with a reduced fee for ICLEI members. It is linked to international standards and protocols.

**Climate Alliance offers the following support:**

- **Eco2Regions tool** - [www.co2-kommunalbilanz.de](http://www.co2-kommunalbilanz.de) (*costs apply*)
  - This internet-based tool (developed in collaboration with Ecospeed) helps local authorities to follow up on progress in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and therefore monitor whether they fulfil their commitments. It has been officially recognised by the European Commission as efficient and suitable software for the compilation of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emission inventories within the framework of the Covenant of Mayors. By means of an automatic function, relevant data can be directly exported to fill in the requirements for the BEI in the 'SEAP template'. It is currently available in six countries (Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, France, Ukraine and Switzerland).
- **CLIMATE COMPASS** – [www.climate-compass.net](http://www.climate-compass.net) (*costs apply*)
  - Climate Alliance has developed a series of supporting documents and guidelines for the elaboration of local climate action plans, such as [Climate Compass](#) (incl; step-by-step approach, checklists, catalogue of measures per field of action).

---

**Events**

Event name: **Local Renewables 2011: Green Buildings and Renewable Energy**  
Date: 27 – 28 October 2011  
Place: Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany  
Web: <http://www.local-renewables-conference.org/freiburg2011>



Event name: **Informed Cities Forum 2011 - Rio+20, local performance and the role of research**  
Date: 26 - 27 October 2011  
Place: Naples, Italy  
Web: <http://informed-cities.iclei-europe.org/>



Event name: **Ecoheat4cities workshop for city representatives**



Date: 28 November 2011 (afternoon)  
Place: Brussels, Belgium  
Web: <http://ecoheat4cities.eu>

Event name: **Covenant of Mayors Ceremony**  
Date: 29 November 2011  
Place: Brussels , Belgium  
Web: [http://www.eumayors.eu/agenda\\_en.html?id\\_event=260](http://www.eumayors.eu/agenda_en.html?id_event=260)



---

## Contact:

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability  
European Secretariat  
Leopoldring 3  
D-79098 Freiburg  
Germany  
E-mail: [sustainable-now@iclei.org](mailto:sustainable-now@iclei.org)  
URL: [www.sustainable-now.eu](http://www.sustainable-now.eu)  
Tel.: + 49 - 761 - 368 92 0

Sustainable NOW is co-funded by:



The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.