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cooperating in sustainable energy planning



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COOPENERGY Newsletter Edition No2: Welcome!

Welcome to the **second** edition of the COOPENERGY project newsletter where you can find out about our latest project news and European events to help you plan sustainable energy actions with local authorities in your region.

In this edition find out more about:

- [NEW: database of sustainable energy planning case studies now online!](#)
- [NEW: guidebook for Local and Regional Public Authorities online](#)
- [The latest energy news from Europe](#)
- [Funding opportunities](#)
- [IEE Project Feature: SMILEGOV](#)
- [Local news from COOPENERGY partners](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Training](#)
- [Get Involved!](#)

If you would like to share news on your sustainable energy projects and partnership work, please contact us at climate.change@kent.gov.uk

NEW: database of sustainable energy planning case studies now online!

With public authorities increasingly delivering 'more with less', we aim to save time and money by working more effectively together on sustainable energy planning, to maximise the benefits a joint approach can achieve.

Through the COOPENERGY project we have sought best practice on how regional councils (including county councils) across Europe are already collaborating successfully with their local authority partners, in order to deliver their sustainable energy plans and initiatives.

Throughout the summer 2013 we contacted around 250 public authorities in all EU28 member states and 115 regional energy agencies to obtain the best examples and models of collaboration from across Europe.

As a result over 150 good practices were submitted to us, and we have selected 60 of the 'best' to showcase as case studies through the COOPENERGY website.

View the case studies online now:

www.coopenergy.eu/good-practice-resources



This database of case studies aims to provide ideas on how you could collaborate more effectively with your local authority partners on sustainable energy planning. Each best practice case study includes information on:

- How public authorities have set up partnerships to deliver energy initiatives successfully
- What joint-mechanisms have worked to secure financing
- The key results achieved through these initiatives and their success factors
- How these initiatives can be transferred or 'replicated' to another area

Case studies from the UK, which will be available over the coming month, include a joint initiative by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership to provide 'Support and Advice to Businesses around Renewable Energy' (SABRE); and several different partnership initiatives demonstrating how local authorities are promoting energy efficiency improvements, through mechanisms such as the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (the Warmer Worcestershire initiative, Insulate Hampshire initiative, Sussex Energy Saving Partnership and the Kent & Medway Green Deal Partnership).

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NEW: guidebook for Local and Regional Public Authorities to assist a collaborative approach to energy planning

COOPENERGY partners have drawn on their experiences to develop a **guidebook on 'Implementing Multi-level Governance'**, designed to help local authorities set up the partnerships, collaboration models and agreements needed to **deliver sustainable energy initiatives and action plans (SEAPs) effectively in partnership.**

If you are a local or regional public authority, this guidebook can help you to:

- **Decide where to start** to develop a regional Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP);
- **Decide what planning tools you could use** to meet the needs of local and regional partners;
- **Develop your approach to engaging with the right stakeholders** during the preparation of your plan or initiative, to secure their buy-in and support.
- **Set-up the agreements or models you need** to deliver your energy plans and initiatives in partnership: saving time, cutting inefficiencies and sharing resources effectively in the process.
- Identify where you can **get further information, support and funding**

MLG Guidebook

- About COOPENERGY
- Why implement MLG?
- Are you a regional authority?
- Are you a local authority?
- Example collaboration models
- Implementation guidelines
- User's checklist
- Links and contacts
- Glossary
- Feedback questionnaire

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The **COOPENERGY MLG Guide**, based on experiences from nine European **Sustainable Energy Regions**, aims to provide all the information you need in order to implement **collaborative sustainable energy planning** processes and tools between **regional and local levels**, helping you to:

- Decide where to start and what to do next in your journey to develop a regional **Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and planning tools** which are **consistent** with the needs of **municipalities and communities** within your region
- **Involve regional and local stakeholders** during the preparation phase in order to get their buy-in and support, ensuring **long term benefits for your Region**, its stakeholders and citizens
- Deliver SEAPs in partnership, avoid duplication, cut inefficiencies, and share energy resources to help residents and communities make the transition to a low carbon society and

where you can get **further information, support and funding**

"Multi-level governance refers to the effective interaction between the different political levels for an improved coordination and coherence between the local, regional, national and European policy level"

This guide will support public authorities to **work together on sustainable energy plans** and includes:

- **Case studies** on how regional and local public authorities from across Europe have successfully collaborated together on sustainable energy planning
- **Guidelines** on how to implement a collaborative planning and multi-level governance process
- **Testimonies** from decision-makers involved in the project
- **Links to information** to support public authorities in the planning process

Read the guidebook now: <http://www.coopenergy.eu/mlg>

We would welcome your feedback on this initial version, to inform the final guidebook which will be published in 2015. Feedback through our online survey:

<http://www.coopenergy.eu/multi-level-governance-guidebook-user-survey>

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The latest energy news from Europe

Final IPCC report on climate change mitigation published

The IPCC has published the final volume of its fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change Mitigation, focussing on how we can limit greenhouse gas emissions and begin removing them from the atmosphere. The report finds that emissions are still rising and capping warming at 2°C is still possible, but will require a wide range of actions across all sectors, and internationally.

Read and download the full report on the [IPCC website](#).

Report on energy efficiency indicators for policy-makers

A manual by the International Energy Agency 'Energy Efficiency Indicators: Fundamentals on Statistics' and its supporting

manual 'Essentials for Policy Making' aims to assist policy-makers in delivering and measuring the impact of their energy efficiency work, by identifying the main energy efficiency indicators in each sector and what data is needed to monitor progress against them. The report aims to assist those countries currently lacking the data to develop robust energy efficiency indicators to support their decision-making.

Download the report from the [International Energy Agency website](#).

ENERGee-Watch GHG report

ENERGee Watch, the European network of regional GHG emissions and energy data observatories, has issued its first report to compare available data on energy and GHG emissions across EU regions. The report identified a clear gap in what (and how) data is collected across regions in order to inform planning and decision-making.

Download the report from the [Energee-Watch website](#).

EU ETS emissions drop

The latest data from the EU emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) suggests emissions from power and manufacturing installations within the scheme dropped by over 3% between 2012 and 2013. However the data should be treated with caution due to changes in the scope of emissions covered by the scheme.

Read more on the [European Commission website](#).

New studies on availability of biomass across Europe

Two studies, commissioned by Transport and Environment, BirdLife Europe, and the European Environmental Bureau, have sought evidence on where biomass can be sustainably sourced across Europe. The first study assesses the availability of land to grow energy crops, whilst the second assesses the amount of available forest biomass and the implications of its use.

Read the full studies, and policy briefings on each, on the [Transport & Environment website](#).

New paper on the sustainable challenges for cities

The World Bank has issued a research paper to explore the challenges and opportunities of developing smart and sustainable cities. Three aspects of sustainability were assessed: the ability of cities to maintain a good quality of life, reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and be resilient to natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Read the paper on the [Word Bank website](#).

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Funding Opportunities

Horizon 2020 call for proposals

Horizon 2020, the EU's largest research programme, launched in December with €79 billion of funding available for 2014-2020. The fund aims to promote energy research and innovation to address the challenge of developing secure, clean and efficient energy. The programme is welcoming proposals to the fund and COOPENERGY project partners **Bocconi University (Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy)** have developed a proposal for the Horizon 2020 call EE 7 – 2014 - *Enhancing the capacity of public authorities to plan and implement sustainable energy policies and measures*.

Read more about the fund on the [European Commission website](#).

LIFE Programme (2014-2020) – set to launch this month

The LIFE Programme, dedicated to funding developments in EU environmental policy and legislation, is due to issue its first call for project proposals this month. The two LIFE sub-programmes related to Environment and Climate Action are within the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017.

More information can be found on the [European Commission website](#).

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IEE Project Feature: SMILEGOV progress multi-level cooperation across Island clusters

Whilst COOPENERGY looks at facilitating public authorities to build multi-level governance on mainland Europe, the IEE Smilegov project is working to address barriers to multi-governance across clusters of EU islands, to aid the implementation of sustainable energy action plans and projects.

In recent news, SMILEGOV held a capacity building workshop on building effective multi-level cooperation in Sliema, Malta. The workshop focused on knowledge transfer between island clusters and included a range of videos on good examples of multi-level governance processes (e.g. [successful case of the Biogas](#)) as well as practical case studies to aid those working on sustainable energy actions.

SMILEGOV has also interviewed decision-makers across island clusters to find out more about how they influence energy policy and how effective governance has been built to achieve sustainable energy goals, including interviews with [former French MP, Didier Robert](#) and Mr Tearii Alpha, [French Polynesian Minister for Marine Resources, Mining And Research](#).



Find out more about the work of the SMILEGOV project on the [SMILEGOV website](#).

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Local Partner News: project progress from the COOPENERGY Partnership

COOPENERGY partners have updated their regional pages of the COOPENERGY website, with the progress they have made since the COOPENERGY project began in April 2013. Visit each partners regional page to find out more, including how:

- **Rhône-Alpes (RCRA), Rhônalpénergie-Environnement (RAEE) and Hespul** are working together to provide a collaborative energy planning service for Territories aiming to be Energy POSitive (TEPOS).
- **Zlin Energy Agency** have established two new working groups, one to enable the agency to collaborate with representatives of Holešov town council on the Energy concept and SEAP of the Zlín Region; the other to facilitate cooperation between the private and public sectors in the field of central heat supply systems.
- **Regional Energy Agency (ARE) Liguria** have set-up multi-level governance arrangements to review their regional SEAP, discuss regional energy policies and coordinate energy planning initiatives, at both the regional and local level.
- **Bocconi University - Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (UBIEFE)** held a seminar at the European Commission Joint Research Centre premises in Ispra, on the topic of determinants of cities' GHG emissions.
- **Metropolitan Region Rhine-Neckar GmbH (MRN)** has committed to climate protection with the Rhine-Neckar County.
- **Basque Energy Agency/Ente Vasco de la Energía (EVE)** and HAZI formalised a cooperation agreement to promote the development and utilisation of forest biomass for energy, in the Basque countryside.
- **Norrbottn Region Energy Agency (NENET)** have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation committing to collaborate in improving energy planning processes and held an Energy Info Day to promote the regional energy and climate strategy and to encourage local actions
- **Kent County Council (KCC)** has strengthened multi-level governance arrangements with local public authority partners in Kent, in order to review sustainable energy plans in Kent and deliver joint actions. This includes the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation and a review of terms of reference for groups across three levels of governance.

Find out more on the [COOPENERGY website](#).

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Upcoming Events and Training

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2014 - 23 to 27 June, across Europe.

The European Commission's annual week (EUSEW) to promote action to achieve our EU energy and climate goals is taking place in Brussels. The week includes a High Level Policy Conference (HLPC) in Brussels, with 30 sessions covering a range of topics in the energy sector, and two Awards ceremonies to recognise those projects achieving their energy goals. During the whole of June, hundreds of energy days will also be taking place and you can register to attend – or register an event you are organising – on the EUSEW website.

Find out more about the week on the [EUSEW website](#).

COOPENERGY: Technical workshop on finance – 20 June 2014, Milan.

COOPENERGY partners are organising an event, dedicated to regional and local financing for sustainable energy planning. During the workshops, regional and local public authorities will learn about the different funding mechanisms that can be used to fund joint approaches to sustainable energy planning, ranging from urban development funds to crowd funding.

If you have any questions to pose to our expert finance panel on the day, please tweet us at [@coopenergyeu](#) and use the hash tag [#fundsustainableenergy](#).

Find out more about the event on the [COOPENERGY website](#).

Find about the latest events and training from across Europe on our events calendar:

<http://www.coopenergy.eu/events>

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Get involved!

Register for free on our COOPENERGY collaboration platform to access further energy planning resources, the latest COOPENERGY project newsletters, and take advantage of our online discussion forum to discuss planning for sustainable energy with other regional authorities and councils from across Europe.

Sign up to the collaboration platform [here](#)

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COLLABORATION PLATFORM

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