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cooperating in sustainable energy planning



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## COOPENERGY Newsletter Edition No.3: A new year...and exciting new resources for sustainable energy!

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

### In this edition find out more about:

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

## COOPENERGY to date...and the year ahead

Through COOPENERGY we aim to establish how local and regional authorities can work better together on their sustainable energy work, to deliver on the EU 2020 targets. We are just over the half-way post of the project and this work has already provided new insights on better ways to work collaboratively.

### Resources for public authorities available now...

#### Database of case studies

To highlight the [best models of cooperation](#) on sustainable energy from across Europe.

#### Cooperation Guidelines

On [how to work collaboratively](#) on sustainable energy, as a public authority.

#### Top tips for financing

Check out our videos on [crowdfunding](#), [financing energy efficiency](#) projects & more.

#### Techniques

For [planning & monitoring](#) energy plans, shared during our technical workshops.

### Resources coming up in the year ahead...

- **A financial factsheet** – sharing tips and guidance on financing sustainable energy initiatives.
- **A guidebook** – on how to build effective partnerships and collaboration models needed to deliver energy initiatives, as a public authority. **Your feedback is being sought on this initial version of the guidebook via a short survey:** <http://www.coopenergy.eu/content/multi-level-governance-guidebook-user-survey> (closes 1st April 2015).
- **Resources on engagement** – sharing good practice on how public authorities are engaging people in their energy plans and initiatives.
- **Transferring good practice across regions** – in the next stages of the project, COOPENERGY partners will be transferring the best practice and approaches to cooperation developed within their own regions, to other regions outside of the project. We will be sharing our experiences of this process, on the website over this next year.

## In the spotlight: case study of the month

Through the COOPENERGY project we have sought the best examples of collaboration between regional (county) and local authorities on sustainable energy initiatives.

Read this month's case study about the 'Warmer Worcestershire Initiative' - a partnership between Worcestershire County Council, five local councils, and key partners (including the Fire Services and NHS) to offer grants and support to residents to heat their homes affordably and reduce carbon emissions and energy poverty.



To read more case studies, visit our online good practice database: [www.coopenergy.eu/good-practice-resources](http://www.coopenergy.eu/good-practice-resources)

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## Open call for participation- Join the MAYORS in ACTION coaching programme!

The [Mayors in Action project](#) focuses on supporting Coordinators and Supporters (C&S) of the Covenant of Mayors (CoM), to select, adapt and channel good practices for the implementation and monitoring of existing SEAPs through training, tutoring and coaching schemes, addressing C&S and municipalities. C&S from across Europe are **invited to participate** in a tailor-made twinning programme on strategies for evaluation of SEAPs, methodologies for implementation, methods for triggering financial opportunities, and how to improve communication and support with municipalities.

Learn more about the [MAYORS in ACTION's international coaching and peer-review scheme](#).

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## New resources from the SMILEGOV project

The SMILEGOV project, has launched two new resources to help public authorities collaborate on their energy plans and initiatives (using multi-level governance approaches), across clusters of EU islands. These resources include:

- **Seven good practice factsheets** – these factsheets discuss the conditions that enable good multi-level cooperation – using the experiences of SMILEGOV partners from their own regions across Europe.
- **Guidelines for implementing sustainable energy projects** – these guidelines aim to build the capacity of European Islands to work collaboratively across Islands on their energy projects.

More resources can be found on the [SMILEGOV website](#).

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## Funding Opportunities

### LIFE Programme (2014-2017) – two new financial instruments launched

The LIFE Programme has launched two new financial instruments this month. The first, called 'Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)' aims to support Member states to make progress with their EU energy efficiency targets; a total of €80 million is available and is being managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The fund can be applied for up until **30 June 2017**.

The second, called the 'Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCFE)' will provide loans and investment to projects which promote the preservation of natural capital. This includes adaptation to climate change; a total of €100-125 million is available for the 2014-2017 LIFE programme. Those interested in developing a project can contact the EIB at any time to discuss their ideas.

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

**NEW Interreg IVB –Project Ideas Laboratory on 17 March 2015**

Interreg North West Europe (NWE) is organising a Project Ideas Laboratory event to enable officers wishing to apply for co-funding through Interreg NEW to discuss their ideas for a cooperation projects.

The event is free **to attend** and takes place on 17 **March in Lille, France**. The first call for projects is in April.

**More information on the event can be found on the [NWE Interreg IVB Website](#).**

### **Rural funding tool**

Future of Rural Energy in Europe (Free) has developed a handy online funding tool which lists the funding mechanisms that are available to finance sustainable energy projects in rural areas.

**Check out the tool on the [Free website](#).**

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### **Upcoming Events and Training**

#### **COOPENERGY: Technical workshop on stakeholder engagement – 12 March 2015, Lulea.**

COOPENERGY partners are organising a seminar, dedicated to sharing expertise and experiences of the tools that can be used to engage stakeholders in energy plans and initiatives – and raise their awareness. COOPENERGY partner regions will present successful cases of stakeholder involvement, and during an interactive session you will work on a case together with other participants to train your skills.

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

**To attend the seminar, email us your interest at [info@coopenergy.eu](mailto:info@coopenergy.eu).**

**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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