

Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur region, FR – AGIR(+) programme

Time period: 2006-ongoing

Theme of collaboration: Developing sustainable energy plans, Implementing joint financial mechanisms, Engaging stakeholders in energy plans

Application: Energy efficiency, Renewable energy production, GHG reduction, Climate adaptation

Topic: Support and promotion of local initiatives, Financial support programme

Description

Concerned for its future, the region of PACA took a strong commitment towards better managing its energy consumption. To take up this challenge, the region launched in 2006 a programme named "AGIR" (Action Globale Innovante pour la Région – Innovative Global Action for the Region) in collaboration with the National Energy Agency. Since 2011 the programme is called AGIR+.

The programme provides technical and/or financial assistance to exemplary and innovative actions towards energy savings and renewable energy sources. It uses annual and permanent Calls for projects, some of which are permanent and others sectoral. The idea is to support a large variety of initiatives stemming from many different partners (public players, associations and businesses).

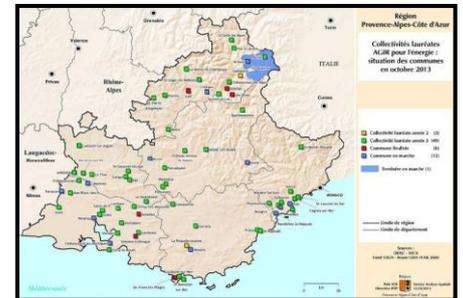
The programme has 5 axes under which the Calls are launched:

1. A dynamic energy transition for territories: local energy agencies created, 34 municipal sustainable action plans adopted,...
2. Refurbishment into low consumption buildings: training of trainers..
3. Production of clean energy: PACA is the leading region in France on photovoltaic electricity production,...
4. Exemplarity in ecologically approaches: 3.5 millions of km of individual car driving avoided,...
5. Involvement of a large number of citizens, of which 700,000 live in fuel poverty

Each project must include an energy target (diminishing consumption by 30 to 50%), but many of them also include a water, an environmental quality of building or a transport component.

Context / Background

The programme was initiated to compensate for the development of the ITER nuclear energy project, with the following **policy: for each euro invested in ITER, 1€ will be invested for energy efficiency and renewable energy.**



Map of municipalities involved

Key results

- Average 34 million kWh energy saved annually
- 22 million kWh electricity produced by new renewable energy systems
- More than 100 jobs (direct and indirect) have been created

Partners involved – Governance

The **regional council** assesses, coordinates and funds the energy actions, in collaboration with ADEME (**National Energy Agency**) and the DREAL (**state decentralised regional directorate for the environment**) by co-financing projects. **Local authorities** then implement and monitor the actions.

Financing & costs

The budget set by the region for this programme was:

- € 70 M for the 2007-2010 period (AGIR)
- € 60 M for the 2011-2014 period (AGIR +)

Human resources: 5 Full Time Equivalent (programme monitoring and projects following).

Results achieved

- 66 communities are involved in the AGIR/AGIR+ programme, representing 20% of the regional population, meaning about 1 million citizens out of the 5 million inhabiting the region have been positively affected.
- 1200 projects with a strong energy/environment dimension have been supported since 2007, of which 600 in the 2007-2010 period.
- An average 34 million kWh energy have been saved each year thanks to the projects supported by AGIR/AGIR+, which is equivalent to 10,000 households' energy consumption in the region.
- 22 million kWh of electricity were produced thanks to renewable energy developments supported by AGIR/AGIR+, equivalent to 7,000 households' energy consumption in the region.
- Leverage: €1 subsidy generated €10 of works/services, totalling €1.2 Billion of economic activity generated.
- More than 100 jobs (direct and indirect) have been created, mainly on environmental management and energy savings management.

Lessons learned & Success factors:

A key aspect is the **long term involvement of the region**. It has been participating into the funding for almost 8 years.

Also, the **regional approach gives an overall view** of the various local initiatives implemented and has a **greater impact than the sum of individual projects**.

The main weakness is figured by the **growing complexity of the programme due to the increase of the number of projects** helped. Each of them has to be followed and helped during at least a few years. New added projects decrease the amount of available time to spend on each project.

Similar Initiatives – Transferability

- ▶ Best Practice "Climate Covenant" (Netherlands)



Budget range

< € 100,000
€ 100,000 – € 1,000,000
€ 1,000,000 – € 10,000,000
€ 10,000,000 – € 100,000,000
> € 100,000,000
N/A

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More information

www.regionpaca.fr/developpement-durable/transitions-energetiques/agir.html

Report <http://bit.ly/QjvNLG>