

Stockholm County, SE - Overcoming obstacles to improve municipal energy efficiency

Time period: 2012 - 2014

Application: Energy efficiency

Theme of collaboration: Implementing modelling/Monitoring/Planning tools.

Topic: Plans/Policies evaluation, Technical support.

Description

The County Administrative Board Stockholm spoke with the municipalities in its territory about the difficulties they were facing on energy efficiency in order to create ad hoc solutions for the most common problems which kept coming up. For this purpose a study was conducted with five municipalities, selected for their interest in taking part in this activity. The study started with interviews of key people involved in energy management in the municipality (energy managers of the properties, municipal officers responsible for energy efficiency strategy).

Then workshops were held in each municipality to:

- discuss the results from the interviews
- conduct municipal SWOT analyses
- gather suggestions on how to overcome the identified problems

A synthesis report of the analysis results was compiled, and then diffused in a seminar to all municipalities of Stockholm County. Main findings include: many municipal employees feel that they do not have the time, necessary support, or are heard regarding their work on energy efficiency. They notice that policies they suggest often face financial and organisational barriers, which limits their success and effectiveness. These problems can create a backward effect reducing the productivity of the municipal workers. This study aims to support staff responsible for energy efficiency in municipalities to make progress in their work.

Context / Background

Several municipalities of Stockholm County have set energy efficiency targets for the years 2014 and 2020, but experience problems in reaching them effectively. This initiative aimed to develop proposals on funding and organizational models to help municipalities overcome the obstacles they meet in realizing energy savings, in particular in their own buildings and operations.

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

Key results

- through dialogue and debate with its municipalities, the County was able to identify key barriers and success factors to implement energy efficiency measures in municipal buildings and operations
- results have been shared with all the municipalities of the County

Financing & costs

The study was financed by the Swedish Energy Agency.



Partners involved - Governance

- County Administrative Board Stockholm
- Municipality of Haninge
- Municipality of Nynäshamn
- Municipality of Tyresö
- Municipality of Täby
- Municipality of Österåker

Results achieved

So far the project completed the first phase, in which a number of recurring barriers and success factors were identified and solutions proposed largely by municipal workers themselves.

In the next phase, the measures to overcome obstacles encountered by municipalities will be effectively implemented.

Lessons learned & Success factors

The main success factor of this initiative was to first **identify the most common barriers and opportunities of the municipalities, to focus on the most critical ones.**

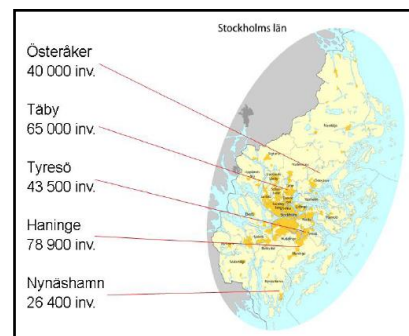
The **involvement of municipal workers themselves in then thinking of solutions to these barriers** was key to addressing effectively their needs, as they know them best, and foster a deep sense of involvement.

Similar Initiatives – Transferability

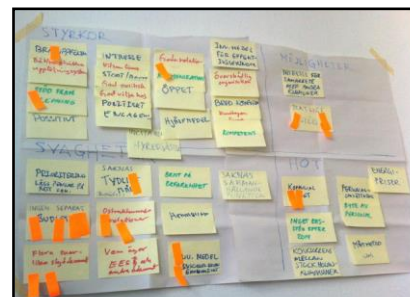
Problems that hamper energy efficiency measures to be implemented can be diverse from organization to organization, and organizational solutions can be very specific. However several similarities and common approaches can be found, especially regarding models for financing actions. A detailed report with the outcomes of the study has been published and is available on the project website.

The municipalities in the case studies are well spread in the county and have varying population sizes. Thanks to this, the identified weaknesses can be considered for other municipalities with similar characteristics.

- [Read the summary report of results](#) for inspiration
- Best practice: *Improved follow-up of public administration staff mobility, Östergötland County (Sweden)*



The five municipalities participating in the study



Results from the SWOT analysis



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