

Project outlines

Climate Star Category I (up to 10.000 inhabitants)

Weiz (Austria):

Doing away with coal and oil

The small town of Weiz has a big goal: It aims to become largely independent of fossil fuels through district heating and wood gasification. The town intends to utilize local renewable raw materials and become 90 percent self-sufficient in terms of energy by 2010. A crucial component of this strategy is a wood gasification plant that will feed eco-gas into the existing gas network.

"10 years ago, our aim was regarded as unrealistic and utopian. Today we have come another step closer through the acquisition of the local district heating network and the proposed construction of a second large biomass heating plant. To ensure the success of our ambitious plan, as many residents as possible need to connect their heating systems to the district heating network."

Oswin Donnerer, environment officer for the town of Weiz.

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Stetteldorf am Wagram (Austria):

Heat from straw

The Marktgemeinde of Stetteldorf in Lower Austria is doing pioneering work using biomass: The biomass district heating plant has been using straw as fuel since 1994. Today, more than 200 households and public buildings are connected to the network. The project generates positive effects in several respects. CO2 emissions have been reduced significantly, the sensitive winter microclimate has improved noticeably, and jobs and income opportunities for farmers have been created.

"Climate protection means preservation and improvement of our quality of life. Careful management of scarce resources and promotion of renewables enables us to secure a certain degree of independence and to make a small contribution to global climate protection. Our biomass district heating plant demonstrates that commitment to renewable raw materials makes economic sense".

Mayor Josef Trabauer

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Marktgemeinde Krumbach (Austria):

Farmers as energy suppliers

The priority for Krumbach was independence from fossil fuels. The market town has been operating a biomass district heating plant for 10 years and promotes solar systems, wood-

fired heating systems, district heat network connections, thermal insulation and local development plans that prioritize energy-efficient design. Overall CO2 emissions have been reduced by 12.5 percent. Under the motto "a future for farmers as energy suppliers", the current aim is the establishment of biogas plants that can make a contribution to climate protection and provide jobs and new roles for farmers.

"Over recent years about 150 solar systems were installed with financial support from the municipality. Residents connecting to the district heat network also receive support from the municipality. Through the project, the Krumbach farmers' cooperative has gained extensive know-how and professionalism, enabling it to operate further biomass heat plants in collaboration with the EVN company and providing employment for 6 staff."

Mayor Dipl.Ing. Friedrich Trimmel

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Climate Star Category 2 (up to 100.000 inhabitants)

Winterthur (Switzerland):

Economy meets ecology

Winterthur offers special incentives for companies to reduce their CO2 emissions, thereby increasing their competitiveness. The project is based on the Swiss CO2 Act that provides for an incentive levy. Companies can be exempt from the levy if they enter into an agreement with the Swiss energy agency for industry (EnergieAgentur der Wirtschaft) and sign up to specific targets, following analyses and successful implementation of energy saving measures.

"Climate protection is a global challenge that needs local commitment worldwide. Our climate protection measures help improve the competitiveness of the companies taking part in the programme and the quality of life for the local population. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy playing in the snow in Winterthur."

City councillor Dr. Hans Hollenstein, director of the department for safety and the environment

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Delft (Netherlands):

Sunny times for solar energy

The "100 blue roofs" project in the Dutch city of Delft involves several solar initiatives. With funding for 1700 square metres of solar cells, the city has set new standards. Today, numerous buildings feature solar systems, including private dwellings, senior citizens' homes or primary schools. Even the De Witte Roos monument was equipped with solar collectors and now combines tradition with modern sustainability.

"The Delft climate protection plan doesn't contain any truly new measures, but concentrates instead on tried and tested concepts. Our success proves that we are on the right track. Since 1999 Delft was able to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 33,500 tonnes. Our aim is to be at the forefront of national climate protection efforts."

Rik Grashoff, climate protection officer, appointed by the mayor of Delft

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Braunau (Austria) and Simbach (Germany):

Heat without limits

The Upper Austrian town of Braunau and the Bavarian town of Simbach jointly operate the largest geothermal system of its kind in central Europe and at the same time the first cross-

border district heating cogeneration plant. The energy is extracted from hot water with a temperature of 80 degrees that originates from inside the Earth and is accessed through 2000 metre deep bore holes. Every year the plant saves emissions equivalent to those from eight million litres of petroleum.

"The Braunau-Simbach geothermal power plant is the first cross-border power plant in Europe and opens up new opportunities for heat supply systems. By the end of 2004, almost 600 consumers including schools, municipal buildings and leisure facilities were connected to the system. Every year the power plant saves emissions equivalent to those from eight million litres of petroleum."

Gerhard Skiba, mayor of Braunau

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Eupen (Belgium):

Wood chips for the town hall

The Belgium town of Eupen wants to take the opportunity of the relocation of its town hall for switching to a biomass heating system. The wood chip system uses residual timber generated for example during processing of timber from municipal forests. From a climate protection point of view, the system therefore represents an ideal sustainable energy source. Eupen also supports other climate protection projects, for example the construction of an environmentally optimized show home or the installation of a solar power plant.

"This award is very satisfying and a great incentive for my municipality to persevere in its environmental protection and nature conservation efforts. Climate protection at a local level also leads to improved quality of life for our residents. Unfortunately, Belgium as a whole still has some catching up to do compared with other European countries. The award for our initiatives will hopefully demonstrate to other municipalities that they too can make a significant contribution to climate protection."

Dr. Elmar Keutgen, mayor of Eupen

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City of Luxembourg (Luxembourg):

Renewables are gaining ground

The city's energy action plan addresses three areas: energy efficiency in production facilities, utilization of renewables, and information and public awareness campaigns relating to climate protection. The consumption of fossil fuels was reduced significantly through the construction of several large solar and PV installations, a wood chip heat plant, a sewage gas CHP plant, and large-scale utilization of combined heat and power and district heating.

Furthermore, Luxembourg participates in the "Quattro-Pole energy tours" programme initiated by the city of Trier.

"The Climate Star 2004 award will strengthen the city of Luxembourg's commitment to persevere with its efforts and maintain a future-oriented energy policy as a high priority."

(Paul Helminger, mayor of Luxembourg)

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Climate Star Category 3 (more than 100.000 inhabitants)

Wuppertal (Germany):

Electricity from new sources

Since April 2004 Wuppertal has been killing two birds with one stone: the municipal water supply system is used for generating electricity. In future, the hydroelectric plants located in the bottom outlet of the Kerspe dam will supply 1.3 million kWh/a of climate-friendly green electricity to Wuppertal's municipally-owned utility. One plant has already been commissioned, two further plants will follow in 2005 and 2006.

"Wuppertal has been committed to energy efficiency and climate protection since the 1970s. Since then, the city has been pursuing efforts to combine structural improvements of buildings with energy saving, to educate children and adolescents on the subject, and to act as a model triggering initiatives by private energy consumers. To this end, we also develop unconventional ideas such as power generation within drinking water networks or cooperation projects such as the energy round table, the European Energy Award or the Wuppertal environment initiative."

Harald Bayer, officer for the environment, green spaces and geographic data

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Venice (Italy):

"Action cards" for the 'floating city'

Venice promotes energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction through a new energy action plan. Together with municipal agencies, companies and residents, the city specified targets and strategies, the implementation of which is monitored by specialist committees. Proposed and current activities are documented using "Action Cards" and are regularly checked for their sustainability and relevance regarding climate protection targets.

"The City Energy Plan, formally approved in October 2003, is the tool the administration uses to play an active and aware role within city energy policies. The Energy Plan has been prepared with the participation of local public offices, industry, service sector groups and local citizens who all participated in defining actions for energy saving and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions."

Eliana Caramelli, city of Venice

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Stuttgart (Germany):

Heating with wood

The capital of Baden-Württemberg uses wood generated during municipal landscaping to heat public buildings. Currently almost two thirds of this waste is disposed of, which is a significant cost factor. In future, a school complex, an indoor swimming pool and the municipal nursery will be heated with climate-friendly biomass. Two plants have already been commissioned, the construction of a third plant has been agreed.

"The capital costs are met from municipal contracting funds. These systems will increase the proportion of heat generated from renewables in all municipal buildings to more than 2 percent. In addition, a locally produced fuel is used, reducing dependence on world energy market developments."

Dr. Görres, environmental protection office of the city of Stuttgart

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Vienna (Austria):

Power from the Danube

In Vienna's Nußdorf district, a mini-hydropower plant will go online this year, generating green electricity without any impact on nature. This will provide 24.6 million KWh electricity each year for 10,000 households. In Vienna's Simmering district, a cogeneration plant that will produce both district heat and electricity is planned. The city's climate protection programme comprises a total of more than 300 individual measures to be implemented by 2010 across a broad range of activity areas: district heat and power production, housing, industry, city administration and mobility.

"Recent studies have once more underscored the dramatic nature of climate change. I am all the more delighted about the success of Vienna's climate protection programme. I am confident that, through our projects, we will attain our ambitious target of cutting CO2 emissions by 14 percent by the year 2010."

Mag. Ulli Sima, Vienna's environment councillor

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Frankfurt am Main (Germany):

Biomass-fired power plant sets new benchmark

Frankfurt am Main is excelling in cogeneration. As a part of the city's overall climate protection strategy, a biomass-fired power plant has been erected in the city's Ferchenheim

district, that went online recently and is the most modern of its kind. Compared to plants fired with fossil fuels, it saves 33 million litres of heating oil each year, producing enough electricity for 20,000 households. The heat extracted simultaneously from the plant meets the needs of 8000 single-family houses.

“Frankfurt am Main is truly the secret capital of cogeneration. Three large-scale cogeneration plants, almost 100 small-scale cogeneration units integrated within buildings and local district heat networks, and a biomass-fired cogeneration plant are now together saving more than 150,000 tonnes of CO2 every year – a very considerable and effective contribution to climate protection!”

Jutta Ebeling, city councillor for education, environment and women’s affairs

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Münster (Germany):

Solar energy blazes the trail

Photovoltaic systems are mushrooming on Münster’s school roofs. The ball got rolling with a cooperative venture: The city procured green electricity from the local supplier, who in return erected photovoltaic systems on municipal schools. In the meantime, 20 such systems have already been installed, and Münster’s citizens can become shareholders. In the schools, the installations are giving students hands-on experience of energy-related themes.

“In Münster we have many people who are active in associations and initiatives and are interested in climate protection issues, renewable energies and international development. As a result, school partnerships developed into the “SolarNet – Renewable energies in schools” project. We also have a “World Energy Schools” project, taking an economics-focussed approach, in which students operate renewable energy systems themselves. These are just examples of the many project partnerships through which the city of Münster fosters holistic projects with a worldwide perspective.”

Birgit Wildt, Münster environment department

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Appeldoorn (Netherlands):

Help from the sky

Appeldoorn boasts the world’s largest photovoltaic system in a publicly-assisted housing estate, with a capacity of one full megawatt per year. To achieve this, 364 houses in the

estate were fitted with photovoltaic panels. As a part of this upgrading measure, the buildings were also insulated and received new building service systems. The project has also had a highly positive effect upon people's environmental awareness: They are now fully aware of alternative energy sources, and after conclusion of retrofitting work in 2003, 90 percent of tenants reported that they would move into an energy-saving house again if they had the choice.

"Apeldoorn decided in 2000 to become an energy-neutral city. We cooperate with our citizens, with industry and with publicly-assisted housing developers. This makes our goals profitable to all sides. The winner is the environment."

J.A.C.M. van Beckhoven, city councillor for sustainability

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Special award in category 3

Special award for the particularly good utilization of regional EU structural funds

Szeged (Hungary):

Healthy energy for the hospital

The energy experts at Szeged's hospital made skilful use of Hungary's EU accession – and the associated funding opportunities. They put forward a convincing plan of action for the hospital's new energy system: The very inefficient old steam boilers were replaced, as was all piping, and new radiators were installed. A computer system guarantees highly efficient control of the new system. As part of the project, the total area of 800 square meters of solar panel will be installed on the roof of the hospital. The solar energy will contribute to producing warm water for hospital use and heating.

“Szeged has tackled climate protection in line with the motto: “Think globally, act locally”. Building upon the great success already achieved, we wish to expand our activities in the field of urban development in order to ensure enhanced quality of life for the people in our city and across the world.”

Mayor Dr. Botka László

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Special award for transboundary cooperation

Trier (Germany):

Cross-border info-tours

The city of Trier launched its “Energy tours” project five years ago, with monthly bus excursions to building sites and innovative single-family and multi-family houses. Not only future homebuilders, but also experts in the various trades and sectors visited pioneering building projects and suppliers, thus fostering an intense exchange of experience. The project brings together craftsmen, planners, architects and students. Last year the project was extended to the recently-formed QuattroPole city network, involving Trier, Luxembourg, Metz and Saarbrücken.

“Climate protection is a global obligation that can be implemented most effectively at local level. Acting together with local and regional players, cities and municipalities can make a key contribution on the ground to the international commitments adopted in Rio, Kyoto and Johannesburg.”

Lord Mayor Helmut Schröer

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Special award for mobility

Karditsa (Greece):

Pushing the pedals

Karditsa aims to become the leading cycling city of Greece. To achieve that goal, the city is engaging in a broad range of activities to promote climate-friendly mobility. Over the past years, an exemplary network of cycle tracks has been established. Intense efforts have been made to raise citizen awareness and acceptance of environmentally sound forms of mobility. For instance, special bicycle safety courses are held, focal-theme events are organized during the European Mobility Week, and specific information services are tailored to each target group. Karditsa also played a key role in the establishment of the first Greek city network for sustainable mobility.

“A commitment to environmental themes rarely rewards one with fame. Normally it rather means daily conflicts with the private interests of citizens or local firms. Unfortunately, environmental protection is not a priority for everyone – as opposed to economic growth. Despite all the difficulties, it is worth every sacrifice, every effort, every conflict. I hope that we will continue to take courageous decisions for the protection of the environment in the future too. It is a fine feeling to know that our visions and our message are strong enough to reach the citizens of the world.”

Evangelia Tsivou, head of the development department of the city of Karditsa

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Special award for social aspects

Heerlen (Netherlands):

A bridge into the future

Acting in cooperation with the Scottish municipality of Midlothian, a district heat system will be set up that uses hot water from the abandoned coal mines to heat buildings. The “Solland solar” company has based itself in the Avantis business park, located half in Heerlen and half in neighbouring Germany, where it produces a new generation of solar cells. The municipality’s primary schools have been equipped with solar panels, giving the children hands-on experience of alternative energy sources.

“Heerlen is an old mining community which has suffered from the closure of the coal mines 30 years ago. There is still a high rate of unemployment and the city lacks identity. In the course of a vision-creating period, many people found out that energy was and is our identity.”

Elianne Demollin-Schneiders, municipality of Heerlen

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Special award for cooperation

“BIOMASA” (Slovak Republic)

Pellets for the Slovak Republic

Wood pellets have scarcely been used until now in the Slovak Republic. This is now set to change, through a pilot project aiming to establish a sustainable market for this climate-friendly energy carrier. The pellets are supplied to schools and public buildings in the region, whose heating systems are upgraded at the same time and reconfigured to use woodchips. For this project, BIOMASA – an independent organization founded in 1999 counting 27 members ranging from local authorities over health institutions to schools – has now received the Climate Star special award for cooperation.

“In the central processing plant – a unique facility – the entire production and distribution process shall be optimized thanks to integrated logistics. Moreover, 44 schools and public buildings in the region will be fitted with modern pellet-fired heating systems, and will be supplied with fuel by us.”

RNDr. Ladislav Židek, General Director Biomasa

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Special award for the most climate-friendly local authority in Lower Austria

Bruck an der Leitha:

Climate Alliance target achieved

In the electricity and heat supply sector, the Lower Austrian municipality has already achieved the Climate Alliance target. Through its energy park established in 1995, comprising biomass-fired district heat supply, a biogas facility and a wind farm, the municipality, with its population of 7300, has succeeded in cutting CO2 emissions by more than half. In recognition of this achievement, it has received the Climate Star special award for the most climate-friendly local authority in Lower Austria.

“Our goal is to achieve 100-percent renewable energy supply for the municipality of Bruck/Leitha. In a next stage we aim to extend the success achieved in our energy park to the whole Leader+ region of Auland Carnuntum.”

DI Martina Prechtel, Energiepark Bruck

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