

leap

leadership for energy
action and planning



LEAP (Leadership for Energy Action and Planning - Vodenje načrtovanja in izvajanja aktivnosti na področju trajnostne energije) je projekt, sofinanciran s strani Evropske komisije, programa Inteligentna energija Evrope. Projekt se je začel maja 2011 in bo trajal do novembra 2013. V projektu sodeluje 10 partnerskih mest iz 7 držav: Nemčije, Hrvaške, Velika Britanije, Slovenije, Bolgarije, Irske in Litve.

Projekt LEAP je nastal kot odgovor na potrebo, da se odstranijo nekatere ovire, ki zavirajo napredek pri doseganju ciljev evropske energetske politike. V okviru izvajanja projekta bodo partnerji pridobivali nova znanja, ideje in izkušnje kako izboljšati pogoje za uspešno in hitrejše izvajanje lokalnega energetskega koncepta. V Mariboru bomo pripravili Akcijski načrt trajnostne energije (SEAP), k čemur so se zavezale občine (med njimi tudi Mestna občina Maribor) – podpisnice Zaveze županov in ga oddali Evropski komisiji (EK). O njegovem izvajanju je potrebno EK tudi redno letno poročati.

S projektom LEAP želimo pomagati lokalnim oblastem pri povečanju spodbujanja uporabe trajnostnih ukrepov za energetske učinkovitost in pri prehodu na nizkoogljično lokalno gospodarstvo. Z njim želimo odstraniti ovire, ki nastanejo pri sprejemanju in izvajanju trajnostnih, lokalno energetskega načrtovanih politik.

Če želimo biti učinkoviti pri prehodu v nizkoogljično gospodarstvo, bodo lokalne oblasti morale sprejeti nekatere izzive, predvsem na področju zmanjšanja emisij CO₂. Pri tem bodo morali sodelovati vsi. Prebivalci, politiki in uradniki v javnem sektorju se bodo morali povezati in sodelovati tudi z zasebnim sektorjem. Še posebej pri preoblikovanju energetskega trga. Glavno vlogo pri pripravi in razvoju trajnostnega energetskega načrta, glede varčevanja z energijo v gospodinjstvih, stavbah in v prometu bi morale odigrati občine in regionalne oblasti. To je bistvenega pomena za doseganje energetske in podnebnih izzivov oziroma ciljev EU za leto 2020.

Partnerji v projektu LEAP:

- Mesto Hagen (Nemčija)
- Mesto Hannover (Nemčija)
- Mesto Zagreb (Hrvaška)
- Občina Kaunas (Litva)
- Mestna občina Maribor (Slovenija)
- Občina Sofia (Bolgarija)
- Mesto Dublin (Irska)
- Mesto Southampton (Velika Britanija)
- Organizacija TCPA - Town and Country Planning Association (Velika Britanija)
- Mesto Cornwall (Velika Britanija)



Hagen's involvement in Leap

For the city of Hagen the involvement in the leap project is a very good opportunity to renew the city's "sustainable energy action plan" (SEAP) which is composed of different energy programmes. In order to show strong engagement in climate protection and energy saving issues the city council has already supported sign up to the covenant of mayors. This process clearly shows the city's ambitions to foster its communal energy strategy as part of the overall European process.

In 2011 the leap project was introduced to the environment council of Hagen and in May 2012 Hagen's CO₂-footprint analysis was completed with the current baseline of the year 2010.

Thanks to the LEAP project we have been able to carry out a training session for the building sector as part of the implementation of the SEAP actions in work package 3. As a part of a huge event at Hagen's main savings bank more than 65 attendees - mostly architects and planners - learned about 'photovoltaic's in architecture'. Furthermore, the environmental department was able to implement four internal seminars for Hagen's city administration. In the neighbouring city of Dortmund one seminar was conducted for experts of the city administration, another seminar for the local politicians. On behalf of the round-table for European affairs in Hagen a thematic meeting on leap was carried out and Hagen's energy team of the European energy award® visited an energy congress of the energy agency of north rhine-Westphalia in the city of Wuppertal.

It was also a positive challenge to develop a detailed work shadowing programme for our partner Zagreb which consists of two visits in Hagen: the first visit has more of technical nature presenting technical solutions and tools to improve energy efficiency and savings, whereas the second, more political visit, will deal with political strategies and concepts including several meetings with local politicians in Hagen.

The preparation of the conference dealing with wood as a renewable energy source is something we have already started, and is ongoing. The staff related questionnaire on climate issues in Hagen, which was circulated in the beginning of 2012, will soon be analysed by our responsible department of statistics.

New targets have been set in the context of citizen involvement: the communication with the new citizen group 'Energieautark2020', the enlargement of the existing energy team and furthermore the creation of a post for an additional 'climate protection manager' for the city administration are also to be mentioned in that respect.

City of Hannover

Like many other European cities, Hannover has committed itself to a sustainable urban strategy. The aims are derived from a vision of sustainable development and comprise protection of natural common goods, social justice, responsible lifestyles, urban planning and development, mobility, business development, sustainable local economy and global responsibility for local action. Therefore Hannover is delighted to be a part of the innovative and important LEAP project, enabling the city to make a more informed and strategic response to delivering sustainable energy solutions.

Examples for climate protection measure going on in Hannover:

Hannover Climate Alliance 2020

Since 2007 the German Federal Government has introduced ambitious legislation to achieve reductions of up to 40% in CO₂ emissions by the year 2020, from 1990 levels, with Local government at the forefront of taking practical climate protection measures. Within Hannover's climate protection

programme, relevant local stakeholders and actors in the city are rising to this challenge by forming a 'Climate Alliance'.

Climate Alliance Hannover 2020, (Hannover City Council and the Stadtwerke Hannover AG energy utility) have compiled a programme in consultation with a wide range of cross-sector partners that sets the same ambitious target of a 40% cut in CO₂ emissions by the year 2020. It is sub-divided into technical programmes for the City Council administration and Stadtwerke Hannover AG, and sectorial programmes for industry, offices, housing and other facilities.

Preferential sales of building land for Passive Houses

The Passive House standard is a rigorous and effective way of combining energy savings and better comfort levels. A Passive House uses around 80% less energy than a conventional house erected to the current statutory energy efficiency standards.

Hannover has therefore set its own energy and ecological standards, building on its positive experience with Low Energy House (LEH) construction on Kronsberg. Purchasers of municipally-owned building land are already contractually obliged to build to at least Low Energy House standard and development plans in the City of Hannover are optimised for Passive Houses wherever possible (southern orientation, defining building heights and spacing, at least two full storeys for compact building forms). House builders interested in buying municipal building land also receive free advice from the City Council on energy-efficient building and passive house applications are given preference over other bidders for the same plot.

Integrative retrofitting in Hannover

Hannover is running a European project, 'Concerto/act2' to support the integrative modernisation of older buildings in Hannover. The integrative concept of this project has been demonstrated in the 1950s and -60s apartment blocks of two housing associations, which have retrofitted 300 apartments for energy efficiency over the last two years. Along with insulation improvements, these houses are connected to a biomass-fuelled district heating network. All the apartments were retrofitted while still occupied, and so support and advice was available to tenants throughout the process. The project also worked closely with the craftspeople and architects to make coordination easier and ensure a high quality of work. All the retrofitting was accompanied by differentiated monitoring, collecting valuable data on additional costs, energy accounting and levels of comfort.

South Dublin County Council: embedding local energy solutions through the LEAP project

South Dublin County Council has marked the culmination of a year-long involvement in the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) funded LEAP (Leadership in Energy Action and Planning) Project, by signing up to the Covenant of Mayors Protocol on June 11th 2012.

In the same week, South Dublin has hosted the very successful 'Connect with Energy' event, aimed at providing advice and support to homes and businesses on how to save energy and money. The event was accompanied by a substantial communications campaign and attended by the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, as well as both the Mayor and County Manager of South Dublin County Council. The Connect with Energy event also showcased the Council's own track record in piloting and developing sustainable energy measures as well as expanding the network of engagement with local people, business and the public sector.

The Council has implemented a formal **Energy Management Structure** and an **Energy Champion** has been appointed.

A total of five Energy Action Teams have been launched. These include:

- **Municipal Energy Action Group:** Register of Opportunity which informs the Council's annual budget established, actions are being taken across the organisation to reduce energy costs.
- **Institutional Energy Action Group:** Academic outreach programme established with Tallaght ITT. SDCC working closely with Tallaght Hospital to develop its Energy Management Programme
- **Community Energy Action Group:** Schools and Private Residential Pilot Projects being developed.
- **Business Energy Action Group:** Pilot energy initiative has been launched with SME's
- **Transport Energy Action Group:** Pilot Personalised Travel Planning Project underway.

South Dublin has been working hard to develop and improve their **stakeholder networks and communications and dissemination**. Activities have included introducing a regularly updated staff survey on internal networks and an energy website launched in March 2012. The Council has also increased its use of social media, such as facebook and twitter.

The County's **Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)** is currently being drafted, with the Baseline Inventory completed and reviewed by South Dublin LEAP mentors in Southampton. The action development stages of the plan are well underway. The SEAP should be launched in Autumn 2012.

After one year, South Dublin County Council has already benefitted significantly from participation in the LEAP Project and looks forward to working with all of their partners throughout the remainder of the Project. We also look forward to welcoming our partners to Dublin for the final project meeting and seminar in 2013.

For more information visit: www.southdublinenergy.ie

Cornwall Council in LEAP

Taking part in the LEAP project has focussed Cornwall Council on the provision of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan and becoming signatories to the Covenant of Mayors. LEAP partners have provided a wealth of knowledge, advice, support and encouragement.

Funding is enabling delivery of 5 important SEAP actions.

- A renewable energy show attended by over 1,000 people. 62 exhibitors ranging from installers, RE technology and fuel suppliers, NGO's, Housing Associations, education providers, financial advisors and banks provided displays and information. Speakers talked on a range of topics and planners and surveyors from the Council attended to offer help and advice. The show was so successful it is being repeated on a larger scale again this year.
- The production of a detailed resource assessment that timely informs the development of targets for the Cornwall Local Plan (development plan) of renewable energy potential.
- Working with some of Cornwall's community energy groups with ambitions to install community owned renewable energy technologies to the benefit of the local area. This will result in the production of some cases studies to be used in the SEAP to encourage and empower more community groups to do a similar thing.
- The production of detailed renewable energy planning guidance to make the process easier for developers, communities and individuals. There will be a set of 9 guidance notes covering a range of technologies and sizes.
- The production of a 'heat map' showing the distribution of heat use in Cornwall. The map will be used to inform Cornwall's Local Plan and to instigate heat network projects.

Southampton's involvement in LEAP

Southampton has been at the forefront of sustainable energy development in the UK for over 20 years, and is the leader in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) based district heating and cooling schemes. Through participation in the LEAP project Southampton seeks to maintain its standing as a UK leader in the Low Carbon agenda and begin to implement its strategic SEAP, the Low Carbon City Strategy.

The Low Carbon City Strategy sets out the key priorities for the Council for the next 10 years (up to 2020) that will help to deliver job opportunities, raise skill levels, support development, strengthen and build the low carbon economy in the city, respond to the impacts of climate change and mitigate the city's impact on the environment by reducing the city's carbon emissions. It sets the pathway to reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions by 34% by 2020 (against 1990 levels).

A significant reduction in the total energy consumption rate within the city is needed if Southampton's strategic vision is to be achieved. The understanding gained through LEAP on the benefits from inputting different technologies into a localised energy network, and the benefits from different ownership models and operating energy networks at a range of scales is critical to help to shape strategic planning for the area and deliver the targets Southampton has set.

The LEAP project has already helped to kick start a city-wide citizen engagement programme and facilitate the implementation of the city's Low Carbon City Strategy. The city is working its way towards its carbon reduction targets, aided in part by the expansion of the city centre district energy network and the delivery of a further energy network in the Woolston district of the city.

TCPA involvement in LEAP

The TCPA is the lead partner of the LEAP project as well as undertaking a partner role. In the UK, the TCPA provides a vital link between local authorities, the private sector and communities to develop and implement sustainable energy projects and developments. The LEAP project has enabled the Association not only to share its knowledge and experience of 'institutionalised' approaches to sustainable energy actions in local authorities but also to learn from the other partners how to improve the delivery of the SEAPs.

As lead partner, the TCPA, has developed the mentoring, peer-to-peer evaluations, work-shadowing and monitoring and evaluation elements of the project to enable all partners to work together and gain maximum benefit and knowledge from each other. This exchange of real experiences and the real challenges and barriers is proving to be a key factor in the project and all partners are gaining in experience and confidence in the development and delivery of their SEAPs.

The partner role in LEAP for the TCPA is to work with Southampton City Council and Cornwall Council to disseminate the seminar materials and topics to a wide range of local authorities, local business and communities. The regional tier of local government no longer exists in the UK and there is an acute need for local authorities to gain a better understanding of energy-saving schemes, financial incentives, sustainable energy supply, community energy schemes and retrofitting. The seminars, case studies, training week and work-shadowing experiences of the partners in LEAP are all contributing to this dissemination process.

Kaunas involvement in LEAP

Kaunas is a learning partner in the LEAP project. Kaunas' main activities in project are the creation of Sustainable Energy Action Plan of Kaunas District, a feasibility study on renewable energy resources in Kaunas district and gaining best practices and experience from experienced and other learning LEAP partners.

The Aim of the project is to include local government in active work seeking to implement the objectives of the EU - to fight climate change by promoting efficient and renewable energy sources. This is the first project of such a scope in Kaunas district municipality, which could also be called the first step towards sustainable energy. By participating in seminars, meetings, mentoring, training week in Hanover, organizing campaigns for municipal staff and two local neighborhoods and communicating directly with other project partners we strive move towards sustainable energy.

Currently, we have developed the feasibility study of renewable energy sources in Kaunas district, in which detailed analysis of the current situation is done and action plan of renewable energy development in Kaunas district created. By active participation in all project seminars we aim to get as much useful information as possible, disseminate it and to involve more people to become interested in what is a new, but extremely important area, for our municipality.

Sofia involvement in LEAP

Sofia Municipality is one of the learning partners in the LEAP project. Sofia is one of the oldest cities in Europe and the largest city of the Republic of Bulgaria, with over 1.2 million citizens. The boost of the city economy and population lead to an increase of environmental, traffic and transport issues that the Municipal Administration has to solve in thenextfewyears.

One of the three (functional, spatial and environmental) overall objectives of the new Sofia Master Plan is the direct development to a balanced and stable environment of good quality. The general purpose is to create conditions for integration of Sofia within the United European Area. The policy for energy efficiency management is deeply incorporated also in the Municipal Development Plan 2007-2013. Its overall objective is to improve the municipal sustainability, development and potential as well as to raise the expanding population awareness on the impact on energy consumption, to motivate and achieve changes in the ways of energy savings.

Furthermore, on the 26th of May 2011 the city of Sofia officially joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative and takes the commitment to go beyond the EU targets for 20% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2020. LEAP project team, together with Sofia Energy Agency – SOFENA is now working on the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plan based on the CO₂ inventory for the base year 2007. Sofia actively participates in the Peer Support Group, seminars and training week. The new sustainable energy vision for 2020 incorporated in the SEAP is already formulated and its formal adoption at the political council level is foreseen for September or October 2012.

Zagreb's involvement in LEAP

For the City of Zagreb the involvement in the LEAP project, especially participating in Peer Support Group meetings, is a great opportunity to review and renew the city's "Sustainable Energy Action Plan" (SEAP) which is a key document that identifies and provides precise and clear guidelines for the implementation of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly fuels projects at the town level, which will result in reducing CO₂ emissions by more than 20% by 2020.

From mentoring partnership with City of Cornwall and with exchange of experience with Southampton, Hagen and Hannover, Zagreb captured experiences that will be useful for most of our LEAP activities such as implementation of Green Office scheme, which is one of the main SEAP activities within LEAP project for the City of Zagreb. Regional Energy Agency, our experienced sub-contractor, is assisting us in the delivery of the Green Office.

While attending seminars and training in Hannover, Zagreb has experienced a programme regarding renewable energy market development process, development of different financial schemes, incentives and an exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of renewable energy usage between different local stakeholders. We would like to underline one particular experience from Hannover where the City of Zagreb representatives had visited the zero e settlement and how the development of the settlement improved the cross-over cooperation within the city administration as well as the cooperation with its private investors.

Experience of other project partners regarding Renewable Energy Saving (RES), like for example UK Feed in Tariffs, sets the pathway for Zagreb regarding establishing a scheme to subsidize renewable energy applications for private households.

The understanding gained through LEAP and the benefits from the City's ambition to foster its proactive energy policy are critical to help to shape strategic planning for the Zagreb and deliver the targets Zagreb has set.