

Abstract Template

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Organisation : Burgas Municipality

Short description:

Burgas Municipality is situated in the South East planning region in Bulgaria. The territory of the Municipality is about 512 km² with 230,000 citizens.

The city of Burgas is situated on the coast of the Black Sea. It is the fourth largest city of Bulgaria. The airport 10 km north of Burgas plays an important role for incoming tourism to the southern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The port of Burgas handles around 7 million tonnes of cargo per year. Burgas is also an education centre with 11,500 university students.

Presentation title: “Starting up with a Local Energy Action Plan – a practical perspective”

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

By signing the Covenant of Mayors in 2009, Burgas Municipality has committed to developing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). A bottom-up approach was undertaken to involve stakeholders and end-users in the process in order to outline those responsible for each action, identify the economic resources required as well as the potential corresponding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction.

Abstract:

The presentation “Starting up with a Local Energy Action Plan – a practical perspective” focuses on the initiative taken by Burgas Municipality to develop a local policy document in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. Several factors contributed to the start up of the initiative:

- European and national legislation;
- commitment to the 20 -20 -20 targets at the local level;
- local potentials and favourable climate and geographical situation.

By signing the Covenant of Mayors in 2009, the Municipality has committed to develop SEAP, with guidance provided in the Sustainable NOW project. The process was started using a bottom-up approach to involve different stakeholders and end-users into the process, and outline activities with allocated responsibilities for each action. Further the economic resources required were identified, and the GHG reduction potential was assessed.

As a first step the administration of Burgas municipality established an Advisory Council comprised of key actors working in the field of renewable energy (RE) and energy

efficiency (EE), as well as relevant stakeholders (energy agency, utilities, local companies, citizen groups etc.) who were involved in the preparation and implementation of the whole process. The Advisory Council was established in particular to assist the SEAP development and to obtain commitment from industry and business sectors. All the invited participants joined, clearly showing the high level of interest and commitment to take action against climate change. The representatives of regional authorities, large industrial companies in the area, universities, and NGOs declared their interest and support for these activities.

Key challenges for local authorities in the policy making process:

- methods of involvement of stakeholders and end users in the whole process of local policy development, implementation and assessment;
- result oriented approach integrating financial, institutional and legislative mechanisms, incentives to business, financial institutions and the local community;
- building a common understanding about economic and social benefits and environmental effects from energy efficiency measures;
- achieving a reasonable level of energy independence at local and regional levels;
- role of the cities and regions in EU policy and priorities implementation at community level.

Resumé:

Mrs. Atanaska Nikolova, Deputy Mayor “EU Integration and Environmental Protection” at Burgas Municipality, has an MSc Degree in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria. She has 10 years working experience in the environmental field, and worked on more than 15 projects focusing on the introduction of environmental management and policy instruments.

Recommended reading:

1. COM 2002/91/EC: Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings;
2. DIRECTIVE 2006/32/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC;
3. Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria
4. First National Plan of Action on Energy Efficiency 2008 – 2010
5. National Long-term Programme on Energy Efficiency until 2015
6. Sustainable NOW project – www.sustainable-now.eu