

## Abstract Template

**Christian Keglovits**

**Organisation :** European Center for Renewable Energy

**Short description:**

The EEE GmbH is located in Güssing, Austria

Size: currently 15 Pers.

Main activities: national and international project cooperation, energy concepts for communities and regions, demonstration plants and eco energy tourism

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**Presentation title:** How to become an energy self-sufficient community

**Executive Summary of your Abstract:**

The strategy in Güssing is decentralising local energy production using existing renewable resources of the region, in order to strengthen the regional added value and become independent from fossil energy. This strategy has become well known as the “Güssing Model” and can be adapted by other communities wherever resources are available.

**Abstract:**

20 Years ago the region of Güssing had to buy a high amount of fossil fuels for the energy production (heating, electricity, transport fuels). This resulted in a drain of money of 6,1 Mio EUR (1991). By using our own renewable energy sources (RES) in our own energy production plants and selling the energy generated to our own population the money circulates within the region. This model is not new; it has been used for decades in the drinking water and sewage sectors. People are familiar with this model and are using it.

The implementation of the innovative energy concept set off a sustainable regional development process, which transformed the formerly “dying region” within 15 years into a region with a high living standard and excellent quality of life. In recent years, Güssing has been awarded honours such as the “most environmentally friendly town” and “most innovative municipality” in Austria.

One of the first infrastructure improvements, i.e. the installation of the district heating system in Güssing (1996), made the border town an interesting location for the establishment of businesses. A special scheme promoting the establishment of enterprises in the area brought 50 new enterprises, with more than 1,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region’s RE sector. Since then Güssing has developed into an important location in the fields of parquetry production, hardwood drying, and environmental technologies. The most important improvement in the Güssing RE development was the installation of the biomass power plant, based on wood gasification, in 2001. The European Center for Renewable Energy (Europäisches Zentrum für Erneuerbare Energie EEE), founded in 1996, serves as central coordinator for the “Güssing Model” project and its numerous sub-tasks.

**Resumé:** Christian Keglovits (born on 23 Dec. 1974, education as a journalist at the ORF, Austrian Broadcasting Cooperation) has been employed at the European Center for Renewable Energy since 2008 - as project manager, press officer and lecturer. As project manager he is in charge of green energy tourism to the European Center for Renewable Energy Güssing. He arranges visits of special delegations from the EU, UNIDO, embassies etc, and coordinates press relations of the company. As a lecturer he is presenting the “Güssing Model” at conferences in Austria and abroad (Germany, Italy, Serbia, Japan etc).

**Recommended reading:** [www.eee-info.net](http://www.eee-info.net)  
[www.oekoenergieland.at](http://www.oekoenergieland.at)  
[www.get.ac.at](http://www.get.ac.at)  
[www.bioenergy2020.eu](http://www.bioenergy2020.eu)  
[www.ficfb.at](http://www.ficfb.at)