



Biomass energy register
for sustainable site development for
European regions

Grant Agreement No. EIE/07/595/SI2.499697

BEn

**Biomass energy register for sustainable site development
for European regions**

Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE)

Horizontal Action: Bio Business Initiative

Deliverable 6.6: Report on dissemination activities

Authors: Günter Fritsch WiN Emscher-Lippe GmbH

Date: October 2011



| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Germany, Emscher-Lippe Region | 3 |
| 3. England, North East | 5 |
| 4. Poland, Mazovia/Kujawsko-Pomorskie | 9 |
| 5. Italy, Umbria | 11 |



1. Introduction

The objective of this report is to highlight the most important and impressive events during runtime of BEn.

2. Germany, Emscher-Lippe Region

Communication and dissemination activities were carried out in Germany both in joint events and in events staged individually by the WiN Emscher-Lippe GmbH and Fraunhofer UMSICHT.

Following project launch in November 2008, BEn was introduced to professional visitors from more than forty countries during the course of the E-world energy & water 2009 industry fair. This fair, held in Essen, Germany, in February 2009, addressed not only pre-existing networking platforms associated with the classical topics of interest to the energy industry but also focused on innovations and current questions being explored by the energy generation, water supply and sewage treatment industries.



Image 1: Industry Fair "E-world energy & water 2009"

Owing to the great interest and demand, the discussion included not only energy efficiency and renewable energies but also touched upon future-oriented subjects. One subject of particular emphasis was the use of the bioenergy registers, supported by GIS, to promote sustainable development in European regions.

The project manager for future energies in the Emscher-Lippe Region, Mr Günter Fritsch, detailed the BEn Project in the course of various conferences and underscored the special significance of regional bioenergy networks as an instrument in proactive regional business promotion programmes.

Also in February of 2009 the BEn Project was presented by Fraunhofer UMSICHT in Brussels on the occasion of the annual Sustainable Energy Week, an EU conference

organised by ManagEnergy (Support initiative of the [Intelligent Energy - Europe \(IEE\) programme](#) of the [European Commission](#)).

Over and above that, WiN and Fraunhofer attended and conducted exhibitions, industry fairs, conferences, workshops and seminars on the regional (in the towns in the Emscher-Lippe Region), national (in federal states of Hamburg, Sachsen, Bayern and North-Rhine Westphalia) and international levels (in Austria and Ukraine). The target groups were found in the regions, towns and municipalities: universities, professional associations and political parties. The purpose was to introduce to the interested professional public the current goals being pursued by BEn and timely developments in BEn as well as to pick up new ideas and integrate these into the project work.

On April 28, 2009, the first regional kick-off meeting took place in Haus Vogelsang in Datteln, a moated castle which is typical for the Emscher-Lippe region. About 50 participants showed great interest in the implementation of the BEn project in the Emscher-Lippe Region. And it was in this kick-off meeting that set the basis for the successful outcomes of the project. The actors in the region, together with the project team, defined and agreed upon assignments and objectives appropriate to the region.



Image 2: Kick-off meeting in Haus Vogelsang, Datteln

Of particular importance, and actually quite surprisingly, it was possible to bring together network partners in this very first meeting, who were involved in the later implementation of projects. To be mentioned here, are the dry fermentation plant associated with a wood pre-treatment and storage plant and the district heating system, which uses energy from a biomass fired boiler and captures waste heat from an existing mine gas power plant. Some other landmark projects were initiated, as were some smaller biogas plants in agricultural areas.

Since the project was launched at the end of 2008, one major outcome of the project as a whole for the region is that the installed power generating capacity of biomass plants was increased by approximately 15 MW. As a consequence, bioenergy generation has risen from 220 to 300 GWh per year.

Accompanying the project work itself, current developments and events have been published on the web site www.ben-project.eu.

The master plan and the technical, strategic and financial guides are an integral part of the register – www.biomassenatlas.de – and can be accessed and downloaded there. To facilitate using this register, a tutorial including typical application examples is available as an e-learning document.

Flyers, posters and brochures, are available in four languages with the purpose of further publicising the results at various kinds of events.

At the end of October 2011 a press conference was held at which all the results of the project were presented to the media.

3. England, North East

During the duration of the BEn project, Northwoods and RDI have carried out proactive dissemination activity, promoting the use of the BEn GIS register and the tools at many events within and outwith the North East region. In the following section a summary of the highlights of the international, national and regional dissemination activity can be found:

International:

The BEn project was presented to an international audience during the UK meeting of the European AFO Project. The AFO project is an Intelligent Energy Europe project focussing on activating forest owners and those with access to the woodfuel resources across Europe. Partner countries for the AFO project were Slovenia, Austria, France, UK and Finland. A full presentation of the BEn project, BEn Atlas, Guides, Masterplans was given along with discussions relating to the collaboration and delivery of IEE projects, sharing good practice, dissemination activities and the benefits of sharing dissemination results amongst IEE projects.

National Events:

Woodland Initiative Network National Conference (2010):

Presentation of the BEn project to a national group of stakeholders and government agencies and officials. The focus of the conference was the activity within the local woodlands. A picture of the bioenergy sector of the North East of England was presented and presentation of specific activities in the Region along with an overview of the BEn project.

National BEn Dissemination Event, UK Woodfuel Suppliers Group (May 2011):

Northwoods and the BEn project hosted the UK Woodfuel Suppliers Group meeting in Newcastle to jointly promote the BEn project to a wide range of UK stakeholders currently involved in or enquiring about becoming involved in the bioenergy sector. Chaired by the Chair of the UK WSG, Robert Bland, the meeting was very well attended, with participants from across the UK. The opportunity was used to invite the key audience to the North East to find out about the BEn project, the specific activities and developments of the woodfuel sector in the North East and a full presentation on the BEn project with the opportunity to discuss the BEn project with Northwoods staff throughout the day.





Image 3: UK WSG Meeting, Newcastle, May 2011 hosted by Northwoods and Project BEn

Forests and Society Conference (May 2010):

Presentation of the bioenergy in the North East and the BEn project to a national audience of public and private sector forestry practitioners and stakeholders introducing the opportunities that bioenergy can present for economic regeneration at a Regional level. The models of growth of the woodfuel sector were based on projections used for the BEn project and the opportunity was used to present BEn.

Ignition 2009 / Ignition 2011:

RDI have organised two major national woodfuel Expo events - ignition 09 and 11 with involvement and input of the BEn project at both. The first **Ignition** event in March **2009** was held in the North East of England at a prestigious venue, the Sage, and the BEn project held an open meeting for stakeholders from across the region to find out more about BEn and to provide an early steer for the project. The event was a huge success with a wide range of speakers; bioenergy trade stands over 1500 delegates attended the Expo. During **Ignition 2011**, RDI delivered a presentation, where the BEn project was presented to the national audience on two occasions over the course of the two day Expo.



Image 4: John Farquhar (RDI) presenting BEn at Ignition 11

Forestry Commission Woodfuel Officers Meeting (September 2011):

In collaboration with UK's Biomass Energy Centre, Northwoods presented the BEn project to a network of woodfuel officers, charged with the delivery of the UK Woodfuel Implementation Plan.

ICF National Conference:

Project BEn was included in the National Institute of Chartered Foresters event, with RDI sponsoring the event, delivering a key presentation and hosting a section of the ICF meeting. The BEn project was presented as a part of the North East's bioenergy sector.



Image 5: Martin Glynn (RDI) presenting at the ICF National Conference

North East Regional Dissemination:

North East Biomass Forum:

Throughout the delivery of the BEn project, the network provided by BEn and the North East biomass forum has been essential. At each NE Biomass Forum meeting, an update on the BEn project has been provided and continual feedback and pointers from the forum have been given.

North East Woodfuel Week (October 2011):

A range of bioenergy related activities and seminars at the end of the BEn project focussing on a single week of activity. Seminars were held at locations across the North East and started with the Northumberland Firewood Fair – an event organised by RDI aimed at promoting the use of wood as a fuel to the general public and attracting 778 individuals on the day, the BEn project brochure and leaflets were distributed on the day. Other events hosted at private estates had formal presentations on Northwoods woodfuel activities and the BEn project attracting 60 delegates interested in woodfuel from across the North East. The Woodfuel Week concluded with the North East Biomass Forum meeting. A considerable amount of media coverage to attract individuals to the above events was undertaken including regional radio interviews and press releases.

NREG meetings:

The BEn project has continually been involved with the development of the wider renewable agenda to ensure that biomass has been represented in wider renewable energy discussions. The BEn project was presented to the Northumberland Renewable Energy Group (NREG) meetings on several occasions, and during September 2011, training in the BEn Atlas was presented to the group, made up of key stakeholders and actors from local authorities, universities and private sector individuals.

In addition to the formal presentation of the BEn project at all of the above events, the BEn project has been presented to a national audience and dissemination of leaflets and display of the BEn posters on numerous occasions, including the following seminars and conferences: Energy NOW Expo 2011, EBEC European Biomass Energy Conference 2009 and 2010, Blyth Renewables Festival, Climate North East Annual Event 2010, Biomass Assessments Seminar Brussels, Country and Landowner Business Association Renewables Event, Woodfuel Event at Henfaes Research Centre, FERN Meeting London, Tasset 2050 event, Northern Rural Network Future of the Uplands Conference, Energy Savings Trust Durham Renewables Event, Glendale Agricultural Show. Several articles have been published in national industry press relating specifically to the BEn project: Tree News, Forestry and Timber News at the end of the project.



4. Poland, Mazovia/Kujawsko-Pomorskie

In Poland dissemination activities, press work and public relations were handled by The Gostynin Lake District Tourist Communes Association (Stowgmin) and Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU). Stowgmin as a local action group, was responsible for contacts with regional stakeholders. IETU participated in national and international dissemination events.

The most important event in the Gostynin Lake District was the **20th Agricultural Fair**. It was organised under the patronage of Minister of Economy, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Voivode of Mazovia, Marshal of Mazovia and President of Agricultural Property Agency. It was an impressive initiative of the Mazovian Agricultural Consultancy Center in Warsaw, The County of Płock and the Drowe od Horses in Łąck.



Picture 1: Representatives of Mazovian government, Agricultural Fair, Łąck 2011

Representatives of government, senators, members of parliament, marshals, prefect of district of Płock, President of Drowe od Horses in Łąck, Mayors of following municipalities: Łąck, Szczawin Kościelny and Gostynin favored this event with their presence.

The jubilaire Agricultural Fair attached over 140 exhibitors and 7000 visitors from all over Mazovia. Technology suppliers (including biomass boilers), fertilizers and feed sellers, gardeners participated in this event. It was a good possibility to know about tourist attractions of the region. The folk musicians and dancers performance served as an artistic setting.

Stowgmin organised a special stand to promote BEn project. They used BEn flyers and other promotion materials to encourage people to use their own biomass for energetic purposes. All interested people were invited to next the regional network meeting. There was a big interest in BEn project's idea and results. Radio and television stations reported the event. Stowgmin also joined a lot of other meetings in order to make the development of bio-energy sector more popular in the Gostynin Lake District. Journalists and reporters were invited to the final BEn Conference held in Łąck at the end of October 2011.

The press releases about BEn actions were sent to local magazines. The other Polish partner – IETU – participated in different national conferences to present BEn project outputs to wide audience. One of the biggest event in Poland is annual **International Environmental Fair** in Poznań - **POLEKO**. At the POLEKO, one can learn about environmental technologies, but it is also the fair of knowledge and experience sharing. At the IETU stand, the results of BEn project were disseminated and new contacts with business were made.



Image 6: POLEKO Fair, 2010: Ms K. Wedde-Mühlhausen, Federal Ministry of Education and Research International Bureau, DE

BEn project was presented during the POLEKO conference - "2nd German – Polish Forum on Eco-Innovation: Fostering R&D collaborations for a change" on 24th of November 2010. This initiative gathered Polish and German government representatives, EU Commission representatives, scientists and leaders of EU projects on innovative technologies. It was a good occasion to show the BEn project achievements. Conference participants confirmed importance of such initiatives as BEn in bio-energetic sector development and promotion of environmental technologies.

Another Polish annual initiative is the national event **Eco-Energetic Forum**, organised in Polkowice in the Silesian region. The BEn project was presented two times during the scientific conferences: on 26th of September 2009 and two years later, when the project's results were visible - on 17th of September 2011. Representatives of different institutions and stakeholders engaged in different renewable energy sources development, took active part in discussion on alternative energy. Radio and television stations reported news from the meeting.

The other example of IETU dissemination activities was the participation of the BEn team in **Annual National Biomass Oriented Conference** organised in Płońsk in Mazovia. During the meeting, representatives of national and regional government, senators, scientists and practitioners work together to find the best way to boost the Polish biomass sector development.

Publishing articles and reviews in environmental and technological branches as well as in scientific magazines was also a good occasion to reach wide audience and present the idea of BEn project.

During discussions with foundations, firms, national and voivodeship funds on new financial instrument supporting the use of biomass for energetic purposes, results of BEn project served as an argument that this is an urgent need for new incentives in this field.

5. Italy, Umbria

Communication and dissemination activities in Italy were carried out in some regional and national events; moreover Ben results and tools like the register have been presented in some university courses and in the Umbria Bioenergy Network during the periodical meetings.

The most important event where BEn project results have been presented took place on **8th April 2011**, “**11° CIRIAF Congress – Il futuro dell’energia**”, near the University of Perugia. The conference (about 120 persons from public bodies, private companies and students) discussed renewable energy themes, and, during the conference, Prof. Franco Cotana presented BEn project results and the first version of the register. Moreover poster and flyers from BEn project have been distributed.



Image 7: Prof. Franco Cotana presenting BEn, CIRIAF Congress 2011

Another important event, “**Green Days**”, took place in Perugia. The congress (more than 40 persons from public bodies, private companies and students) discussed bioenergy themes both from the political and technical point of view. During the congress eng. Gianluca Cavalaglio presented BEn project activities and results. A picture of the congress is shown in the next page.



Image 8: Gianluca Cavalaglio, Green Days Congress

Regarding presentation of BEn project activities, several regional and national events have been the occasion to present the project results: Energethica 2009 – Genoa, Inauguration of the new CRB office 2009 – Perugia, **AIGE 3rd National Congress 2009** - Parma, Meeting di Rimini 2009 – Rimini, Italian Association for Termotechnics 2009 - L’Aquila, 10th National Congress Ciriaf 2010 – Perugia.

Training courses on use and presentation of BEn register have been led by eng. Gianluca Cavalaglio in two University courses (mechanical and environmental engineering) and during bioenergy network meeting (approximately 15 participants each course).

Another important tool for the diffusion of BEn results at local level is the **Umbria bioenergy network** created in 2009 and led by Biomass Research Centre. After the kick off meeting 4 more meetings took place in Perugia, attended by 15-20 persons each. On this occasion, next to sharing BEn results, an exchange of information between stakeholders and decision makers took place, also useful to BEn project progress.

All the BEn project events (BEn project meeting in Perugia, bioenergy network meetings, etc.) have been presented to local media, in particular newspapers such as “Corriere dell’Umbria”, “La Nazione”, “Il giornale dell’Umbria”, “Il Messaggero”, Umbria Settegiorni”, and also in the web (www.crbnet.it).