

Project Fact Sheet

Created/updated: 05/2010

Biomass energy register for sustainable site development for European Regions (BEn)



Programme area: Integrated Initiatives – bio-business initiative
Status: running

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Partners: Full name of the organisation (not only acronym), full name of country
Rural Development Initiatives Ltd (RDI), United Kingdom
Biomass Research Centre (CRB), Italy
Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU), Poland
WiN Emscher-Lippe/Business Promotion Office for Structural
Advancement (WiN), Germany
The Gostynin Lake District Tourist Communes Association
(StowGmin), Poland
European Centre for Renewable Energy Guessing Ltd. (EEE), Austria

Website: www.ben-project.eu

Objective: What is the aim of your project?
The core objective is the development of a regional energy register indicating regional energy sinks as well as biomass potentials for energy production. Based on the register, local communities and regional authorities develop a joint strategic master plan for sustainable bioenergy planning including guidance for management and financing biomass energy investments. The set-up of the register, the acceptance of the masterplan and the selection and realisation of actions is supported by local bioenergy networks.

Benefits: Which added value does your project generate?
Enhanced provision of biomass for regional energetic use
Contribution to independency of energy supply in Europe
15 words maximum

Keywords: Biomass, regional planning, GIS, energy register, bioenergy masterplan

Duration: 11/2008 – 10/2011

Budget: 1.398.731 € (EU contribution: 75 %)

Contract number: IEE/07/595/SI2.499697

Short description

The utilisation of biomass as a renewable energy source which is locally available and storable, offers the opportunity to regional authorities to actively participate in the energy planning of their region. Within the three-year project BEn a user-friendly regional energy planning tool which describes the real conditions, facilitates planning steps and supports decision-making will be developed. The so called biomass energy register visualises regional energy sinks and energetic potentials of biomass. The locally available data will be collected, standardised and transferred into an internet-based Geographical Information System (GIS). Based on this register, the local boards jointly with further actors collaborating in a network will develop a regional masterplan for the sustainable utilisation of biomass including guidance notes for management, technology and financing of biomass energy investments. The project BEn is performed in 4 model regions representing different biomass sector development stages (North West/U.K., Emscher-Lippe/Germany, Pojezierze Gostyninsko-Wloclawskie/Poland and Umbria/Italy).

Expected and/or achieved results

The project will lead to the following outputs and results:

- 1 web based energy register portal equipped with data and applied for each model region (4 EU regions: located in DE, IT, UK, PL)
- 1 transferable regional biomass energy master plan structure, 4 adapted regional biomass energy master plans
- Agreement and first implementation steps of at least 2 biomass actions in each participating region
- Establishment of self-sustainable local bioenergy networks in the 4 model EU regions
- Financial, management and technological guides for bioenergy installations/actions

Lessons learnt

A) This project started Nov 2009.

B) Although the project has not been completed it is possible to draw the following preliminary conclusions:

- Stakeholder networks give important input and are crucial for the success and acceptance of the project
- The stakeholders in the regional meetings expressed a demand for and need of the biomass energy register (to make communication and planning easier due to the good visualisation and interaction)
- The regionally adapted guides and masterplans are welcomed by the model regions. The collection, comparison, development and identification of regional actions in the frame of a holistic approach for the region are regarded as very important.

The BEn project gives you support in sustainable regional bioenergy planning and finally in implementing bioenergy project on regional level. The web based register equipped with data templates e.g. for biomass installations, stakeholder and accompanied with possible regional guidelines and masterplans allows regions to do their own bioenergy mapping and planning through online data integration via WMS or data profile. BEn gives you the chance to promote your activity in your region, to see activities in other region, to communicate with other regions and to do regional sustainable bioenergy planning and implementation.

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