



EmPowering low carbon economies

Welcome

The Team at SEEDA and our European partners welcome you to this third POWER newsletter.

There have been many developments recently and we hope that you find this newsletter interesting.

Janet Borgers
Lead European Programme
Manager

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) leads the **Power Programme** and secured European funding to work with six other European regions. The programme has funded nine projects that will focus on the move towards low carbon economies through measures on energy efficiency, renewable energy, eco-innovation & environmental technologies, sustainable transport and behaviour change.

An **International Steering Committee** (ISC) made up of directors from the seven participating regions, a representative from the INTERREG IVC Joint Technical Secretariat and the Environment Agency in the UK, provides strategic guidance to ensure effective programme implementation and approve major financial decisions. Based on the independent assessments of the 2nd call sub projects, the ISC decided to fund a further five projects and made a number of recommendations at the meeting in Krakow in March 2010. The entire POWER Programme budget of Euros 5.8 million is now committed.

This newsletter highlights examples of good practice being shared between the sub projects under the POWER Programme, as well as the role of the International Steering Committee in providing strategic focus to the Programme.



Ministerial visit to SEECA. Swedish Minister for the Environment Mr. Andreas Carlgren.

The **SEECA** project is looking at a strategy for energy efficiency through proven Climate Agreements. The project is led by The County Board of Uppsala in Sweden working with Niepolomice Municipality in Poland and Tallinn City Government in Estonia. The idea of Climate Agreements was developed by the lead partner in Sweden and offers a solution that does not require certain competences or economic means as it is recognised that throughout Europe, there are vast differences in these areas. The strategy will not only improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption but will also ensure that the 'right' energy is used for the 'right' purpose. SEECA are to be congratulated for gaining that all important political backing from the initial stages even during the development of their proposal, which has helped to raise the profile of their project. For more information on SEECA: <http://powerprogramme.eu/projects.php?project=SEECA>

POWER Policy Forum



The **TraCIt** project is led by CURE, University of Portsmouth, South East England working in partnership with Vimsi Municipality, The Stockholm Environment Institute in Estonia and Kracow University of Technology in Poland. The project combines municipal, academic and industrial expertise to provide mobility strategies that pave the way for less energy intensive modes of transport. The ISC recommended the partnership exchange ideas with **ITACA**, another POWER sustainable transport project. ITACA is exploring integrated transport systems and invited representatives from TRACIT to their partnership meeting in Noord Brabant, in the Netherlands on 1 and 2 July 2010. Through this early contact in the project cycle the two projects have forged links and committed to exchange ideas throughout the duration of the POWER programme. <http://www.powerprogramme.eu/projects.php?project=TraCIt>

Sub projects in our mini-programme are strongly encouraged to interact and exchange ideas across the different themes. However, we do recognise that almost all organisations are finding the current economic climate challenging and there is not always available budget to attend additional meetings which were not planned for in the original bid. The POWER Policy Forum provides a platform for the different players and networks, even people from outside of POWER; to contribute and comment on POWER activity. To join the debate, go to: <http://powerprogramme.ning.com/>

The **E-Mob** project aims to create the right conditions to move from electric vehicle trials to their sustainable market introduction. They will give direction to local and European authorities and organisations, and accelerate the uptake of electric transportation, which will contribute to CO₂ reduction targets. It will also offer jointly created policy and strategy recommendations. The project is led by BOM based in Noord Brabant in the Netherlands working with STUNS in the Stockholm Region in Sweden, MEERI in Malopolska, Poland, Malaga Town Hall and the University of Malaga in Andalucia, Spain and Oxford Brookes University in South East England. The ISC recommended Oxford Brookes University join the partnership for the wealth of experience they bring and to ensure this project complements the other electric vehicle projects currently being delivered across South East England. <http://www.powerprogramme.eu/projects.php?project=EMob>

At programme level, the seven European public bodies participating in the programme all have region wide influence. They will use the results and the intelligence generated by the sub-projects to feed back into their regional and national policies and strategies, and examine how best to introduce the positive outcomes to the mainstream. This close working cooperation between the seven regions will strengthen our ties and open new opportunities for working together on future mutually beneficial collaborations

The **SILCS** project is devising strategies for innovative low carbon settlements. It is led by CURE, University of Portsmouth working with Kent County Council, Province of Noord Brabant in the Netherlands and the Public Enterprise for Social Housing in Andalucia, Spain. The partnership will form networks of residents, technologists, architects, urban planners and local authorities to explore, test and evaluate best practice in the development of sustainable neighbourhood building projects with lower CO₂ emissions that maintain social cohesion in the development of Sustainable Communities and strategies for their implementation. The ISC recommended the partnership engage with the Institute for Sustainability in the UK. The project lead, arranged for the 1st UK regional meeting to be held at the offices of the Institute for Sustainability to begin building relationships for the Institute's collaboration with the project. <http://powerprogramme.eu/projects.php?project=SILCS>

The **TIMBER** project aims to produce tools for integrated management of Biomass Energy Resources. The project is led by Municipality of Boxtel, in the Netherlands, working with APEC in Andalucia, Spain, MEERI in Malopolska, Poland and the ISC recommended the addition of two further partners Ngage Solutions, South East England and Stockholm County Council in Sweden. Peter van Oers stated that he felt the addition of partners from Stockholm and South East England has greatly strengthened the partnership and as a consequence their results will be more easily transferable to other European regions. The partnership will investigate ways to overcome the logistical challenges of collecting and processing biomass. Solutions will be tailored for both small and

CO2 Calculator & Mid Term Evaluation



At the outset of POWER, as a programme 'delivering low carbon economies' the International Steering Committee asked the programme to adopt a method of calculating the CO2 generated from the activities of the projects (ie the meetings and events organised as part of the programme). Several tools were reviewed to find something that was quick and easy to use and acceptable to all regions.

We encourage the POWER subprojects and partner regions when planning an event to consider using either: teleconferences, videoconferences, or electronic means of communication, like Skype. We do however, recognise that in some circumstances, face to face meetings are necessary for interregional cooperation. The CO2 saved or generated from these activities is then recorded using the Meeting and Events CO2 Calculator.

For further information please go to: <http://www.powerprogramme.eu/co2-calculator.php>

medium sized producers offering a replicable logistic system for the delivery of energy from sustainable biomass. <http://www.powerprogramme.eu/projects.php?project=EMob>

The ISC recommended the Events and Meeting Calculator Tool, which had been trialled by the regions, to be rolled out to the sub projects after some very minor modifications (ie: to accommodate both miles and kilometres). Information on the tool was provided to the sub project partners at: the launch in Noord Brabant, Partner Fair in Seville, Lead Partner days held in Guildford and Oxford, on the website and in the POWER Handbook.

The ISC further recommended that a text re-sizing facility should be incorporated on the website. This was implemented during the overhaul of the website in June 2010. It allows users to view the text in smaller to larger fonts by clicking on 'A A A'.

POWER on-line monitoring system

POWER has developed an on-line monitoring system which allows the finance and activity reports from the seven regions and thirty eight international partner organisations to be submitted in a standardised format. Based on recommendations from Emilia Romagna Region and the Energy Agency in Seville, the tool has been upgraded to allow participants to upload evidence (*reports, sign in sheets, manuals etc*) with their 6 monthly reports. We hope that this new facility will reduce the number of queries relating to the claims and would like to thank all partners for their cooperation. Another measure to assist partners and improve reporting was the addition of a facility in the outputs table which when you hover your mouse over the output a definition pops up.

Mid-term Evaluation of the INTERREG IVC Programme

We would like to thank the Energy Agency, Seville and Tallinn City Government for their time, who worked with SEEDA as lead partner, in responding to the mid-term evaluation of the INTERREG IVC Programme, through an on-line survey and telephone interviews.

The results will be made public on the INTERREG IVC website after their next INTERREG IVC Monitoring Committee Meeting, to be held in autumn 2010

The POWER Programme is co-financed through INTERREG IVC, the European Regional Development Fund.

For further information on the Programme and all sub-projects go to <http://www.powerprogramme.eu/>