

Águeda21 - Local Agenda 21 – Águeda, Portugal	
Keywords	Sustainable Development, Local Forums, Green Vehicle Fleet, Paper savings, Water savings
Main photos	 
Objectives	<p>The Águeda21 aims to make the municipality a model of environmental, social and economic sustainability, enhancing quality of life for all, and facing its responsibilities for the local and global environment. This project is a new approach in participatory sustainable development policy, as Águeda is one of the three Portuguese municipalities chosen to implement this project.</p>
Description	<p>The Águeda21 is being shaped by the mobilisation of the local community, initiated with the distribution of a good practice guide. The Action Plan will be designed and implemented with their contribution through several workgroups and forums that will work the issues of “local governance and management”, “natural goods and responsible consumption”, “urbanism and mobility”, “healthcare and social fairness” and “local economy for sustainability”.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Agueda21 presentation</p> <p>Simultaneously, sessions on municipal schools will be organised with distribution of a good practice guide about sustainability in schools, a conference for local entrepreneurs about Sustainability Economy (distributing also a good practice guide for a sustainable industry), amongst other events/workshops about the local environmental and cultural heritage. This methodology is promoted by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) and is being financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).</p> <p>However Águeda City Council has already implemented internal Local Agenda 21 measures, namely its adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors initiative and signing of the Aalborg Letter, the acquisition of two hybrid vehicles for its fleet and a fuel optimisation programme on other vehicles, the exclusive use of recycled paper and excluding its use from executive meetings, and the ongoing water consumption optimisation in public spaces and facilities.</p>

Results / Achievements	<p>The Águeda21 has already mobilised about 2,000 participants in its activities, who approached the organisation with suggestions for activities and measures.</p> <p>The internal measures adopted by the city council represented, on the first year of application, relevant savings and reduction of CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>The exclusion of paper from executive meetings permitted an economy of close to 13,500 sheets, representing 1 ton in one year and corresponding to less 15-20 trees cut. By using only recycled paper in other municipal services, Águeda avoids the cut of 15-20 trees for each ton of recycled paper consumed.</p> <p>The two hybrid vehicles acquired by the city council replaced two other existing vehicles, representing a CO₂ emission reduction of respectively 86 and 37%.</p>
Friendly advice for replication	<p>The development of a Local Agenda 21 is, beyond the achievement of goals like energy and water consumption reduction, an opportunity for citizen commitment on a diversity of subjects that concerns the city and the municipality, displayed by the above mentioned five thematic workgroups. This will also and ultimately contribute to these goals, but with the potential to develop more global and committed approaches. To this end, citizens should be invited to participate in forums/workshops where they are not only informed, but where their opinion and suggestions are stimulated and listened.</p> <p>This methodology should be extended also to local entrepreneurs to demonstrate and stimulate further energy improvements on their businesses, and if adequate, show them some market opportunities.</p> <p>The city council should set the example by taking and divulging internal measures to reduce CO₂ emissions, water and energy consumption and paper waste.</p>
Online information	<p>http://agueda21.wordpress.com/ http://gis.cm-agueda.pt/agenda21/Outros/guiacidadao_net.pdf http://gis.cm-agueda.pt/agenda21/Outros/DiaTerra_Regulamento.pdf http://gis.cm-agueda.pt/agenda21/Noticias/20Fev/18_Diario_Aveiro_16_2_2009.pdf http://www.agenda21local.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=901&Itemid=1 http://gis.cm-agueda.pt/agenda21/Noticias/20Fev/06_CMAgueda_2_2_2009.pdf http://www.eumayors.eu/covenant_cities/city_452/index_en.htm</p>
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