

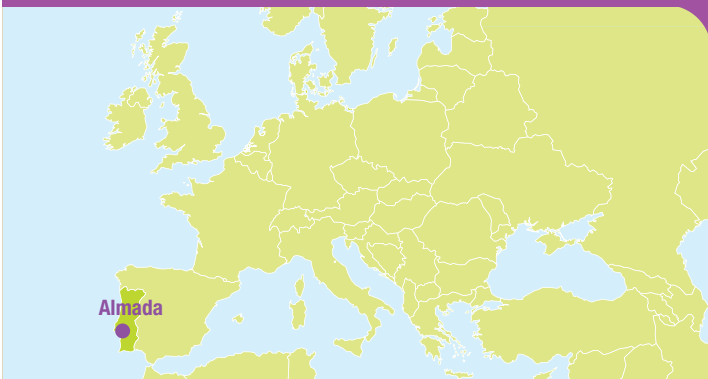


# ALMADA

## shining example



Building in Europe Local Intelligent Energy Forums



Almada

» Located opposite Lisbon on the south bank of the Tagus River, Almada (pop. 160,000) is one of 18 municipalities within the Lisbon Metropolitan Region.

The municipality has an area of 72 sq. km, 40% of which is built up urban area and 24% is the Medos forest, which provides a very rich natural heritage. The city is bounded on three sides by water. To the east and north the city meets the River Tagus and to the west one finds the Costa de Caparica where a 13 km long beach faces the wild Atlantic Ocean. It is a popular summertime destination for Lisbon residents as well as foreign visitors, attracting 8,000,000 visitors each year.

## Abstract

In 1999, the Municipality of Almada created the Local Energy Agency of Almada, AGENEAL.

More than being just a provider of technical support to its stakeholders, AGENEAL is establishing itself as a platform or forum for debate among its 15 stakeholders on energy efficiency and climate change. The objective is to build a common diagnosis and vision of the future of the City, bringing all these different institutions into the debate and to get their commitment to the sharing of responsibility in the design and implementation of measures to reduce energy consumption.

The Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, from which the "Local Strategy for Climate Change of the Municipality of Almada" resulted, was prepared with the participation of AGENEAL and contributions from its stakeholders. This document defined policies and measures to reduce energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for each sector of activity in Almada.

These measures are now being reviewed and will form the Sustainable Energy Action Plan. This will contain the measures that form the Plan to be developed as part of the BELIEF project.

## OUR FORUM

### Basic facts

» Almada has a strong tradition of public participation during the development of strategic projects for the city, particularly in the transport and mobility, energy and environment fields. These projects are presented and discussed in public forums, where citizens, associations and all the different stakeholders with an interest in the process can express their opinion and contribute with their inputs to enrich the project. Examples of on-going public participation forums are the Light Rail Forum, the Almada Cycling Plan Forum or the Urban Mobility Plan Forum.

» In 1999, the Municipality of Almada created the Local Energy Agency of Almada, AGENEAL. With 15 stakeholders (both public and private), representing all the most important sectors of activity in Almada – energy, water and solid waste utilities, public transport, education, service providers, building and public works companies and the Municipality of Almada, AGENEAL is a private, non-profit association whose objective is to promote energy efficiency and rational use of energy at local level.

» In addition to being a provider of technical support to its stakeholders, AGENEAL is establishing itself as a forum for debate among its stakeholders on energy effi-

ciency and climate change. The objective is to build a common diagnosis and vision of future of the City, bringing all these different institutions into the debate and to get their commitment to the sharing of responsibility for the design and implementation of measures to reduce energy consumption.

» This approach can make a difference in comparison with the other more passive activities of the Energy Agency and will draw attention to the importance of the local contribution to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to the accomplishment of the EU targets in the Kyoto Protocol.

### Working method

» AGENEAL already organises periodic meetings to debate and discuss energy issues with its stakeholders. Participation in the BELIEF project permits AGENEAL to structure its intervention within a common framework by defining specific criteria for the debate and evaluation of the conclusions of the meetings. The Local Intelligent Energy Forums will be held at least 3 times a year and will be complemented by smaller meetings/workshops to debate specific issues linked to a particular sector (e.g.: transport and mobility, building regulations, etc.).

### Benefits for members

The Municipality of Almada, as largest stakeholder in the Energy Agency, has a strong and committed participation in AGENEAL. The model adopted in the setting up of the Energy Agency has created a platform for debate that brings private entities closer to the Municipality. AGENEAL works as facilitator in the dialogue between all the contributors to this process.

So participation in the Forum will strengthen this aspect of AGENEAL's work, allowing a more informal and easier contact between the Municipal Administration and private stakeholders, strengthening the bonds of cooperation between local actors.

Energy efficiency and environmental impact are crucial factors for any business. Nowadays standards require companies and public administrations to be more efficient in the development of their processes and activities. This objective can be accomplished through collective work within the community, sharing experiences and information that can contribute to the implementation of measures leading to higher energy and carbon efficiency, translated into less waste and higher financial gains.

The participation process defined for the Forum involves getting information out to the stakeholders and getting back their ideas, issues, and concerns. It is a shared two-way communication process, with mutual benefits, that will allow the projects to develop better and in a more consensual manner.



# OUR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN



## Objectives

In 2001, the Municipality of Almada, with the technical support of the Local Energy Agency and the University of Lisbon, developed the Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from which resulted the "Local Strategy for Climate Change of the Municipality of Almada". This Strategy defines a set of measures to reduce energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for each sector of activity in Almada. The measures, involving both public and private investment, are now being subjected to a process of revision and discussion and will be prioritised according to their importance and provided for in the budget over a 5 to 10 year period. These projects will form the Sustainable Energy Action Plan of Almada, SEAP.

## Activities

The Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the "Local Strategy for Climate Change of the Municipality of Almada" formed the basis for the Municipal efforts in the rationalisation of energy use.

AGENEAL, with the support of the Municipality of Almada, has been responsible for local energy efficiency projects and for the task of promoting educational projects aimed raising awareness of the importance of energy efficiency among citizens and key players.

Several projects have been developed to mobilise local actors and promote public participation, namely through citizen participation in local forums and close partnership with schools. Special emphasis is being put on projects to improve energy efficiency in buildings and transport as well as the use of solar energy for the production of hot water in all municipal buildings. For the development of these projects, AGENEAL works in close partnership with the relevant municipal departments.

However, some of the measures proposed go beyond the scope of municipal intervention and require the participation and involvement of private stakeholders, in which case partnerships are promoted to carry out the actions specified. An example is the fruitful partnership with public transport operators, which are private companies, in the development of the European Mobility Week/Car Free Day in Almada. This is an example of an awareness raising action carried out in Almada which is only possible with a significant partnership with local actors.

## Financial aspects

The cost of each energy efficiency measure contained in the SEAP is currently under revision and is being updated from the 2001 version of the "Local Strategy for Climate Change of the Municipality of Almada". The measures will be ordered according to their importance and relevance for the achievement of the goals defined in the SEAP.

The annual budget for the implementation of the energy efficiency measures will be defined each year and included in the Annual City Council Corporate Plan. The Plan for 2008 already has a structured set of projects available with an approved budgeted for their implementation.

## Achievements

Some relevant measures contained in the "Local Strategy for Climate Change for the Municipality of Almada" have already been implemented. These initial measures, which act as torchbearers for others, will serve as examples for the dissemination of best practices both for the Municipality and private bodies.

### SOLAR ENERGY FOR HOT WATER PRODUCTION

AGENEAL conducted an energy audit of the Municipal Sports Complex which recommended the installation of a solar system for the heating of all the hot water (showers and swimming-pools). This measure, which will be extended to all sport facilities in Almada, reduced the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with the operation of the Municipal Sports Complex by 25%.

Given the potential of solar energy in Almada and anticipating the new national building regulations, the new Urban Regulation of Almada included the obligation to use solar panels for hot water production in all new buildings in Almada.

### A FLEET OF HYBRID VEHICLES WAS ORDERED FOR THE CITY COUNCILLORS

Almada was the first Portuguese Municipality to buy a fleet of hybrid vehicles for the use of its Councillors. With this measure, the City is setting an example and reducing the impacts associated with transport, favouring a more energy efficient technology.

### USING BIOGAS FROM THE MUNICIPAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION

The sewage treatment plants of Almada make use of the biogas produced in the treatment process to produce heat and electricity in a cogeneration plant thereby making these facilities self-sufficient in terms of energy.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

» AGENEAL's experience in the development of public participation forums shows that **each participation Forum should be dedicated to a well defined subject** to avoid dispersion and to achieve better results. The general public and relevant stakeholders have a perception of solid professional work when they see that effort has been put into the presentation of a specific subject, whether by internal staff from the City or Energy Agency or by an invited expert.

» Essential elements for a fruitful meeting include **defining a clear programme for each Forum**, focused on a specific subject, and providing a technical presentation structured around the chosen subject to avoid excessive and unnecessary distraction of the participants off the main subject. The **facilitator's role** is to keep the discussion centred on the proposed topic and create a favourable atmosphere to obtain the desired level of inputs from the participants. This is also important to achieve good results.

» Following this advice will involve these partners in the project and will contribute to a richer and more successful process, with a shared analysis and responsibilities that will result in a **higher degree of commitment and involvement from the local projects**.




### Further information

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