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Promoting Energy efficiency to Local Organisations
through dissemination Partnerships in Europe
Best Actions for Collaboration in Countries
for a High efficient Use of energy in Structural funds

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Energy Management in School (BONUS) - - Austria

(project supported by SAVE)

Developing financial and structural incentives to improve energy efficiency and energy consciousness in schools.

Target Groups	Sector	Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authority - Regional authorities - Domestic consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buildings (including municipal properties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DSM - Information - Education and training

ANALYSIS

Budgets of public schools depend to a large extent on their expenditures. If a school reduces its energy costs this might lead to cuts in their annual budget. For this reason the motivation to reduce energy is rather low for the staff, teachers and pupils of a school.

The BONUS project is trying to overcome this obstacle by sharing the saved energy costs between the school and the public administration, which is responsible for the funding of schools. With this instrument schools can acquire additional money for different purposes and improve energy efficiency at the same time.

Another quite important aspect is education and awareness-raising for pupils, teachers and technicians. The project developed information material, training concepts and a supporting network infrastructure.

During the first BONUS project in Upper Austria (managed by Oberoesterreichische Umweltakademie, 1998 - 1999), it turned out to be of advantage, if the project co-ordination and the supporting infrastructure would be clustered with similar activities, namely with the support of energy conscious communities. The Climate Alliance for Austrian Cities (Klimabündnis Österreich) offers a well established network of more than 400 member communities and is now co-ordinating the national BONUS programme (2002 - 2003).

THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN

The new national programme introduced a three level model.

BASIC LEVEL

Pupils and teachers start with energy related projects integrated in the usual lessons. The result is a list of possible measures to save energy.

LEVEL I: FIXED FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Some of results and savings of energy related activities can not easily be quantified. For these activities the school obtains an fixed amount of money.

LEVEL II: SHARING THE SAVINGS

At this level the effective energy cost savings will be shared between the school and the administrative authority.

In addition a competition awards the best projects from level I or level II schools.



PV MODULE

COST AND BENEFITS

So far 25 schools have joined the BONUS project. Typical experiences in pilot projects showed that energy demand in schools can be reduced by 10% with non-investment measures only.

EXAMPLES

- * A college for economics and environment in Lower Austria developed a energy management concept for the school in co-operation with partner schools in neighbour countries.
- * Two schools in the province of Burgenland have taken an energy inventory including the calculation of energy indicators, heating demand and electricity peak loads.
- * Pupils of a college for construction technologies have analysed the energetic situation of their school and developed a list of improvement measures like a lighting control system, energy efficient applications, thermostat valves, heating management, regular cleaning and maintenance of lighting.

PARTNERSHIP

New partnerships have been established at three levels:

School internal partnership:

students, teachers, administrative and technical staff aligned with each other, formed teams, identified their individual needs to develop suitable solutions.

Partnership with the administrative authority:

The common interest of the school and its holder to reduce costs and free money for other purposes is one of driving forces for the success of the project.

School networks:

Regional workshops offer training and exchange of experience with other schools and institutions. The "Climate BONUS" award induces a competition for good and innovative ideas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Energy saving schemes in schools are strongly encouraged by implementing a system of financial incentives.
2. Energy saving schemes in schools by means of non-investment measures are much more effective if they have professional support. This support may be given by teachers, by employees of the administration or by external institutions.
3. Close co-operation between the schools, their administrative authority and their technical and financial staff is required in order to achieve positive results.
4. Payment of the bonus: School staff and administration alike must realise that an exact calculation of savings is not always possible. Schools should be as free as possible in their decision what to do with the bonus money. It should also be possible for the schools to save the bonus and spend it later, e.g. in the next year.
5. Continuity of energy saving projects in schools: After several years, most energy saving measures and improvements will usually be realised. At this point, the continuation of the project should be ensured by an extension of the subject to a broader context of political, economic and international aspects of climate protection and an inclusion of the subject into regular curriculum.

TO KNOW MORE

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USEFUL INFORMATION

List of Internet sites

[Website "Umweltbildung" \(only in German\) / http://www.umweltbildung.at/bonus/](http://www.umweltbildung.at/bonus/)

[Klimabündnis Website \(only in German\) / http://www.klimabuendnis.at/schulen/](http://www.klimabuendnis.at/schulen/)

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