



Energy Efficiency is their Motto - Besançon, France	
Keywords	Cit'ergie-eea® Label, Exemplary Municipal Energy Policy, Energy Produced from Wood/Biomass,
Pictures	 
Description	<p>The Cit'ergie-eea® label rewards local authorities for their exemplary energy and climate policies. It is a comprehensive and demanding process that leads committed local authorities to develop a sustainable local energy policy through a number of steps culminating with the award of a label. Local authorities must have achieved at least 50% of their potential in the six areas to qualify. These are: Spatial planning, public buildings and facilities, energy and water supply, sewage services, mobility, internal organisation and communication and co-operation.</p> <p>The municipality of Besançon received the Cit'ergie-eea® label in 2007. Based on its Local Agenda 21, the Municipality is determined to extend its energy policy to all energy-consuming sectors, both in its own municipal buildings and within the city's limits. Through this action, the municipality aims to reach "Factor 4" in all areas within its remit. Measures implemented to reach this target comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The set up of a Wood Energy Plan (Plan Bois Energie) for the period 2007/2013 which intends to replace gas boilers with wood-fired boilers in ten locations over a 5-year period, leading to 15% gas savings. Thermal solar energy is another alternative to fossil fuels that has been developed as part of a programme to renovate and upgrade production means. - Installation of one of the biggest automated wood-fired boilers in France (7.3 MW). The boiler complements the range of energy sources used for its district heating system. It supplies heat to the equivalent of 2,500 dwelling units in the Planoise districts as well as to the future Hauts de Chazals district currently under development. - Reinforcement of the development of the biomass wood sector through the collaboration of the City Council with the Besançon Metropolitan Council for the construction of a platform used to store and dry locally produced wood resources. - Development of an eco-district of about 40 hectares surface - Development of a soft mobility scheme that aims at reducing the use of private cars by encouraging schoolchildren to walk or cycle to school. - Reinforcement of the Energy Conservation Department within the city administration - Set-up of a technical partnership between the Besançon Centre Communal d'Action Social (CCAS – municipal social services centre), the Espace Info Energie (EIE – information centre on energy) and the Energy Conservation Department to help families with difficulties in paying energy bills.
Online information	<p>http://www.energie-cites.eu/db/besancon_574_en.pdf</p> <p>http://www.energie-cites.eu/db/besancon_574_fr.pdf</p>
Contact	<p>Myriam NORMAND, Head of the Energy Conservation Department E-mail: myriam.normand@besancon.fr Website: www.besancon.fr</p> <p>Martine ECHEVIN, eea® adviser, ALE - Grenoble Local Energy Agency E-mail: martine.echevin@ale-grenoble.org</p>