



Municipal grants for energy saving measures in Fontenay-le-Comte (FR)	
Keywords	Municipal grants, solar energy, free information, financial support for citizens
Photos	 
Objectives of the action	To provide free information to residents of the municipality and encourage them to realize energy efficiency measures in their house. To support financially those individuals who wish to install solar panels on their houses
Description of the action	<p>In late 2008, the Municipality of Fontenay-le-Comte has signed a partnership agreement with the Elise association which provides an advice to individuals interested in energy saving. Following the agreement, inhabitants of Fontenay-le-Comte have once a month the possibility to inquire about measures on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. The Municipality provided the space in municipal buildings to hold the meetings. Advice provided by the Elise's specialists focus on improving building insulation, heating mode and solar installations.</p> <p>The Municipality has also decided to allocate from 1 March 2009 the financial aid of €200,00 to any individual homeowner in the territory of the municipality who wish to install a solar system (photovoltaic panels) for producing hot water or electricity. Each allocation is made after the applicant provides a file containing the exact location of panels on the building, contact details, a copy of the invoice and pictures of the completed installation.</p>
Results / achievements	<p>Each month, Elise's specialists receive about 5-10 people interested in energy saving measures. Several improvements have been made by individuals, following the information provided.</p> <p>As for subventions, 36 applications for a reimbursement of the installation of solar panels have been treated by the City Hall in 2009. It has been decided on December 15, 2009 to award 9 grants. This action has been renewed for the year 2010.</p>
Friendly advice for replication	Disseminate information as widely as possible among citizens by using local media (television, newspaper, website, local information newspapers). Usually there is a possibility to relay the message by different organizations working in the field of energy saving (in France, ADEME and satellite associations). It is useful to designate a contact person within the community whose role is to educate people on how to be awarded the grant.
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