

Shared Energy Advice – community help service in the energy management of municipalities' buildings & facilities - Community of Agglomeration of the Greater Dole* (France)

Keywords	Municipal eco-management, sustainable energy planning, municipal buildings and facilities
Main photos	 
Objectives of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow municipalities to better identify the expenditure of energy (and water) in municipal facilities and optimize the supply contracts • Propose an advice to elected representatives and technical services in their plans for energy conservation and use of renewable energy sources in public buildings and facilities
Description of the action	<p>The Shared Energy Advice (CEP - Conseil en Energie Partagé) is a local service offered to municipalities of the Community of Agglomeration of the Greater Dole, in order to enable them to manage their energy consumption and provide with help in the implementation of RES projects. <u>The advisor's mission is to provide an appropriate support to each municipality, by offering:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial assessment and regular monitoring of energy and water consumption • Complementary thermographic analysis carried out with infrared camera • Prioritised list of proposals with regard to reducing consumption • Facilitation of awareness actions aimed at technical and administrative personnel • Development of inter-municipal network of actors involved in the energy management • Support in presenting the energy performance of municipal buildings (Display® Campaign) • Operational assistance provided for municipalities in their projects • Guidance for municipalities in the process of opening to competition in energy markets <p>In the first three years of service, a collaboration agreement is established with voluntary municipalities, in order to guarantee their involvement in the process. The service during this initial period is offered "for free" through the financial support of the ADEME (French Environment and Energy Management Agency) and the Regional Council of Franche-Comté.</p>
Results / Achievements	<p>Initiated in early 2008, the service has enabled to establish a 3-year energy balance, accompanied by a wide range of recommendations, for 31 municipalities in the agglomeration. Two opportunity studies and three feasibility studies for heating from renewable energy sources have been conducted, a comprehensive scheme of renovation and maintenance of public lighting is under review and a local plan for supply of wood energy should be undertaken during 2009. A permanent and automated observatory, which aim is to monitor the consumption and energy bills of municipalities, has also been created. The first formal evaluation is scheduled for late 2009.</p>
Highlights of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooling of a permanent energy specialist, which allows smaller municipalities to have an access to neutral recommendations and advice at a lower budget • Automatic and permanent integration of energy bills, which allows the elected representatives to consult their energy dashboard at any time (full web application) • Establishment of a permanent network of elected people and staff involved in energy policy.
Difficulties encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ignorance towards the issue of « energy saving » in case of most municipalities and the lack of the proper appropriation of the service, since it is offered « for free » • Standardizing and integrating the consumption and energy bills data turned out to be more time-consuming compared to what was estimated when launching the programme • Financial and technical difficulties for municipalities to implement the recommendations formulated; the advisor's mission is at least as much to persuade elected people and municipal staff, as to implement his advice and technical analysis
Friendly advice for replication	<p>Signing of a collaboration agreement, involving both the Community of Agglomeration and the volunteer municipality is an essential prerequisite to enable the legitimisation of the advisor's work. The payment of annual fees is also advisable, even if only to further strengthen this legitimacy. The integration of the post of advisor with shared technical services, would also enable to accelerate and further optimize proposed measures via an horizontal and more operational approach.</p>
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* Created on 1st January 2008, the Greater Dole is a young Community of Agglomeration (type of inter-communal structure in France), composed of 41 municipalities with 52,000 inhabitants. The agglomeration is both urban (the city of Dole with 25,000 inhabitants) and rural (40 municipalities with a total number of 27,000 inhabitants).