



Learning by doing - Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine	
Keywords	Information Dissemination, Awareness rising, Building Refurbishment
Pictures	 
Description	<p>In the past, the efficiency of water and electricity consumption was not an issue that was managed seriously in Ivano-Frankivsk. Significant losses of water and electricity occurred because of the misuse of municipal buildings (i.e. leasers are not aware of water and electricity consumption; there are often water leaks due to stop valve failure). These serious environmental problems made the school principle of the General High School No 7 in Ivano-Frankivsk consider implementing a number of positive activities to help bring sustainability into the school and the minds of its pupils.</p> <p>The two starting points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchanging wooden window frames with modern PVC frames - Awareness raising among pupils and other building users <p>Additionally, energy and water consumption is closely monitored by the high school's administration. The expected annual consumption is determined according to the average consumption of recent years. Where consumption is higher than expected, possible reasons are investigated, with a view to finding an appropriate solution. If there is no objective reason for the extra consumption the subject is brought to the attention of the school's administrator. Due to this monitoring the school was able to reduce their water consumption via two simple actions: reparation of the toilets and pipes and installation of stop valves.</p> <p>The reduction of energy and water consumption has resulted in financial savings. The municipality will invest all of the money saved by municipal buildings in turning Ivano-Frankivsk into a sustainable city, step by step.</p> <p>Nonetheless, sustainability of the General High School No 7 is not only a question of technical issues. It is also essential that building users adapt their energy and water consumption habits. That is why the school principle started the following actions.</p> <p>In Ukrainian schools a subject titled "Principles of Life Activities" is taught. But within this subject energy saving is not a special topic. The schools of Ivano-Frankivsk felt that this was a problem and thus made the decision to introduce it into this subject. They thus produced an adapted textbook in order to help teach this topic. Every pupil was provided with one copy.</p>
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