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Renewable Energy Office of Cornwall

EC - EIE Programme - SEIPLD Project

“WP 2: METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOOLS”

TOPICS

Local approach
Local conditions
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Expected activities

Abstract of the Project

The SEIPLED general objective is to demonstrate that sustainable energy investment projects can have a positive local economic development impact. The partners will: i) demonstrate the viability of integrated programmes, where the sustainable energy dimension reinforces local development aspects; ii) transfer knowledge to all EU local energy agencies and involve at least 64 external already active contacts, most of them in new MS. The project activity will start with the definition of the local strategy, selection of the financial tools, and integration of proposals in the local economic development plans. This activity will involve a local advisory group, which will express opinion, give advice and contribute to the proposed project plans. The planning phase will provide project plans, to be disseminated through the project website and the active contacts, kept regularly informed during all project steps. A Strategic Environmental Assessment will also be performed.

WP2 Methodological Development and Tools

D01.1 Reports on Methodological Development Approach (RMA).

Objective:

The RMA wants to photograph the state of the art of each region by analysing the local approach in matters of energy consumption in general, energy behaviour in relation to the specific case study each partner presents to develop, analysing the local socio-economic conditions, identify funding measures and identify possible barriers that slow down the procedures in obtaining them. A case study (project) plan takes in consideration all information found and will be developed in relation to these results.

Role and relevance for project:

Establishing a socio-economic picture of the local/national situation in relation to the proposed case study for development of sustainable energy project.

Role and relevance for targeted readers:

Raise awareness of viability of local development through sustainable energy project.

Target groups:

Energy Agencies, Development Agencies, Public Bodies, SME's.

Glossary of abbreviations

CHP	Combined heat and power
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
R.E	Renewable energy sources
SW	South West
SME	Small and medium sized enterprises

Cornwall situation 1 Local approach

Objectives

The project aims to develop three interlocking initiatives to significantly speed up the introduction of renewable energy installations in Cornish industrial buildings, through

1. Helping develop planning guidelines in all local planning authorities for R.E in all new industrial buildings
2. Developing a grant scheme to assist with the capital costs of installation
3. Development of training courses for R.E installers

Methodology

Task 1: partners will work with the local authorities and other partners to develop their planning policies including R.E installations on/in all new industrial buildings. This will involve meetings, preparation of drafts and working with planning and development control officers and some council members to help the process through.

Task 2 will involve working with the developers, in Cornwall Enterprise, of the new Convergence grant programme to ensure that the aims of this proposed grant scheme are covered in the new overall programme. We will prepare a development scheme for the new programme, and then go on to prepare and submit an application for the new grant scheme to help the installation costs of R.E on all new industrial buildings in Cornwall.

Task 3 will involve working with the local further education college to develop suitable courses within their building trades department.

Expected results

The deliverables are:

- task 1: report on the policies of the local councils adopted following our intervention
- task 2: application for a grant scheme under the new Convergence programme
- task 3: report on the courses under development in local College

2 Local conditions

Cornwall is a poor area with low GDP (65% of UK average), enabling it to gain a new EU Convergence grant. The £500m grant programme will have sustainable energy as one of its main themes, providing an ideal opportunity to set up a grant scheme to encourage R.E industrial building integration.

Energy costs Cornwall around £600 million a year (euro 870 million), nearly all of which is imported, amounting to 16% of the local economic output. There is a high

proportion of small companies in the industrial sector and because the local area is predominantly rural and agricultural, the major part of the local manufacturing industry is food processing, which has high energy needs. Cornwall is renowned for its beautiful environment, its beaches and moors land, and is surrounded by sea on three sides, restricting access to markets for industry.

At present most new industrial buildings are grant aided, so the option to install R.E with grant aid is a natural extension of the present programme.

The available human resources are two or three people who will carry out most of the work under the programme, calling in other expertise when needed by the programme.

The project partners will also be working with public sector agencies to ensure the completion of the tasks in the programme. We aim to increase the financial resources to carry out the programme through grant applications to several other bodies.

3 Barriers

3.1 Obstacles

There are several obstacles to the installation of renewable energy in industrial buildings in Cornwall. The main reasons it is not happening now are:-

- Planning problems
- Cost of installations
- Lack of awareness of the issues for SMEs
- Lack of capital in SMEs
- The market in industrial buildings is weak in Cornwall, as the cost of a new building is already higher than the market value. The demand for new buildings is restricted by lack of available land and low numbers of businesses wishing to relocate to the area, which makes the risk for speculative builders too high. The regional development agency is therefore involved in grant aiding nearly 80% of new industrial build in the area.
- Local R.E industry weak and fragmented, often engaged mainly in survival rather than business development

The main obstacles to the implementation of the project objectives relate in part to the obstacles noted above. In addition the issues to be overcome are:-

- Lack of awareness of planning authorities of the issues
- Bureaucratic inertia in local authorities
- Difficulties in raising the issues into the local agenda for public agencies
- Bureaucratic in-fighting between some agencies
- Lack of interest from the regional agency in Cornish specific solutions

3.2 overcoming obstacles

We aim to overcome these difficulties by:-

- Working with the planners to reduce their lack of understanding and increase their welcoming of SMEs wanting to install R.E
- Working with local SMEs through REOC, one of the project partners to encourage the business cluster development

- Working with all the local and regional agencies to educate them on the value of the proposed approach and its benefits for the local economy and business development.

3.3 reason for public funds

The reason a contribution from public funds is necessary to assist this project to implementation is related to the obstacles noted above. Without public sector external funding for activities dedicated to this project there would be too many difficulties for the project to be undertaken.

3.4 issues for regional functionaries

We aim to work with the regional agencies at Cornish and SW England, regional level, to understand their problems with implementing higher levels of renewable energy installation. We will then work up their understanding of the needs for this activity and show examples from other areas to show how it can be done. We will then suggest ways to develop best practice from elsewhere into the local Cornish context to the benefit of the agencies and the region.

4 Stakeholders

The Advisory Committee should consist of most of the local public agencies with an interest in economic development, planning and industry in Cornwall. This must include the regional agencies, from the wider region including Government Office and regional economic development agencies. The envisaged membership is:-

- Cornwall Enterprise
- Renewable Energy Office for Cornwall
- South West Regional Development Agency
- English Partnerships: Cornwall Office
- Camborne-Pool-Redruth Regeneration
- Cornwall Federation of Small Businesses
- Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Government Office of the South West
- Cornwall County Council
- The 6 district Councils
- Royal Town Planning Institute SW group
- Royal Institute of British Architects: SW branch
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors : SW branch
- Institute of Chartered Engineers: SW branch
- SW Energy Managers Group
- Local developers eg BLS, Richard Walker Developments

We aim to include the professional associations in the process as their members will be involved in the carrying out of the programme once it is in place. It is therefore useful to include them in early in the process, so ensure better understanding and involvement

Each of the central and local government agencies needs to be included so that they all understand the process and can stand together on moving forward, which is a necessary requirement for action from public agencies.

5 Planning steps

Planning phase outlined in Gant chart below