



ISLENET

European Islands Network on Energy & Environment



NEWSLETTER

October 2007

ISLENET held its annual conference in Brussels 9-10 October 2007

Island Networking and Focus on Technologies



ISLENET
October 2007 conference

ISLENET held its 2007 Conference which focused on Renewable Energy Sources and the Rational Use of Energy on 9-10 October 2007 in Brussels.

The Conference was co-funded by the **Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme** of the European Commission and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council).

Co-sponsors: The Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), and the B7 Network, a co-operation of the 7 largest islands in the Baltic Sea.



The conference programme and presentations can be found on the ISLENET website. All documents are downloadable.

Please visit: <http://www.islenet.net/?secid=3&pid=56> to go directly to the Conference 2007 page.



Jean Didier Hache - CPMR, Alex Macdonald - Convener Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Antonio Rassu - Sassari Energy Agency, Jørgen Jespersen – Bornholm at the 2007 ISLENET Conference



Alyn Smith, Member of European Parliament at the ISLENET Conference.



V. Berrutto, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, presenting "The new EE Action Plan and its objectives"



ISLENET is a campaign associate of Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008

The Conference Presentations

This year's conference focused on technology initiatives. The objective here is to foster cooperation between island authorities, technology providers, and potential investors with the view to proceed with the implementation of concrete projects that best meet island needs.

The two-day event was organised in various sessions that addressed the following themes:

- ❖ Biomass and Biogas
- ❖ Wave and Tidal Energy
- ❖ Sustainable Island Communities
- ❖ Hydrogen and Hydrogen Hybrid Energy Systems
- ❖ Energy Efficiency

Round table discussions followed each session in order to animate the exchange of ideas and transfer of experience.

Pedro Ballesteros of the European Commission (DG TREN) in his introductory remarks announced the concept of the Covenant of Islands, a concept parallel to the Covenant of Mayors, to be launched in December 2007. The CoM is aiming at bringing together the Mayors of 20-30 of the largest and most pioneering European cities with the view to exchange and apply best practices in energy efficiency in the built environment and the transport sector in order to achieve significant reductions in energy use and CO2 emissions.

The Conference heard from **Oliver Schäfer, Policy Director, EREC** who highlighted the need to:

- *set legally binding targets for renewable energy*
- *implement a balanced and timely mobilisation of clean technologies, which will depend on technical potentials, actual costs and cost reduction potentials.*
- *give renewable energy guaranteed and priority access to the grid*
- *shift their investment away from fossil and nuclear fuels, starting by eliminating direct and indirect subsidies to fossil fuels and nuclear power, which would save taxpayers' money*

Virginia Bombelli, Sustainable Energy Contact for the Ministry of the Environment, Italy explained that the involvement of the Ministry in the European Commission's Sustainable Energy Campaign has encouraged networking both at national and EU levels. It has led to new partnerships and projects and has facilitated the promotion of sustainable solutions to islands and rural areas.



Conference participants

Jørgen Jespersen presented the new renewable energy initiatives in Bornholm which has for many years aimed at achieving the **green island concept**. It has been operating since 1991 on the basis of an integrated energy plan.

The new RE –initiatives are:

- Biogas - 2006
- 2G Bioethanol - 2009
- Off Shore wind – 2010
- TransPlan – EU project 2007-09 (5 energy plans for 5 islands and a methodology to measure energy balances)

Alexander Allan represented EUBIA, that groups together industry, knowledge and research centers, all of them active in the field of biomass.

He explained that biogas has had an average increase of 15% in production over the last 5 years. There is still a lot of room for expansion, especially on farms throughout Europe.

Biofuels represent about 4% of bioenergy in Europe (2005) and 1.8% of total transport fuels in Europe (5.38 ktoe). Biomass has a great potential in the heating sector and also for the cooling sector (along with solar thermal technologies).

Nathalie Rousseau, represented the EU-Ocean Energy Association and explained that ocean energy has the theoretical potential to cover the present global electricity consumption.

The status of the ocean energy sector has improved highly over the last 5 years. A number of large scale test installations are either developed or under development today. The Association's objective is to strengthen the



development of Ocean Energy (OE) markets and technology in the EU.



Augusto Carvalho & Erico Matias Tavares, Gaia Energy, presented their company's interest in bioenergy power generation as a way to finding sustainable solutions for island communities.

Jeremy Baster, Orkney explained Orkney Islands' and the European Marine Energy Centre's vision: *"To be the internationally acknowledged leading test and certification centre for marine energy converter"*.

There is considerable potential in tidal current, offshore wave and offshore wind to be exploited. These resources could help Orkney Islands to become a major RES exporter. The major challenge to achieve this objective is strong network interconnections with the mainland grid.

Professor Domenico Coiro, Univ. of Naples, Italy explained the lessons learned in developing new technology of Water Turbines for Harnessing Marine Currents.

Nick Harrington, South West Regional Development Agency presented the "Wave Hub" project, a facility for the demonstration and the operation of arrays of wave energy generation devices. The South West of England was chosen for its strong wave and tidal resources, existing marine sector, academic base and opportunities in new industry.

Marco Torregrossa, European Partners for the Environment presented The European Platform on Financial Support to EcoInnovation whose main objectives are to speed up eco-innovations by developing tools for effective financing and public private cooperation at a national, local and EU level. (Eco-innovation is a term used to describe a novelty in products and processes, which aims to prevent or

reduce environmental risks, pollution or other negative impact of resource use, which can contribute to sustainable development and add market value.)

Ilias Efthymiopoulos, DIPE, Greece presented DAFNI, a network of 33 municipalities of Aegean islands which promotes balanced economic growth respecting environmental standards and social concerns.

The newly established Energy Agency of the Aegean will provide support to the local authorities, investors, professional institutions and citizens on energy issues.

Panos Coroyannakis, ISLENET highlighted the network's progress since the last annual conference of 2006. An effort to strengthen the network has brought in additional members, new islands (e.g. Lolland-Falster), the Italian Ministry of Environment, Industrial partners, Energy Institutes (Cyprus). A number of new Intelligent Energy Programme co-financed projects are starting before the end of 2007. Emphasis is on working together and technology initiatives that are best suited to island needs.



Francesco Musotto, Member of the European Parliament & President, Province of Palermo announced that the "European Islands for a common energy policy" project with a budget of 4 million Euros was approved as a "preparatory action". He also presented recent activities in the province of Palermo for the implementation of the Renewable Energy Plan

Chiara Anglesio provided an overview of Managenergy's services. The most recent service is that of sectoral advice, short-term technical and management assistance available



free of charge to Local and Regional Energy Actors.

Eight sectoral information kits will be ready by February 2008, covering a wide range of issues related to sustainable energy (buildings, energy education, funding, behavioural change, etc.) All information kits will be available in PDF (EN, FR, ES, DE, IT, PL) and Power Point (EN only).



Priit Enok, EACI presented an overview of the Intelligent Energy Programme, focused on Sustainable Energy Communities, *“Local communities in which politicians, market actors, citizens co-operate to demonstrate high degrees of sustainable energy supply and end-use”*, and gave examples of innovative projects.

Salvatore Castaldo and Stefano Rugginenti – APEA – Italy presented the SOLCO project, “Removal of non-technological barriers to Solar Cooling technology across Southern European Islands” which is co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Programme. The project will evaluate technologies, analyse market and legal restraints, train local actors, raise awareness through targeted dissemination campaigns.

Gonzalo Piernavieja, Director, ITC Canarias presented ITC’s activities in promoting RES and RUE technologies in island communities.

The Renewable Energies Department covers:

- Search for technical solutions aiming at maximizing RE penetration in the Canaries Archipelago (as well as other insular regions and remote areas of developing countries).
- Development of RE-based systems for electricity supply, heat/cold/ice and hydrogen production, capable to operate as stand-alone (off-grid).

Hans Jacob Mydske, NEPAS, Norway presented the 3-NITY project also co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Programme. The project engages local stakeholders, such as politicians, planners, citizens and local energy actors to actively participate in local energy planning and implementation of sustainable energy measures, as well as adopting a working methodology for continuous improvement. This will be achieved through the use of EFQM-excellence model for local governments and municipalities.



Søren Hermansen, Samsø, Denmark presented the work of the Energy Academy Samsø Energy Academy which *coordinates the RE development in cooperation with the: Samsø Trade Organisation, Samsø Farmers Organisation, and the Samsø Municipality.*

Through local participation, use of local resources and local business involvement Samsø has already seen:

- More challenging jobs
- Better local economy
- Local capacity building
- CO2 reduction

Theocharis Tsoutsos, Technical Univ. of Crete presented examples of sustainable energy projects appropriate for European islands, such as the RERINA and the PURE projects. RERINA will produce an Integrated methodological approach to support insular communities’ stakeholders to develop and implement efficient Sustainable Energy Plan (SEP), including a Practical Guide for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) planners, typology of RES technologies, and a report of potential problems and bottlenecks. PURE will promote Photovoltaic (PV) energy in the urban environment. It will mainly cover PV integration into buildings, particularly in EU



countries with large solar potential and lack of PV installed capacity (Southern Europe).

Begoña Urien, General Director of Enterprise Department of Innovation, Enterprise and Employment, Government of Navarra highlighted that wind energy production in Navarra is of high importance.

There is need to improve “old” wind farms in order to minimize grid problems and to do more research in order to increase the reliability levels of wind energy production.

The next Energy Plan 2011-2016 should be developed on the basis of a new model in the context of the new EU objective for RES (20% by 2020).



Christian Theel and Anders Riel Muller, BASS Denmark presented the Lolland Community Testing Facilities. Lolland CTF is one of Denmark’s first innovative partnerships within renewable energy that through constructive collaboration between research and business combine the targets of Danish industry with the municipality’s visions for sustainable growth and development.

Bass provides the concept development, project management, international networks, technical expertise and marketing services.

Loke, Lolland Energy Holding A/S provides the joint venture capital, loans, energy efficiency incentives & subsidies.

Lolland Municipality provides the political support, planning expertise, technical assistance, permits and utility services.

Derek McKim, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Western Isles and Michaela Mönter, NTDA presented “The Western Isles Hydrogen Community Plans”.

The conclusions are:

Thanks to the Hydrogen Strategy, the Outer Hebrides:

- Have gained recognition at international level
- Are building up new knowledge capacities
- Have created new job opportunities and attractiveness for young people
- Are building up a hydrogen infrastructure with exporting potential
- Have attracted external public funding and hopefully also private investments

Elisabet Fjermestad Hagen, HYDRO, Norway presented “The demonstration project at Utsira, Full scale supply with renewable energy in remote areas”.

Key lessons learned

- **Have a well defined design basis and operational philosophy - focusing on:**
 - Interfaces in the electric loop
 - Interfaces in the control loop
 - Interfaces in the hydrogen loop
- **R&D project - not plug and play**
- **Focus on Safety, Health and Environment**
- **Select the right partners**
- **Select an appropriate location**



Nikolas Lymberopoulos, UNIDO-ICHET presented the results of the Hydrogen Islands



Initiative Meeting that took place in parallel to the ISLENET Conference on 10 October 2007.

The International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies is a UNIDO project with the mission of demonstrating viable implementations of hydrogen energy technologies and facilitating their widespread use in developing countries. By stimulating appropriate applications, ICHET will thus act as a bridge to help span the gaps that exist between the developed and developing countries in the areas of both research and development efforts, and energy supply and demand.

Islands are ideal polygons for demonstration of hydrogen energy technologies and entire hydrogen economy due to their supply and price of conventional energy, renewable energy sources, scale, energy autonomy and pristine environment.

The hydrogen islands initiative's objective is to have more H2 installations on islands all over the world.

Vincent Berrutto Head of Unit, EACI, Competitiveness & Innovation Executive Agency presented the EU energy efficiency action plan, adopted 19 October 2006.

He highlighted that:

- Energy efficiency is the most immediate element of a European Energy Policy
- Contributes to sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness
- The Action Plan proposes new initiatives for saving up to 20% of EU annual primary energy consumption by 2020
- Timeline: 6 years (2007 – 2012)

Neil Finlayson, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Western Isles presented the GREENSPACE project, "Low carbon building research in the Hebrides". Greenspace Research at UHI-LCC is focused on the dynamic design and management of green buildings. The Hydrogen/Renewable Technology Lab is strongly complementary to Greenspace and has encouraged local partnerships.



CPMR "Energy" Working Group seminar "How to effectively promote sustainable energy development at regional level"

The CPMR energy working group will hold a meeting on **"How to effectively promote sustainable energy at a regional level"** on 8 and 9 November 2007, in Opatija - Croatia (Region of Primorje and Gorski kotar).

The purpose of the meeting is to foster an exchange of experiences and views between the Regional Authorities of Europe's maritime periphery and the EU Institutions on a number of key political and administrative issues, which are essential for an effective promotion of sustainable energy at regional level, namely:

- Can the harmonisation of planning and authorisation practices contribute to the promotion of a sustainable energy policy?
- Which policies of support to sustainable energy research and development can effectively contribute to promoting regional competitiveness?
- How can EU policies support the use of local resources to promote a sustainable energy policy in peripheral maritime Regions?

[More](#)

[Draft Agenda](#)

Sustainable Energy Europe Awards Competition – Deadline Extended



The subscription phase of the "Sustainable Energy Europe" Awards Competition is coming into its final phase. However, the European Commission has extended its deadline and invites you to **submit a partnership project until 31 October 2007**.

The **Sustainable Energy Europe** campaign is committed to changing the European landscape of energy by featuring best practices and providing a communications platform for actors in the fields of renewable energy sources,



energy efficiency, clean transport and alternative fuels.

In 2008, for the second time, the most outstanding initiatives will be selected by an independent jury and will receive an **Award** during a prestigious ceremony in the frame of the European Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels. They will thus get a very important official recognition by the European Commission and will be showcased on a European level.

Furthermore, all **Partners of the Campaign** will receive considerable advantages, such as the possibility to use the Sustenergy website as a communications tool or to use the official campaign logo for their project.

If you wish to participate in this exciting campaign, please follow the user-friendly guidelines on the website: <http://www.sustenergy.org> or contact the PR desk (pr@sustenergy.org, tel. +32 2 340 30 69) for further information.

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