



NEWSLETTER

February 2010

ISLE-PACT - The Pact of Islands **Islands committed to local sustainable energy**

Over 60 European Islands will be working together in developing sustainable energy action plans with the view to meeting or exceeding the EU sustainability targets for the year 2020. This ambitious new project held its kick-off meeting on 4 February 2010 in Brussels with the participation of island representatives and Commission officials. It is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy and Transport and aims to:

- Achieve an overall objective of more than 20% CO₂ emissions reduction by 2020.
- Demonstrate their political commitment to EU sustainable energy objectives by signing a binding declaration, the Pact of Islands, undertaking to put programmes, actions and investments in place to help achieve the overall objective of the project.
- Produce a pipeline of priority bankable projects.
- Propose a number of financing tools and mechanisms that will provide the financial resources needed by investors to implement the bankable projects.
- Increase the level of awareness in islands' efforts to contribute in the fight against climate change.

This is a project that will actively seek new partners as the Pact of Islands process has been conceived from the beginning to include all European islands. In addition to the 12 participating groups of European islands, provision has been made to allow as many non-participating islands as possible within the project budget to follow the process and benefit from it.

On the **24 March 2010**, the project will hold at the **Committee of the Regions in Brussels an event to officially start the process**. We invite you to visit our site for more information: www.islenet.net **More**



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The EU Sustainable Energy Week - 22-26 March 2010 In Brussels and throughout Europe



The **EU Sustainable Energy Week**, a major event of the Commission's Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, is taking place the week of **22-26 March 2010** in various places throughout Europe. **ISLENET** as a Campaign Associate is in the forefront of the campaign again this year organising four events in the context of this Energy Week:

- **24 March 2010, Committee of the Regions, Brussels: The Pact of Islands**
- **24 March 2010, Committee of the Regions, Brussels: BIOGAS event, Acceptance of biogas as a secure and sustainable source of energy for cities, rural areas and islands**
- **25 March 2010 Centre Borschette, Brussels: Sustainable Energy Communities – From strategy and vision to practical implementation and monitoring**
- **25-26 March 2010, Estoril, Portugal: STORIES project conference "Sustainable Islands" - Energy Storage Solutions**

Number of signatories to Covenant of Mayors reaches 1000!

This milestone marks ten months of exceptional growth for the Covenant of Mayors' initiative, as the number of local authorities participating has almost trebled since the first signing ceremony in February 2009.

At the signing ceremony during the EU Sustainable Energy week of February 2009 there were 372 Covenant signatories. The rapid growth of the Covenant highlights the interest of communities to participate in this initiative.

Since October 2009, the Commission has started receiving the first Energy Action Plans by the Covenant cities. For more information please visit Covenant of Mayors: <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

The **ISLE-PACT project** intends to liaise regularly with the **Covenant of Mayors** in order to learn from the experience already gained and exchange information.

EU agrees on how to allocate billions to fund renewables

EU member states agreed on 2 February 2010 on how to allocate billions worth of EU money from the bloc's emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) to support renewable energies and emerging technology to capture carbon dioxide and store it underground. **You may read more on EURACTIV:**

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-environment/eu-agrees-billions-fund-renewables-ccs>



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ELENA: New Source of Funding for Local Energy Action

On 15 December 2009, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB), the bank of the EU Member States, announced the launch of a grant aid initiative to help local and regional authorities make investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The global fight against climate change is a top priority for the European Union and it is acknowledged that local actors will play a significant role in meeting this challenge. The **European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility** is designed to help cities and regions, through the provision of technical assistance, structure and implement projects in the most efficient way so they can attract outside finance.

Full details of the conditions attached to the grant financing and an explanatory brochure are available at: www.eib.org/elena

A half-day interactive workshop will be organised on the afternoon of **24 March 2010 in Brussels** (venue to be confirmed), following the [ManagEnergy Annual Conference](#), as part of the [EU Sustainable Energy Week \(EUSEW\)](#)

Further information will be available soon on the [ELENA Workshop page](#) of the ManagEnergy site.

ISLENET NEWS

OUR PROJECTS

The TRANSPLAN Project



TRANSPLAN, "Transparent Energy Planning and Implementation", is approaching the end of its project duration. It will produce 5 new energy plans for 5 islands through the use of the Energy Planning Tool (EPT) which will offer systematic and transparent monitoring of energy consumption within a geographic area through the elaboration of energy balances. The Bornholm, Gotland and Aland strategies are now available.

We invite you to visit the project website and share your energy saving ideas and experiences with us. All entries are welcome, individuals and organisations. The objective is to inform and inspire people on various energy saving options, encouraging dialogue and contact among communities. Over 270 people have entered so far their ideas and pledges on how to save energy. Please visit "**My energy savings**" on our site: www.transplanproject.eu and tell us your ideas!

The BIORES Project



The **BIORES** project, "Reinforcing Investments in biogas technologies for small-scale RES applications in islands", has held several local workshops in Samso-Denmark, Tremiti-Italy, Porto Santo-Portugal and Athens-Greece with considerable success.

The project is now preparing a joint biogas event with another 3 EU co-financed projects: **BIOGAS ACCEPTED** (<http://www.biogasaccepted.eu/>), **RE-WISE** (<http://www.re-wise.org/>) and **BIG>East** (<http://www.big-east.eu/>).



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The event will:

- Present the legal/regulatory, financial and technical parameters of biogas technologies.
- Present the most crucial non-technological barriers for further biogas exploitation in Europe and a biogas roadmap.
- Demonstrate through specific tools how increased biogas use can contribute to CO2 emissions reduction, lead to energy cost savings in cities, communities, and regions, and create jobs and market opportunities.
- Show how it is possible to manage food waste and exploit it as an endless source of biogas.

To learn more about the event please visit our site which will be regularly updated: [More](#)

To register for the event, please visit the [EUSEW-BIORES site](#)

The STORIES Project



The **STORIES** project, “Addressing barriers to **STOR**Age technologies for increasing the penetration of **Intermittent Energy Sources**”, is holding a European Conference on 25-26 March 2010 in Estoril, Portugal within the context of the European Sustainable Energy Week 2010 with the title: “**Sustainable Islands**” - **Energy Storage Solutions for Islands**” [More](#)

To register for the European Conference in Estoril [CLICK HERE](#)

The SEC-BENCH Project



The **SEC-BENCH** project, “**Sustainable Energy Communities – Benchmarking of energy and climate performance indicators on the web**” has joined forces with the project [PATH-to-RES](#) and is holding a conference within the context of the EU Sustainable Energy Week with the title “**Sustainable Energy Communities – From strategy and vision to practical implementation and monitoring**” at the Centre A. Borschette in Brussels on 25 March 2010. [More](#)

To register for the event [CLICK HERE](#)

The SOLCO project has completed its work



SOLCO The SOLCO project completed its work in the spring of 2009. One of its deliverables was the production of a technical brochure with the major findings of the project and an overview of the non-technological barriers of the adoption of solar cooling technologies and recommendations how to overcome them.



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Some of the findings are:

- There is a lack of widespread specialised knowledge of solar cooling technologies amongst designers, installers and maintainers who in their majority continue to design and promote conventional non-solar installations.
- Training of technical market actors (designers, installers, maintainers) is crucial in order to overcome the knowledge barrier.
- Financial support schemes at national and European level are essential

[Click here to download this brochure](#)

OTHER NEWS

State-of-the-art Wind Farm in Belgium – November 2009

Energy commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, together with Belgian authorities, inaugurated in Estinnes, near Mons, Belgium, the world's first wind park with giant 7MW wind turbines, a state-of-the art European technology achievement. The project for the development of the world's most powerful wind turbine today was co-financed by the European Commission with up to € 3.3Million from the 7th Framework Programme. [More](#)

Political agreement on energy performance of buildings reached – Nov 2009

Representatives of the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement that extends the scope and strengthens the current Directive by setting a legal framework to upgrade the national building codes and by launching an ambitious policy of nearly zero energy buildings, so that all new buildings will be nearly zero energy as of 2020. As for existing buildings, Member States will also draw up national plans to increase the number of nearly zero energy buildings.

Moreover, the recast Directive also improves the information provided to consumers in the buildings energy performance certificate. Not only the energy performance certificate shall be shown to the prospective new tenant or buyer of the building, but the energy performance indicator of the building shall be stated in the sale or rental advertisements. Buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of EU CO2 emissions. It is estimated that, by strengthening the provisions of the Directive on energy performance, the EU could achieve a reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 70% of the current EU Kyoto target. In addition to this, these improvements could save citizens around 300€ per annum per household in their energy bills, while boosting the construction and building renovation industry in Europe. [More](#)

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