

ZEN

Zero Emission Neighbourhoods

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Solar Panels, Civic Centre 3, Kirklees

The project's official title "**Zero Emission Neighbourhoods**" gives an idea of its purpose.

The project-partners have developed community-based ways to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy – these have been tested in six varied urban areas within **the UK, Greece and Italy.**

Our intention is to achieve "Zero Emission Neighbourhoods" but in practice this cannot be done during the short life of the project.

The ZEN project finished at the end of March, after a 40-month life. But its impact will hopefully continue for years to come.

Global to Local through Tim Cordy, was the bid-consultant for the proposal, and subsequently the project coordinator – both roles on contract to the London Borough of Southwark. ZEN was part-funded by the European Commission under the FP5 programme. The specific outcomes are to:

1. Increase the use of RES (Renewable Energy Sources) and RUE (Rational Use of Energy) above the trend-rate by 200% through action by local authorities at neighbourhood level.
2. Develop and test the concept of a Neighbourhood Energy Plan (NEP).
3. Demonstrate the applicability and efficiency of hybrid energy systems, including connection to the grid and the environmental gains
4. Identify and overcome the specific technical and socio-economic barriers to RES and RUE that can be addressed at neighbourhood level.
5. Identify and exploit the neighbourhoods' specific technical and socio-economic opportunities for RES and RUE
6. Research and design a 'future-proof' building carcass
7. Test the opportunities and constraints over financial mechanisms.
8. Test the value of ICT as a tool in energy modelling, planning for real exercises, options testing and information dissemination.

The project, comprising elements of research and demonstration, is structured into “Work Packages”.

WP1: We looked outside the six neighbourhoods. We reviewed the RUE/RES policies and achievements of the (15) Member States; and we examined whether municipalities within the EU have found ways of promoting RUE/RES by using their municipal powers (eg planning).

WP2: The first step in the neighbourhood-based action. We undertook a general energy survey of each neighbourhood, using available data where possible, in order to calculate the neighbourhood's energy balance and atmospheric pollution.

WP3: We prepared the Neighbourhood Energy Plan itself, in collaboration with stakeholders (and involving a survey of views). The plans:

- form the basis of a promotional strategy to encourage interest in RES/RUE,
- set targets in respect of RUE as well as RES,
- identify local barriers and opportunities,
- set out the most important technical and socio-economic issues for research

WP4: We identified the technical solution for each neighbourhood, given the objectives of the NEP. In **WP5** we undertook more detailed analysis of the buildings identified for action. And in **WP6** we explored ‘financial mechanisms’ ie cost-cutting or inducements to property-owners to invest in RUE/RES. Finally in **WP7** we installed the proposed RUE/RES, and monitored its effectiveness.

There are three other WPs concerned with project management: D8 comprises our programme of dissemination, D9 is our monitoring and evaluation programme; and D10 concerns the coordination of the project.

What are our conclusions?

In brief: National approaches to RUE/RES vary considerably between Member



Solar Installation, Brescia, Italy

States: the particular ‘dimensions of difference’ are the importance of sustainability in national policy-making, and the extent to which ‘market liberalisation’ has affected energy (in particular, electricity-generation).

Locally, municipalities seem to have limited scope for taking their own initiative. Across Europe, attempts are being made to exploit powers such as planning and building control – but most of these (as in the UK) are subject to national controls, so the scope for local initiative is small. Only where specific local powers exist does the picture change: for example in Brescia (one of the ZEN partners) an ‘EESCO’ (Energy & Environmental Services Company) has existed for 50 years, and delivers a range of services including CHP, waste-to-energy etc: lessons for the UK here, which LB Southwark are pursuing.

The Neighbourhood Energy Plan concept is very robust. The six plans we have produced are very different in nature, but are all true to the original concept. The differences reflect culture (for example, the UK seems to have a much more participative approach, the Greek and Italian partners place more emphasis on the role of engineers, so theirs is more quickly more practical) and geography (in Sutton and Southwark all the work was focussed on a single neighbourhood: in Kirklees, Amaroussion and Palermo much of the work was done at city-wide level).

And has the NEP concept worked?

Here there are lots of answers! In Southwark no installation took place because the 'neighbourhood' was part of the huge redevelopment scheme at Elephant & Castle. But its impact will be seen in the longer term plans for the area; and in the fact that the GLA has now adopted a policy of 'Energy Action Areas' which resemble to quite some extent the ZEN NEP approach. In Amaroussion, despite the stakeholder participation, there was a 'residents' revolt' at the last minute, and the intended installation had to be located elsewhere in the municipality. In the other four neighbourhoods, a mix of energy efficiency and renewable energy equipment has been installed, and the installations proceeded without incident, the most interesting being a wind turbine on the roof of the municipal buildings at Kirklees; 'solar cooling' actions in 5 primary schools in Palermo (the first-floor blinds are made of PV panels); and a PV

installation in Sutton that tracks the sun in order to maximise the energy intake. Disappointingly, all the installations have turned out to be 'top-down' (there was a time when two partners were considering a 'bottom-up' programme of financial incentives to individual property-owners).

Much of the success of ZEN will be felt in the medium-term:

- has the NEP affected public priorities [yes; in all six areas the NEP the municipalities intend to do more in the future]
- and public attitudes [not so clear]
- to the extent that a real difference will be made? [the signs area good, but we need to monitor – and of course there a great many external factors over which at local level we have no control]

For more info, visit the ZEN project website at: www.zeninfo.org

"Say It Loud!" Schools Festivals

London and in Chelmsford

The festivals provide an opportunity to for schools demonstrate their sustainable development projects, celebrate their achievements and share good practice.

The London Festival on 17th June is the third to be held in the capital and will again be hosted by The Royal Geographical Society. We are also grateful for the support of The Department for Education and Skills, Transport for London, The Government Office for London, "Ecover" and many London boroughs.

The Chelmsford festival on 6th July is the third to be held in the East of England and is funded and organised by GOEast, in conjunction with Global to Local.

"Say It Loud" is open to both primary and secondary school pupils to demonstrate their projects through static displays or live stage presentations.

For further information, please contact: anne.finnane@globaltolocal.com

Latest copy of eg magazine is now available. If you are not a subscriber and would like to receive a complimentary copy please email diane.smith@globaltolocal.com



This issue focuses on responses to Defra's new sustainable development strategy 'Securing the future' with comments from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Sustainable Country Parks

Global to Local has been working with Nottinghamshire County Council Country Parks Service (CPS) to develop an action plan for sustainability. The CPS runs three Country parks: Rufford, Sherwood and Bestwood, attracting 1.5m visitors p.a. Each park is different but they are connected by a common thread, a desire to be the most sustainable Country Parks in the UK.

Twenty reps from the 3 parks came together to take the first steps on this journey. They included the Catering Manager, Administrative staff, Park Rangers, Park Managers and senior management.

Rufford Abbey was the location for the event, providing the setting for a key part of the day - an interactive 'walk round' the site. Participants were asked to look at their work place in a new way, using good practice examples from around the world. Within 2 hours they had developed a series of amazing suggestions for how the park could be made more sustainable.

Consensus was reached on a revised sustainability vision for the CPS. From this vision an action plan was developed for the CPS and for the individual parks.

Key outcomes from the session were the need for better coordination and consideration of how an environmental management system approach would assist in achieving the new sustainability vision. This could significantly assist with achieving the Green Flag award.

Global to Local will be looking at how adopting an in-house EMS can assist in Green Flag registration.

For further information about this project, or to discuss how you could adopt a similar approach in your Local Authority, please contact

Fiona.glover@globaltolocal.com

For more information on Green Flag see <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

Sustainability in Derbyshire

A recent Derbyshire County Council scrutiny review identified the need to raise awareness about how sustainability can be better integrated into corporate decisions and service planning. *Global to Local* designed and delivered a training programme, targeting two audiences.

One-hour briefing sessions were provided for elected members, departmental and divisional senior management teams. These dealt with the importance of sustainability, its relevance to the Council/service and opportunities for implementation through a modernization agenda (especially via new arrangements for CPA/Best Value, Gershon, Sustainable Communities, Community Strategies/LSPs, community interest companies and the power of well-being).

Service team staff were given a half-day inter-active session based around the same broad agenda, but with the specific challenge of producing detailed action plans to help their own services improve their sustainability performance. A separate training session was also held for members. In all, eleven training sessions have been delivered, with further ones planned until March 2006.

A key factor in raising the programme's profile and impact was buy-in from chief officers via a presentation to their management team. All chief officers came to the briefings, while the Chief Executive attended twice.

In addition, the half-day module was piloted with the County Council's Sustainability Steering Group. This led to significant changes in the programme.

Derbyshire's Sustainability Policy Officer, Maggie Bishop said *"This programme has really raised the profile of sustainable development throughout the County Council"*

If you would like to run a similar programme for your own Council, contact us at derek.taylor@globaltolocal.com