

Sustainable energy boost

Municipal boost for sustainable energy in Dobrich, Bulgaria

A Covenant of Mayors 2015 Case Study

In a nutshell

Dobrich municipality invested in several energy efficiency, renewable energy and awareness-raising projects to enhance sustainable energy on its territory. The projects included the energy-efficient refurbishment of schools and kindergartens, the establishment of an energy efficiency information centre and the creation of a PV plant.



Dobrich in numbers

Covenant of Mayors signatories in Bulgaria: 26

Number of inhabitants: 93,500

CO₂ reduction target: 25% by 2020 (Baseline year 2000)

A committed municipality

Dobrich municipality is one of the first Bulgarian municipalities which joined the Covenant of Mayors, in 2008. Its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) was approved in 2010. The municipality is also one of the founders of the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network “EcoEnergy”, which has trained their officers and has enabled the participation in energy efficiency projects. Dobrich’s energy manager and its local energy agency are key in managing its sustainable energy activities.

The municipality also runs a Municipal Energy Programme to implement Dobrich’s policies in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy use. Dobrich’s policies seek to achieve national targets set out in the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2014-2020 as well as EU targets for climate change mitigation.

Energy efficiency in schools

In order to reduce energy and municipal maintenance costs, and to improve the comfort of living, Dobrich municipality engaged in the energy efficient refurbishment of five schools and two kindergartens back in 2010. The measure was implemented through Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) within three months. The renovation process was coordinated by municipal technical experts, while the construction contractor was selected under public procurement law. The project was financed by the operational program for regional development. In total, more than €2.6 million were invested.

During the project, a wide range of renovation measures was carried out, such as energy audits for each of the seven buildings, replacement of windows, insulation and repairing of roofs, heating and water draining systems.



The project resulted in annual CO₂ emission reduction of 1,180 tonnes and annual financial savings of more than €135,000. In total, 4151 children, 360 teachers and 80 staff members benefited from the renovation and modernization of their schools and kindergartens.

Kindergarten renovation

In a similar project, the kindergarten “Prolet” (Spring) was renovated in one month - in 2010 - through an ESCO (Energy Saving Company) scheme carried out by ENEMONA. During the energy-efficient refurbishment, the boiler was insulated, the kitchen modernized, and thermal solar panels were installed. The energy savings objective of 40% was achieved, as well as yearly CO₂ emission-reduction of 112 tonnes and annual savings of roughly €15,000.

Raising citizens' awareness

Dobrich municipality is committed to raising awareness amongst its citizens about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Since 2008, it has been operating an energy efficiency information centre that aims at disseminating informational and educational materials, such as brochures and leaflets. The centre also offers consultations and technical assistance to citizens and SMEs, and assists the municipality in organizing information campaigns and thematic days on energy efficiency issues.

Boosting local renewable energy production

In 2012, a new PV plant was built in Dobrich to boost local renewable energy production. The municipality hired a private energy company to implement this project. The PV plant, which was built on an area of 300 acres and features roughly 60,000 PV panels, is the biggest PV plant in the North-East region of Bulgaria. It has been running since June 2012 and is one of the green energy pillars in the municipality. Mayor of Dobrich Detelina Nikolova sees this project as a good practice of public-private cooperation between the municipality and the private sector, which benefits the local economy by creating green jobs.

Projects numbers

Energy efficient schools

Project duration: 3 months (2010)

€2,6 million invested

5 schools and 2 kindergartens renovated

€135,000 euros annual savings

1,180 tonnes CO₂ emission reduction annually

Prolet Kindergarten renovation

Project duration: 1 month (2010)

€15,000 annual savings

112 tonnes CO₂ emission reduction annually

40% energy savings

Project information

 <http://www.dobrich.bg/>

 <http://www.ecoenergy.bg>



For more information on the project, please contact:

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