Regional clusters in energy planning

REGCEP

RegCEP will focus on the use of regional clusters for sustainable energy planning, providing a territorial instrument for the development of intelligent energy by enterprises. RegCEP aims to help overcome barriers to the intelligent use of energy in SMEs, by exploiting regional clusters as a tool for energy planning by industry. It will thus promote regional clusters as an instrument for integrating energy and regional policies. The project has three specific objectives: To produce intelligent energy plans with start-up of pilot projects for 8 regional clusters; To empower 700 enterprises across Europe to integrate intelligent energy into their business practices; To develop a trans-national toolkit for regional clusters and energy planning, capable of transfer across Europe. Thirteen partners, representing energy and regional development agencies from 9 EU Member States, as well as the European association of regional development agencies, will work on this 30-month project, which is organised in eight work packages.

Results

- (i) Intelligent energy plans with start-up of pilot projects for 8 regional clusters;
- (ii) 700 enterprises across Europe will be empowered to integrate intelligent energy into their business practices;
- (iii) a trans-national toolkit will be developed for regional clusters and energy planning, capable of transfer across Europe.

Lesson learned

Renewable energy: The partner clusters have access to all forms of renewable energy, but there was very little real penetration of renewable energy into the clusters. Companies are reluctant, neutral or opposed to adopting renewables. Constraints include: lack of expertise; relative cost disadvantage of renewable energy against conventional energy; administration difficulties.

Energy efficiency: Use of energy efficiency was lower than expected. There is a need to integrate energy into the pressing financial difficulties of the enterprises in the current recession. Promotion of energy management is key.

Energy plans: Five main strategies were highlighted - energy enhancements to buildings, energy management, renewable energy, funding and energy for production. The need for an integrated cluster approach is evident.

Pilot projects: All the projects effectively exploit the “cluster” approach, grouping selected companies for more intelligent use of energy - district energy systems, managing energy consumption, shared energy on a common electrical grid, training and study visits, increase information about energy, intelligent buildings, combined heat power and shared solar power.

Trans-national ‘toolkit’: The strategy of “district energy” aims to make available to enterprises in clusters a range of energy solutions, based around shared facilities and common ownership, such as “co-generation” or “combined heat power”.

Partners and coordinator

Shannon Development [1] Ireland
Contact
Shannon Development
Ireland

Contact point

Name: Mr. Brian Callanan
E-mail: callananb@shannondev.ie
Tel: +353-(0)61-710227

Budget
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Key documents
- Final Publishable Report [14]
  PDF 1.85 MB

In brief
Sector: Industry
Duration: 28/05/2009 to 27/11/2011
Contract number: IEE/08/388
Website: http://www.regcep.eu
Tags:
regional development
SME

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