

RURENER

Network of small
RURal communities
for ENERgetic-neutrality



Project: RURENER

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D2 Case Study

and

SWOT Analysis

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in collaboration with Samtgemeinde Schladen

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Rurener-Report

joint community of Schladen

Geographical position:

Schladen is a rural joint community close to the former inner-German border. Schladen is located in the northern Harz region between the county town of Wolfenbüttel in the north, Goslar in the southwest and Bad Harzburg in the south. It is traversed in the south-north direction from the Oker river, which flows here into the Wedde brook (also called Weddebach). The associated villages are: Schladen, Hornburg, Gielde and Werlaburgdorf.

Upon an area of about 74 km² are living at present close to 9500 inhabitants.
The altitude is about 97 m above sea level.



Historically, there is a high diversity: for example Hornburg is a romantic timber-framed village, Werlaburgdorf is over 1000 years and had an archaeological Imperial Palace since 931st.

Natural environment:

The climate of Schladen is located in a border area consisting mainly of continental climate and an edge influence of sea climate. The temperatures vary from about -10 °C in winter up to about +30 °C in summer. The winter is in large parts free of frost, the mean annual temperature is about 8,8 °C.

Economy:

The traditional occupations of the inhabitants are in agriculture, animal breeding, forestry, tourism (because of Schladens close distance to the Harz) and the sugar processing industry. In Schladen operates a sugar factory of the Nordzucker AG. The largest employer is the Grotjahn-Foundation, a care- and nursing home. One attraction is the snake farm of Schladen, one of the biggest snake farms in Europe.

Energetic situation:

Energy issues will be referred to by the administration as the highest of the five main priorities for the community, even before education, and job security.

Although so far no energy policy plan has been developed, that now belongs to the short-term priorities and will be available shortly.

There are high efforts to save energy through thermal insulation and to extend the use of renewable energy. Some projects have already been started:

The administration offers energy consulting to all of the entire population and carries out annually an energy fair on issues of rational use of energy.

The administration seeks an energetic analysis of all properties of the joint community and takes part as well in the campaign "Climate Region Northern Harz region," an action for the determination of deep geothermal energy potential and bioenergy potentials in all areas of the municipality.

The district Beuchte (380 inhabitants) is working to become the 2nd Low-emission community (after Jühnde [www.bioenergiesdorf.de]) in Lower Saxony. Base is a wood chip-fired district heating network with private consumers. With the heat of a new biogas plant will the supply of additional customers be assured.

Also in the planning of biomass heating systems, the community is active. It supports for example the creation of a district heating network in Hornburg to supply many buildings with heat from a biomass heating system.

In the solar sector, the community supports an action called "roof supports exchange market". Together with a local contractor roof surfaces suitable for solar power generation will be determined and registered into a public database.

Sometimes the community itself builds photovoltaic plants on the roofs of their properties, sometimes it makes them available for citizen-participated

SWOT Analysis

Municipality of Schladen - Germany

INTERNAL

Strengths

- Energy issue top priority for the community
- High willingness and resources for energy and climate issues
- Many projects already being implemented
- High level of awareness about opportunities and promotions
- Weighted sequence:
 1. RES potential
 2. High value of natural heritage, favoring the development of clean energies
 3. Research & Development in RES issues
 4. Existence of energy market
 5. Existence of Energy management Agency

Weaknesses

- Weighted sequence:
 1. Low public awareness
 2. Absence of a local Energy Plan

Opportunities

- Development of an energy policy plan
- Weighted sequence:
 1. Existence of areas suitable of taking measures
 2. Private investors
 3. Liberalization of electricity market
 4. Subsidies – incentives

Threats

- Weighted sequence:
 1. Excessive dependency on fossil fuels

EXTERNAL

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE