



The URBACT II Programme

2007 - 2013



Local Action Plan

Yambol

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1. Preface

The legislative framework, which regulates the activities in the area of EE at a national and local level and the municipality's obligations, is as follows:

- Energy Law
- Law of energy efficiency
- Law on renewable energy, alternative energy sources and bio-fuels
- Law on ambient air quality
- Environmental protection law
- Ordinance 7 for energy efficiency, heat preservation and energy saving in buildings.

For the implementation of the European and the Bulgarian legislation, Municipality of Yambol has an accepted Program and plan on energy efficiency. [This program is prepared according to the requirements of the National energy efficiency agency and is adapted according to the specific needs of the municipality for the implementation of the indicative measures for energy saving up to the year 2016, corresponding to the National indicative aims for energy savings up to the year 2016. The plan is prepared based on the National energy strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria and the National action plan regarding energy efficiency, taking into consideration the municipality's specifics.

In the First national action plan on energy efficiency for the years 2008 - 2016, there is an individual aim for the energy savings of the Yambol municipality.

For the realization of the developed EE programs, the active involvement of the municipalities is a key factor, from the actions of which the increase of energy efficiency of buildings on municipal territory depends.

The policy regarding energy efficiency is one of the municipality's priorities. There has been a consistent municipal policy for the substitution of diesel and solid fuels with natural gas since the year 2001. Up until now, a gas-distribution network of 101.5 km has been built, to which 1733 residential, 26 industrial and 150 public administrative buildings are currently linked.

Practically all industrial and public administrative buildings are gasified, with a planned future expansion of the network. The aim is to reduce electrical consumption and to increase the quality of the air.

Regarding the residential buildings built up from the year 1991, the Ordinance for energy efficiency of buildings is required and followed. Said ordinance undertook several changes with the aim of actualization and harmonization with European legislation.

A mandatory part of the investment projects is the "Energy efficiency, heat preservation and energy saving in buildings". All newly-built buildings need to



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possess certificates of energy efficiency. All newly-built buildings on municipal territory either possess or are to acquire such certificates.

The municipal administration's policy and attitude regarding energy efficiency are laid out in the municipal development plan, where the main aims are indicated by priority:

- Decreasing fuel and energy expenses.
- Decreasing budget energy expenses.
- Improvement of local environmental conditions by lowering excreted harmful emissions in the atmosphere and reducing the greenhouse effect.

In the development of the municipal program for energy efficiency, target groups with great potential for energy savings, where such measures will lead to quick results, have been chosen (schools, nurseries, kindergartens). An action plan has been devised for these groups. A part of these activities are related to connection to the gas-distribution network and changing of the heating cauldrons.

In addition, a database for electric consumption by sectors and target groups has been introduced. Classified by activities, the database encompasses the whole building fund of the municipality. The data is divided into two main groups, with the base information being relatively constant and lays out the main construction and design characteristics and the types of installations in the buildings. The second data part, which changes every three months, is related to the natural and financial expression of electrical consumption by types of fuel and periods.

Within the municipal administration, the realization of the importance of energy efficiency of the building fund is present. Specialists from the municipality regularly participate in seminars, professional trainings and work meetings related to the matters of energy efficiency, which contributes to the raising of awareness regarding new technologies and the use of good practices. On a specialist level, constant contact with the chamber of heating engineers in the city is present.

Realizing the importance of matters related to the energy efficiency of buildings, from the year 2010, the municipality of Yambol has renewed its membership in the municipal network for energy efficiency "Eco Energy", in which it will be working for the:

- endorsement of energy efficiency as a key component of the policy of sustainable development for the municipalities of Bulgaria;
- cooperation with the end users in municipalities for the lowering of costs and raising of public support;
- formation of a new public attitude towards energy.



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- endorsement of local energy planning and management as a key instrument of the energy policies of municipalities.

- spreading of information

2. Local participants and interested parties (stakeholders)

In a way, the city holds no social housing, seeing as the city/municipality does not own a great deal of apartments, which are affordable for those in need. The inconvenience of application of full measures of energy efficiency for these apartments comes from the fact that they are spread throughout the different residential districts of the city and in different buildings.

The main characteristic of the city's building fund is that 91% of it is private, and the large-panel buildings, inhabited by many different owners, often with different social statuses, are 29% of all buildings in the city. Most apartments are inhabited by their owners. Complications in the renovation of the buildings arise from their common parts, which are not parts of individual apartments, but are a vital part of the building (corridors, roofs, etc.). It is no easy task making all owners consent to investing in the activities needed for renovation.

The city's demographic and emigration problems lead to the fact that nearly 15% of the residential buildings' apartments are left uninhabited, the population is mostly made up of elderly people who have neither the financial abilities, nor the life incentives in order to renovate their homes. At the same time, legislative changes, related to private owners, are being carried out, but they are mostly restrictive, without really clarifying the way the problem must be dealt with.

From the foregoing, it is clear that mainly affected by the current problems are the individual homeowners and the formed under the legal framework - governing boards of condominiums.

Due to the aforementioned characteristics of the city's building fund, which hold true for the rest of the country's cities as well, Yambol has identified the following interested parties as a part of the local support group (LSG), which are capable of influencing local policy on the implementation of energy efficiency measures in the housing fund and support the implementation of concrete measures in this area:

- the Municipal Advisory Council on Urban Planning;
- the Regional Chamber of Engineers in Bulgaria;
- the Chamber of Construction Workers;
- the Regional Council for Energy Efficiency;
- the Municipal Administration of Yambol;

This is the core of the local support group, but at certain stages, due to finance problems, or more specifically, the inability for financing, the municipality will look into a way to include financial experts in the local support groups, as well as managers of the condominium.



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3. Analysis and identification of the problems

The adopted assessment of the city was a part of phase one of the CASH project. The assessment identified several basic problems, directly related to the energy efficiency of the building fund:

- There is no targeted communication for the raising of public attention on the need of appropriate renovation of buildings and its benefits.
- The overall awareness of environmental problems and energy saving, in terms of citizens, is very low.
- There exists a monitoring system for energy only for the municipal properties and buildings. The data is reported to the Agency on Energy Efficiency, which has developed the measures of energy efficiency for municipal buildings.
- There is no system that encompasses private residential buildings – owned by many and of different social statuses owners.
- The specialists, occupied in the different stages of the processes related to energy efficiency, possess the necessary knowledge and qualifications, as opposed to the ordinary citizens, who remain mostly uninformed.
- The municipal administration's efforts are not always recognized by the foreign organizations and by the citizens of the municipality.
- The ambitions and set goals are not made public to a sufficient level, in order to bring new initiatives from the citizens and foreign partners.
- There is a lack of financial resources.
- The situation with property (the private housing fund) is a great hindrance for the increasing of the quality of housing.

All of these problems can be summarized into one basic problem – the lack of an Information Bureau on Energy Efficiency that is to submit all types of information to the interested parties in the area of energy efficiency.

4 . Purpose of activities

The main goal is the raising of awareness regarding the requirements, related to the application of jurisdiction in the area of energy efficiency in the housing sector, and the benefits of application of measures of energy efficiency.

The information, needed to be presented to the citizens, is mostly related to the:

- possible organizational and technical measures for the raising of energy efficiency in private residential buildings;
- benefits and technical abilities of the application of measures of energy efficiency in households



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- materials, products, appliances and technologies for the raising of energy efficiency in residential buildings;
- opportunities for creation of housing associations and other relevant forms of cooperation in order to facilitate financing and implementation of projects for energy efficiency in multifamily buildings;
- funding opportunities for energy efficiency projects from special funds and commercial banks, or through targeted national and international programs.

The first step to achieving the objective will be the study of positive experience that exists in the country. After a detailed study, conducted by the local support groups, it was identified that the municipality of Gabrovo holds the most experience when it comes to applied measures of energy efficiency in the municipal and residential sectors. This is why the local support group (LSG) will be visiting the municipality of Gabrovo in order to exchange experience.

The next step is going to be the creation of an **Information Bureau on Energy Efficiency**, situated in the building of the Municipality of Yambol.

The LSG is planning to introduce the public to the measures it intends to undertake and to consider any suggestions voiced, which would help the LAP. This will be carried at a public discussion, organized by the LSG in partnership with leading organizations in energy efficiency.

For the accomplishment of the activities, the conducting of meetings is needed, as well as the preparation of materials and their distribution.

The results from the creation of the information bureau are to be:

- increased awareness regarding the benefits and technical abilities for the application of energy efficiency measures in households;
- knowledge of the possible organizational and technical measures for the increasing of energy efficiency in private residential buildings;
- introduction to materials, products, appliances and technologies for the raising of energy efficiency in housing, their characteristics and their ability to be applied in many types of buildings – both single and multifamily;
- knowledge regarding the means and possibilities for the creation of housing associations and other relevant forms of cooperation in order to facilitate financing and implementation of projects for energy efficiency in multifamily buildings;
- funding opportunities for energy efficiency projects from special funds and commercial banks, or through targeted national and international programs;



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- the providing of all manners of information, applicable and related to the application of energy efficiency measures.

After every thematic seminar, conducted within the project, the information which is going to be presented to the public and the interested groups, will be updated.

At a later stage of the LAP's execution, the making of a ПЧП is planned, aimed at the creation of a demonstration project (a building with all manners of energy efficiency measures applied, in accordance with legislation. This, however, is only possible after the full realization of the problem by the public and the interested parties and the benefits of its solving. This is why the measures of informing the public have to be carried out and an effective information bureau has to be created.

It would be of great importance, for the solving of the problems related to energy efficiency in the dated housing fund, and the improvement of the ecological conditions, if in the course of the project, proposals for legislative changes for the benefit of citizens and greater autonomy of local authorities are brought forth.

2. Draft of the LAP

Creation of an Information Bureau on Energy Efficiency				
обекти				
activity	Begins/ends	Who will be carrying it out	funds/resources	results
Acquainting the public, through a public discussion, with the Municipality of Yambol's strategy regarding energy efficiency; The preliminary action plan for the CASH project and the legislative framework for the application of energy efficiency policies in the housing sector.	18.11.2010 - 18.11.2010	LSG	820 Euro for the presentations	Acquaintance of the public and all interested parties with the upcoming measures, increased awareness regarding the requirements, voiced proposals, which will be reflected in the strategically

				documentatio n of the municipality
Acquainting with the positive experience of the Municipality of Gabrovo	26.11.2010 - 26.11.2010	LSG	200 Euro for the meeting	Study of beneficial practices
Creation of an Information Bureau on Energy Efficiency	.01.2011 - .01.2013	Municipal Administration; LSG	Acquiring of materials	Creation of a center for the providing of services to the citizens
- additional research	01.01.2011- 28.02.2011	LSG		Ready maid materials
- preparing the materials	01.03.2011- 30.03.2011			Opened bureau
- opening the bureau	01.04.2001- 30.04.2011			Implemented LAP
- completing the LAP and information materials in accordance with ongoing thematic seminars	01.02.2011- 01.10.2011	LSG		

6. Communications strategy

For increasing awareness regarding the activities, we plan to:

- Present information about the project and upcoming related events in local publications.
- Publication aforementioned information on the Municipality of Yambol's website.



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- Periodically publish information in the municipality's information bulletin, which informs the public about the activities of the municipal administration.



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