



REPAIR Good Practice Example: Avrig, Romania Local Energy Plan



Connecting cities
Building successes



“Without doubt energy is and will continue to be one of the most important issues of the 21st century!”

The Mayor of Avrig, Arnold Klingeis recognised this in 2008 when he declared his development plans.

The town of Avrig is situated at the foot of the Fagaras Mountains located in the centre of Romania in the southern part of Sibiu County. The town comprises 4 villages - Mirșa, Bradu, Săcădate, Glâmboaca with the combined population of 14,260 mainly Romanians but with a small community of German and Hungarian citizens. Avrig is well connected to the national and European motorway system, linking it to all parts of the country.

Avrig is faced with the challenge of a derelict 1960's Russian armament factory and to find new uses for the site. At the same time creating new dwellings for those who work there adding to the local economy and providing sustainable jobs for the community.

At present the industry of Avrig is mainly industrial machine, vehicle construction and engineering, glass manufacture and textiles. Agriculture features in the area, largely based on cultivating potatoes and maize and rearing sheep and pigs. Tourism is also developing in the area due to the geographic location and historic context. All this has provided Avrig the opportunity to take a leading role in the future.

In simple terms Avrig intends to become one of Romania's leading centres for renewable energy by the year 2020 and to become energy independent by 2030. This vision will result in the creation of new jobs, lower utility bills and a city recognised as a good place to invest, work, live and to visit.

The strategic framework of the Municipality of Avrig, comprising the Local Development Strategy, the Energy Master Plan and the Communications Strategy supports the vision of turning the Local Energy Plan concept into reality.

The concept of energy efficiency is well advanced in Avrig and it has made a major commitment to achieving the targets set by the EU to increase its share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix. The target set by the Commission is 20% RES share of energy consumption by 2020.



A key initiative of the Local Energy Plan is to communicate the strategy at all levels, in particular with local residents to maintain their support. The iconic style of publicity seen above is an example of the method of spreading the message in easy terms. Mayor Klingeis sees that the decentralised



nature of the renewable energy applications and the proper communication, information for potential clients (suppliers, customers and installers) make it the responsibility of the local level to make good use of the possibility to turn theory into action.

The Avrig Local Energy Plan makes a local contribution to combating the effects of climate change and is an integrated 'model for energy efficient communities'.

Avrig has a very positive aim, but the difference between this town and many other small towns is that they have realised the need to be competitive in the field of energy.

Avrig has a pragmatic approach to taking the essential steps to increase their advantage.

By taking the decision to sign the Covenant of Mayors at an early stage, Avrig declared its understanding of the European policy regarding both renewable energy production and energy efficiency.

The Avrig Local Energy Plan calls for a number of projects to be implemented over the next few years as shown below:

- ❖ 1 micro-hydro power station on the river of Avrig;
- ❖ 1 micro-hydro power station on the main water supply pipe for Avrig;
- ❖ 1 Central heating power station exploring biomass to ensure that thermal energy for the residential area in Mirşa, Mirşa Industrial platform and Mirşa Conference Centre located in the former Mirşa military site;
- ❖ 1 Central heating power station exploring biogas to ensure the thermal energy for both the residential areas in Avrig and the Centre for Renewable Energy, Avrig;
- ❖ 1 Centre of renewable energy formed of 12 production units, each having 4,000 m² which will be covered by photovoltaic panels;
- ❖ 1 Photovoltaic power station;
- ❖ Transportation network for renewable energy produced on the roofs of public buildings and housing;
- ❖ Thermal insulation and assembling of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of housing blocks

This plan illustrates the commitment to the task and the clarity of vision from day one.

The Mayor of Avrig has promoted this plan across Romania and Europe in search of the necessary investors. Two years ago, with guidance from the University of Bretagne, Avrig purchased and planted a test area of 1 hectare with four types of Miscanthus from Plerin sur Mer in Bretagne, France to establish the most suitable and productive type for the region. Earlier this year the crop was harvested and the most suitable is proved to be the Polish type. The planting programme will continue with 3 hectares this year, which will take 3 years to mature. As a result a number of new jobs have been created in the area.

The planting programme is only the first step toward implementation of the energy plan. Investors have been secured, ECO2 based in Bucharest, will help take the next phase forward - the development of 10 MW power plants to generate local electricity.

Avrig can further demonstrate its commitment to developing local energy by its decision to apply for and lead an URBACT II Project called URBENENERGY.



The project became effective in November 2009 and launched in February 2010 in Avrig, where Arnold Klingeis, Mayor of Avrig explained that the project network will work to develop an integrated policy-making, local business, financial and social framework for improving energy efficiency and the optimal utilisation of renewable energy sources as an innovative model for creating a sustainable energy efficiency urban environment.

The Local Energy Plan for Avrig continues to progress and residents of the town has already felt practical benefits.

The Local Energy Plan is not only seen as a scheme for generating local energy but as a model for others to emulate in future.

Contacts

Arnold Klingeis / Maria Sinca

Tel. 00 40 26 95 23 101 / 00 40 26 95 23 111

Email. primar@primaria-avrig.ro / mioarasince@yahoo.com

links

www.primaria-avrig.ro

www.urbact.eu/urbanenergy

URBACT II

URBACT is a European exchange and learn sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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