

Brussels, 21 January 2004

Commission awards 2003 Prizes to the best European projects in Renewable Energy

On the occasion of the European Conference for Renewable Energy, today were handed over in Berlin the 2003 EU Awards of the Renewable Energy Campaign for Take-Off. For the 4th consecutive year, the Commission rewarded the efforts made in promoting renewable energy and showcasing successful projects and initiatives all over Europe. The Award Ceremony marked the official closure of the campaign. "I would like to congratulate the winners again this year for their commitment to renewable energies. In view of the greater challenges facing us now that enlargement will become a reality in May, I would also like to encourage them and all our partners to continue these efforts" said Loyola de Palacio.

The Award Ceremony took place in Berlin today on the occasion of the European Conference for Renewable Energy 'Intelligent Energy Options' (19th – 21st January).

The 2003 Winners of the Renewable Energy Campaign for Take-Off, involving all European Union countries, are the following [\(1\)](#):

- Third party financing (TPF) and the take-off of renewable energy sources in Spain (lead by IDAE)
- Promoting the deployment of renewable energy in Ireland (lead by the Renewable Energy Information Office of the Sustainable Energy Authority)
- Energy planning in Navarra (lead by the Government of Navarra)
- Pohjolan Voima's Bioenergy Program (lead by the Finnish Pohjolan Voima)
- Varese Ligure 100% sustainable (lead by the Municipality of Varese Ligure)
- World Network on Bioenergy – A global Renewable Energy Partnership (involving a large network of partners lead by the European Biomass Industry Association)
- Soltherm Europe Initiative (a large EU-wide consortium lead by Ecofys b.v.)
- Objective 15% of renewable energy in 2010 (led by ST Microelectronics)
- Renewable Energy for Nordrhein-Westfalen (led by the Regional Energy Agency)
- In order to highlight the closing of the campaign, a prize for the best renewable energy programme of the last four years was awarded to the region of Upper Austria "Energie 21 - The Energy Action Plan for Upper Austria", which is run by the O.Ö. Energiesparverband.

In the future, support to initiatives promoting renewable energies in the Member States will be granted under the new programme '*Intelligent Energy – Europe*' adopted in June 2003 with a four year budget of 250 million € for the enlarged Europe.

Building on the achievements of the Campaign for Take-Off, the Commission will launch a larger successor Campaign on Sustainable Energy in mid-2004, encompassing energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The European Campaign for Take-Off was launched by the European Commission in 1999 and has been the first Renewable Energy Promotional Campaign launched at European level with a view to accelerate and substantially improve the market penetration of renewable energies, thereby developing economies of scale and in turn, reduce costs.

During these four years, 127 Renewable Energy Partnerships embracing more than 700 institutions have been signed throughout the European Union. 31 of these Renewable Energy Partnerships were elected as leading projects and were awarded a prize on the basis of their substantial contribution to the Campaign for Take-Off. The three previous Ceremonies of the Award Competitions took place in Toulouse (2000), Brussels (2001) and Salamanca (2002).

As underlined in the Commission Green Paper on Security of Energy Supply, the EU's objective is to reach a share of 12% for the contribution of renewable energy sources to the European Union's gross inland consumption by 2010. In order to reach this target, major legislative proposals have been adopted. The Directive on Renewable Energies adopted in 2001 provides for an overall EU indicative target of 21% for the share of renewable energy sources of the EU's electricity consumption, in the enlarged Europe. The Directive on biofuels entails a target of 5.75% for the share of biofuels in the transport sector by 2010.

These objectives are coupled with efforts towards the rationalisation and stabilisation of energy demand to achieve an indicative annual reduction in energy intensity of an additional 1% per year above the business as usual forecast. The Directive on energy performance in buildings aims for example at exploiting the 20% savings potential in the building sector, which represents 40% of the total energy consumption in the EU. The recently adopted Directive on cogeneration and the proposal for a Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services sets up compulsory energy efficiency targets for Member States and for their public services^[2].

More on the Commission's policy towards renewables at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/index_en.htm

Annex: short description of the winning projects

For more information on the awards please contact:

Mariàngels Pérez Latorre
European Commission
Directorate General for Energy and Transport
(DG TREN - D1 - DM 24 4/146)
Rue de la Loi 200 - B-1049 Brussels
Tel: 32 2 2960437, 32 2 2955775
Fax: 32 2 2964254
Email: tren-cto@cec.eu.int

^[1] More detail in the Annex and on the Internet at the following address:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/renewable_energy_partnerships/index_en.htm

^[2] For more information see at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html

Renewable Energy Campaign for Take-Off

Award Competition 2003 - The Winners

- **Best Campaign for Take-Off Partnership 1999 – 2003**
Energie 21 - The Energy Action Plan for Upper Austria
Energiesparverband Oberösterreich - AUSTRIA
 In the mid 90s, the regional energy strategy of Upper Austria defined goals to reduce fossil fuel consumption by increasing both energy efficiency and the use of RES. In 2000, the Upper Austrian Government passed the second phase of the strategy, continuing the targets of the successful first phase into the 21st century. 4.300 low energy domestic dwellings built, 22.000 heating installations replaced, 50 large scale solar thermal systems, green electricity support, 17 third party financing projects implemented, more than 16 MW of wind turbines, more PV solar plants, more combined heat and power biomass plants installed, more than 600.000 m² solar collectors in operation.
- **Grand Prize of the Jury**
Third party financing (TPF) and the take-off of renewable energy sources in Spain
IDEA - Instituto para la Diversificación y Ahorro de la Energía - SPAIN
 IDAE, the Spanish Institute for the Diversification and Savings of Energy has developed the Third Financing Mechanism (TPF) which has become an indispensable tool for the development of renewable energies. IDAE focuses in one of the most relevant handicaps for the development of renewable energies which are the financial constraints. Most significant projects carried out using this financing mechanism throughout Spain are biomass district heating grids, solar thermal installations, small hydroelectric power plants, a wind farm, PV solar installations and biomass energy plants.
- **Best National Renewable Energy Partnership**
Promoting the deployment of renewable energy in Ireland
The Renewable Energy Information Office of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland – IRELAND
 Sustainable Energy Ireland's mission is to promote the development of a sustainable national energy economy. The Renewable Energy Information Office invests full power to create safe conditions for the long-term development of renewable energy in Ireland. Annual investment in the renewable energy sector is increasing all the time, with an expected investment of over 200 million euros.
- **Best Regional Renewable Energy Partnership**
Energy planning in Navarra
Comunidad foral de Navarra (Government of Navarra) – SPAIN
 The region of Navarra is a leading region in the development of wind energy. In 2002, the installed renewable energy power plants in Navarra produced 696 Megawatts and 77 Megawatts were added through co-generation. Both together produced 55% of the total electricity consumed in the region. In 2005, the installed Renewable Energy generating capacity will satisfy 97% of Navarra's electricity consumption.

- **Best Local Renewable Energy Partnership**
Pohjolan Voima's Bioenergy Program
Pohjolan Voima - FINLAND
 The main objective of the Finnish company Pohjolan Voima is to install 650 Megawatt electric power capacity, based on biomass resources. 85% of this target has been achieved to date. Further actions are the widespread use of forest chips, the plantation of 4000 ha of reed canary grass and an accompanying Research and Development Program.
- **100% Renewable Energy Communities - Best Renewable Energy Partnership in Rural Communities**
Varese Ligure 100% sustainable
Municipality of Varese Ligure - ITALY
 Varese Ligure, a rural municipality with 2.400 inhabitants, is the first Italian ISO and EMAS certified. Varese Ligure produces 4 million kw/h electricity from wind energy a year and further 2 million kw/h will be added soon. Several PV solar installations cover up to 98% of the energy needs of the buildings carrying the power plant.
- **Best Renewable Energy Partnerships with Developing Countries**
World Network on Bioenergy – A global Renewable Energy Partnership
The European Biomass Industry Association - EUBIA
 EUBIA promotes a World Network on Bioenergy encompassing 48 partners from 24 countries. The Network addresses worldwide the adequate utilisation of biomass residues and energy crops and aims at developing solutions for bioenergy applications. The World Network on Bioenergy succeeded in setting up a trans-national forum, promoting small-scale decentralised bioenergy technology applications and identifying international co-operation opportunities.
- **Best Renewable Energy Partnerships for Promotion**
Soltherm Europe Initiative
Ecofys b.v. – THE NETHERLANDS / EU Wide PROJECT
 The target for the Soltherm Europe Initiative and its 55 members is to contribute to the White Paper on Renewable Energies with a short-term goal to catalyse the realisation of 15 million m² of solar thermal collector surface in 2004, to create cooperation between sales and installation companies and info centres and to launch information campaigns in all EU countries. 10.000 installers are involved and estimates predict that 4 million European households will be equipped with solar collectors thanks to the Soltherm Initiative.
- **Best Renewable Energy Partnerships with Industries**
Objective 15% of renewable energy in 2010
ST Microelectronics - ITALY
 STMicroelectronics is a worldwide manufacturer of electronic components. The company has a target of reduced CO2 emission by added value set in a "Decalogue": renewable energy use should be of 15% by 2010. These targets are achieved by reforestation activities, the implementation of wind farms with a total installed power of 150 Megawatts, the development of fuel cells use, the purchasing of green energy and the solar thermal development for office buildings and clean room air preheating.
- **Special Prize of the Jury**
Renewable Energy for Nordrhein-Westfalen
Energieagentur Nordrhein-Westfalen (Energy Agency NRW) – GERMANY
 Combined measures have been initiated by the energy agency of Nordrhein-Westfalen to create a new renewable energy market by support of users and producers aimed at strengthening economic performance and increasing employment: 8.645 PV solar systems installed, 25.493 domestic hot water production systems launched, 1.301 biomass plants in operation, almost 2 MW Windpower, 93.000 individuals trained in Renewable Energies, over 10.000 new jobs created in Nordrhein-Westfalen.