

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Contract reference no.: 2598/03-2003/061399 (Asia Pro Eco Programme)

Project Title: Partnership support for renewable energy between European and Asian towns

Name of Beneficiary: Leicester Energy Agency (Leicester City Council)

Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 11th June to 10th September 2003

Due date of this Quarterly Update: 11th September 2003

I. Introduction

The project is currently in its early stages, with background information on the partner towns being gathered, project activities being clarified and an initial meeting of the project partners being arranged.

II. Description of Activities

Activity 1: Initial research/information gathering, conducting baseline in each town, and methodology

The project partners have been compiling background reports for the towns, based around a template provided by the Leicester Energy Agency. The reports provide background information on the partner towns in the project and will be useful for the first meeting of the partners. Some information based on the reports is given below:

Rajkot Municipal Corporation-

- Rajkot is located centrally in the state of Gujarat in India, and has a population of about one million.
- The largest share of Rajkot Municipal Corporation's electricity consumption is for Water Works Pumping Stations (79%), with the remainder for street lights (14%), various (buildings, crematorium, traffic signals etc) (3%), drainage pumping stations (2%), pay and use toilets (1%), and school buildings (1%).
- The potential for solar energy, biomass, wind energy and tidal energy in the state of Gujarat is good.
- The Gujarat Energy Development Agency offers a range of subsidies for solar energy equipment, wind pumps, bio energy equipment and certain energy conservation projects.
- In India there has been a rapid growth in energy consumption. For example, electricity consumption per person grew by 50% from 1985 to 1991.
- India has developed a large renewable energy programme.

Energaia-

- Gaia is located in the north of Portugal and has a population of almost 290,000.
- The largest sector of energy use in Gaia is transport (47%), followed by industry (20%) and households (14%).
- Diesel (35%) and electricity (25%) form the largest share of fuel use. Energy consumption per person (1.2 toe/person) is about one third of the European average.
- Energy consumption in Gaia has increased rapidly in the 1990s, by about 60% from 1990 to 1998.

- There is a hydroelectric power station in Gaia, biomass is used for space heating and there are domestic solar thermal systems in use. It has been estimated that renewable energy forms 9% of total energy use in Gaia.
- There is good potential for solar thermal energy and the use of biomass energy from woods, gardens and parks.

Leicester Energy Agency-

- Leicester is located in the East Midlands region of the UK, and has a population of almost 300,000.
- In 1995, for the city of Leicester energy consumption was about 29,300 TJ, with related greenhouse gas emissions of about 2.2 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.
- The industry and domestic sectors have been the largest energy use sectors (each about 30% of total consumption), with the services/commercial and transport sectors each about 20% of total consumption.
- Leicester City Council has a target of reducing energy consumption by 50% of 1990 levels by 2025, and for 20% of Leicester's energy to be obtained from renewable energy sources by 2020.
- The City Council has set up solar water heater demonstration projects and solar photovoltaic panels are used on a small number of buildings in Leicester. Also, the City Council purchases some of its electricity requirements from renewable energy sources.
- It is considered that the largest potential source of renewable energy in the city of Leicester itself is for solar energy, for example for solar photovoltaics, solar water heaters and the use of passive solar techniques.

Activity 2: Initial meeting to finalise approach in project

The Leicester Energy Agency has been making arrangements for the initial meeting in the project. This is to be held in Leicester on the 19th and 22nd September with the project launch on the 23rd September. The programme for the meeting is:

- 19th September

An introduction to the project, a presentation from each of the partners in the project (based on the background reports) and a presentation of the workplan are to be given. Also it is intended to present the approach used in the previous European Commission funded SIREN (Scenarios for the Integration of Renewables in a European Cities Network) project, and in the Commission funded ENTHUSE project, and to discuss details of the approach to be used in this project.

- 22nd September

The action plan to be followed in the project will be discussed and procedural matters, including financial aspects and a partnership agreement will be considered.

- 23rd September

Project launch

III. Other Issues

The initial meeting will be an important opportunity to further clarify the approach to be used in the project and should enable any potential difficulties to be addressed.