

## 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: 11<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003

Due date of this Quarterly Update: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2003

### I. Introduction

The project partners have continued to make good progress with the project. With the initial project meeting, each partner has gained a better understanding of the energy/renewable energy situation in the towns of the other partners. Activities to be carried out in the project have been clarified, detailed consideration has been given to the technologies to concentrate on in the project, and initial plans for the local workshops have been considered.

### II. Description of Activities

#### Activity 2: Initial meeting to finalise approach in project

Representatives from Rajkot Municipal Corporation, and ENERGAIA visited Leicester to attend the initial project meeting with the Leicester Energy Agency on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September, with the project being launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

In the meeting, each partner presented background information on their towns enabling information on energy and renewable energy in the partner towns to be exchanged. Visits were made to view solar water heating panels situated on the roof of one of Leicester City Council's main office blocks, and a guided tour was conducted of the Queens Building at De Montfort University, an example of the large-scale use of natural ventilation techniques. The workplan and approach to be taken in the project have been discussed. Also, the approaches used in two recent European Commission funded projects that the Leicester Energy Agency has been involved with, the 'SIREN' (Scenarios for the Integration of Renewables in a European Cities Network) project, and the 'ENTHUSE' (Creating Local Government Enthusiasm for Renewable Energy) project have been presented. ENTHUSE project information packs giving a range of renewable energy information were provided to meeting attendees. An action plan for the Asia Pro Eco project has been reviewed, a partnership agreement was discussed and procedural aspects have been considered.

During the visit the Leicester-Rajkot twinning association arranged a reception/meal for the project partners with the Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Kavia. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September the project was launched at the National Space Centre in Leicester, with a number of invited guests, including schoolchildren from a local school, in attendance.

#### Activity 3: Identification of key technologies/approaches

It is intended that the local Asia Pro Eco workshops to be held next year will enable strategies for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the partner towns to be discussed, to help to minimise air pollution and the impact on climate change. To enable a range of local interests and viewpoints to be represented at the local workshops it has been intended that representatives of the following four groups would be invited; local government decision makers/local politicians, renewable energy technology experts, local businesses, and local community representatives/residents.

The project partners have been preparing a report giving details of their initial plans for the renewable energy workshop to be held in their town, and looking at the key renewable energy technologies to be considered for the local area in the workshop.

The Leicester Energy Agency has been giving consideration to the technologies that are most relevant to Leicester and currently the following technologies are being considered for the Leicester workshop:

- Active solar energy (solar photovoltaics, solar water heaters)
- Passive solar energy
- Biomass energy
- Micro hydro-electric power
- Wind energy

It is planned to hold the workshop as a one-day event in March or April 2004, with the morning session concentrating on developing a future vision for renewable energy locally and the afternoon session looking at identifying actions to support renewable energy in the local area.

Rajkot Municipal Corporation have identified the beneficiaries of the project. A list of the people involved in manufacturing the equipment to be used for renewable energy implementation is being prepared. Technologies that may be considered include solar energy and energy from biomass.

Currently, ENERGAIA are considering the following technologies for the workshop in Vila Nova de Gaia:

- Solar water heating
- Solar photovoltaic
- Microturbines (which work similarly to conventional gas turbines but are smaller, and if heat is recovered from the exhaust gases can be highly efficient)
- Small hydroelectric power
- Energy from biomass (e.g. biodiesel, anaerobic digestion, etc)

ENERGAIA intend to finalise the list of technologies to be considered in the workshop with the outcome of the European Commission Altener project OPTIRES 'A planning tool for the optimal regional integration of renewable energy sources' which finishes in January.

#### Activity 5: Interim virtual meeting between partners (using video conferencing)

The project partners have been setting up computer equipment to enable internet based video conferencing to take place between the partners, assisting communication between the partners. An internet link has been established using web conferencing software and web conferencing has been tested. An interim virtual meeting was held between the Leicester Energy Agency and ENERGAIA on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, when the report on technologies, this update report, and next activities were discussed.

#### Activity 6: Website development

Some work has been carried out to establish a website for the project on the Leicester Energy Agency website (<http://www.energyagency.co.uk/pages/asiaproeco01.html>). Currently, the site has a summary of the project. It is intended to extend the website to enable more information on the project to be disseminated and to give information on the seminars and methodology and links to relevant websites including those of Rajkot Municipal Corporation ([www.rajkot.com](http://www.rajkot.com)) and ENERGAIA. A website on the project in Portuguese has been under development by ENERGAIA ([www.energaia.pt/asia](http://www.energaia.pt/asia)).

### **III. Other Issues**

The next activities in the project include the ongoing preparation for the seminars to be held in Leicester, Vila Nova de Gaia, and Rajkot, and the preparation of case studies and training material for use in the project.