



european
energy award

ACTING LOCALLY FOR THE CLIMATE

QUALITY MANAGEMENT | AUDITING | AWARD

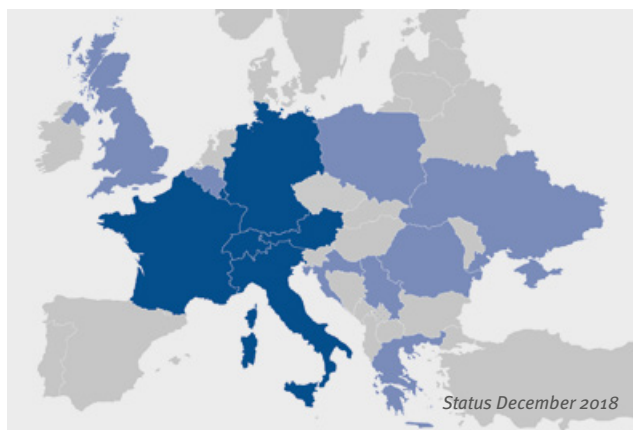
Optimising and successfully implementing Local Energy and Climate Activities



European Energy Award

The European Energy Award is a programme for planning and implementing energy and climate policy goals and measures on local level.

More than 1,500 local authorities across Europe participate in the eea, representing a total of 48 million inhabitants. So far, over 900 local authorities have been awarded the European Energy Award, more than 125 of them receiving the European Energy Award Gold. Founded in 2002 by Switzerland, Austria and Germany, the eea has successfully been established in several European countries and beyond and supports an increasing number of local authorities in sustainably improving their local energy and climate policy.



- ordinary members countries with national programmes
- pilot countries 2018

THE PROGRAMME

As a quality management and labelling system, the eea establishes and supports interdisciplinary local energy and climate planning and action as well as a process-oriented and long-term energy and climate policy on the local level.

The eea methodology allows local authorities to systematically analyse their performance, to identify and plan local energy and climate activities as well as to continuously review, coordinate and implement them according to the objectives set.

The pan-European network of experts and the regular exchange of experiences ensure that the local authorities enjoy access to up-to-date and issue-specific expertise.



COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES

The eea is by no means an isolated solution. At the European level, it can easily be linked with other programmes and activities that foster sustainable energy and climate policy development on the local level, such as the Smart Cities initiative and the Covenant of Mayors initiative of the European Commission. Being linked to national energy goals and effectively translating them into local policy recommendations, the eea corresponds, in the best possible way, to the energy and climate objectives of the European Union for 2030, which means

- 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 1990
- a 32% increase in renewable energies
- a 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency

The Covenant of Mayors initiative calls on its signatories to meet the EU 2030 targets, in particular the greenhouse gas reduction target, within the envisaged timeframe by drawing up and implementing a Sustainable Energy Action and Climate Plan (SECAP). Basically following the same targets, the Covenant of Mayors recognises the European Energy Award as an „excellent implementation tool“ for SECAPs, indicating the supporting potential of the eea.

The eea offers potential for productive cooperation with other energy and climate initiatives of international scope, but also with national climate initiatives like the Vision 2000-Watt-Society in Switzerland, and the Climate Protection initiative in Germany.

CERTIFICATION

External auditing with a subsequent award represents an integral part of the European Energy Award. As part of this awarding process, an external eea auditor carries out a performance review of the energy and climate activities implemented by each local authority.

If the eea auditor confirms that the local authority in question has achieved the agreed standards and gained at least 50% of the overall achievable points, the local authority is presented with the European Energy Award.

If 75% of the points have been achieved and an international labelling process has been carried out, the local authority receives the European Energy Award Gold. The eea has to be renewed every four years, thereby calling for continual municipal engagement.

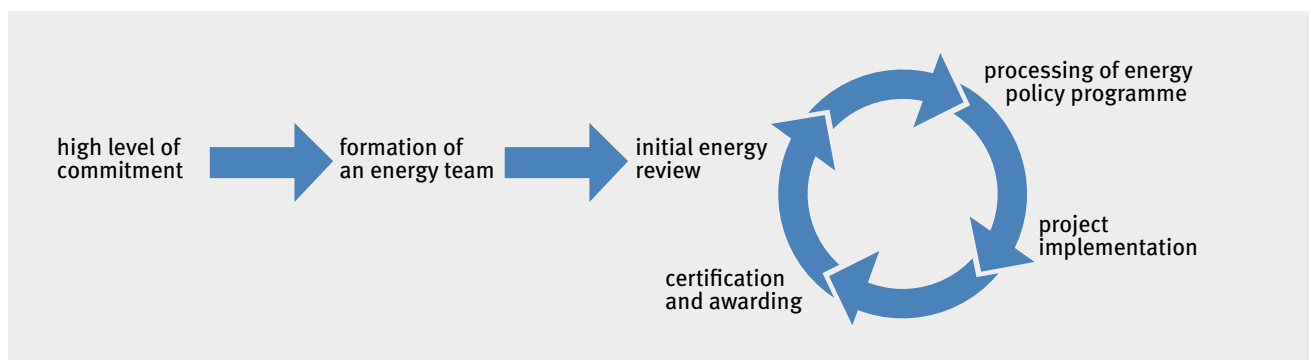
The award validates and publicly acknowledges successful municipal energy and climate performances. It also strengthens the local authority's function as role model with regard to energy efficiency and climate protection and promotes its locational advantages to companies, potential partners and investors.



Quality management of the European Energy Award

The basic principle of the European Energy Award is the process based on the typical management cycle of “plan – do – check – act”, supplemented by the labelling with the award.

THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS



Analysing

With the help of comprehensive eea management tools, the energy and climate projects that have been carried out in the local authorities so far are investigated and the current situation is recorded and assessed. The result of the analysis is a profile of the given local authority’s strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Planning

Based on the analysis of the current situation, the untapped potential of local authorities’ sustainable climate action can be identified and priorities defined. The Activity Plan is drawn up and defined as a binding plan for the years to come.

Implementing

The measures specified in the Activity Plan are implemented.

Auditing

After the implementation phase, the actions carried out are recorded and assessed. The energy team and the consultant carry out an (internal) audit once a year to verify whether the planned actions have actually been implemented and the goals set have been achieved.

Adjusting

The analysis of the current state is adjusted or updated in line with the outcome of the audit. The cycle then starts again.

Certification

Within the framework of the eea, a distinction is made between the annual review of the local authority’s achievements conducted by the energy team in collaboration with the eea consultant internally, and the review conducted by an external eea auditor. If the internal audit shows that a municipality reaches at least 50% of its scope for energy and climate action, it is referred to an eea audit for verification, which must be completed every four years by an external eea auditor.

Award

If, after the assessment, a local authority is able to demonstrate particularly successful achievements and the result is confirmed by the auditor, then the municipality is presented with the European Energy Award or the European Energy Award Gold.

THE TOOLS

The local authorities receive the following tools enabling them to undertake an efficient and sustainable energy and climate policy:

The eea management tool

The eea processes and tools have proven successful in 25 years of implementation in the various member states. The eea Management Tool is the central tool for the eea process. It is an online tool and integrates the instruments and documentation requirements vital for carrying out the process of analysing the current situation, the Activity Plan (= activity programme), the process monitoring and auditing.

The eea management tool is structured in 6 main menus: Municipalities, Catalogue of Measures, energy policy Activity Plan, indicators and effects, data as well as data files.

The eea Catalogue of Measures is used to analyse and evaluate the energy and climate policy work of the local authorities on the baseline of a standardised catalogue referring to six municipal areas of activity:

1. Development and spatial planning strategy
2. Municipal buildings and facilities
3. Supply, waste and waste water
4. Mobility
5. Internal organisation
6. Communication and cooperation

The eea process ensures that all measures in each of these areas are systematically determined, assessed, continually checked, coordinated and precisely implemented.

THE BENEFITS FOR CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The European Energy Award

- provides meaningful performance data and indicators as well as sound documentation and reporting of energy and climate policy work;
- ensures the continuous, regular and neutral review of implemented actions and the maintenance of European standards;
- forms the basis of inter-communal experience exchange and performance comparison (benchmarking) with other local authorities;
- serves to communicate successes and to promote the territory and the municipality's image;
- encourages the formation of partnerships and the establishment of networks with other local authorities.



Who works on the eea?

THE LOCAL LEVEL

The energy and climate team

At the heart of the eea procedure are the representatives of the local administrations and political actors who come together to form an energy and climate team. The energy and climate team is the centre of the development, the motor that drives forward the energy and climate activities in the local authority. The energy and climate team is composed of representatives of the various specific departments of the administrations, owner-operated communal enterprises and political actors. Likewise, external energy and climate experts and committed citizens can also be included in the energy team.

The eea advisor

An energy expert accredited for the European Energy Award guides and advises the local authority and assists the energy and climate team in carrying out the European Energy Award process.

The eea auditor

An accredited auditor carries out the auditing of the local authorities. He is charged with verifying compliance with the European quality standards of the European Energy Award.

THE STATE LEVEL

An eea structure is established in each participating country. These structures allow regional partners to support local authorities in carrying out the energy transition.

The organisational structure is adapted to the circumstances and conditions that exist in the different countries.

THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

The Association European Energy Award AISBL

The Association European Energy Award brings together all national eea organisations and various European Energy Award Gold cities as members. The Association offers a platform for the international exchange of ideas, for quality assurance at the European level and further development of the tools. The association is an international non-profit association that exclusively and directly pursues objectives that are of public benefit. Its purpose is to promote environmental protection, in particular the sustainable use of energy and climate protection at the local level, which contributes to the sustainable development of our society.

The Association

- coordinates the activities of all regional and national funding bodies, which use the instrument of the eea;
- ensures the quality of the instruments of the eea and of the common standards;
- reviews the applications and presents the European Energy Award Gold;
- maintains contact with European local networks and the relevant EU bodies.

European Energy Award Office

The eea Office is the Executive Office of the Association eea. It is mainly responsible for the daily management and administration of the Association, the coordination and communication among the members and bodies of the Association, quality assurance tasks, the administration and coordination of eea Gold certification, the organisation of meetings and events and PR and communication activities.

Participation

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

All countries or regions can set-up their own national eea programme by becoming member of the Association eea and getting a licence to use the eea instruments in the desired region or nation. It is advisable to include the eea programme in an existing energy or climate programme for local authorities on a national or regional level in order to guarantee that the eea programme is directly anchored over the long term.

The national or regional trustee employs a national or regional office to manage the programme in the country or region. The national or regional office is operationally active and responsible for the formation of appropriate organisational structures, the adaptation of the eea instruments and the eea process to the national or regional context, the training and quality assurance of national eea advisors and auditors as well as communication with the interested and participating local authorities. During the first few pilot years, an International eea Country Advisor and the eea Office will support the national or regional offices in these tasks.

THE COSTS

Apart from the licence fees, the costs of professional support during the implementation phase as well as of creating human resources in the state or in the region are covered by each respective national funding body.

The current fees can be downloaded from the eea website: www.european-energy-award.org

If interested, please contact the

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