



Municipality of Vrbas European Energy Award Serbia Pioneer



Engagement for a sustainable energy and climate policy

Vrbas is located in the North of Serbia and was mentioned first in XIII century during the Hungarian administration. During centuries, multiple ethnic groups of diverse Christian confessions were settled in the municipality – a fact, of which various churches still bear witness. Today, Vrbas is motivated to become a pioneering municipality in progressive energy and climate policies.

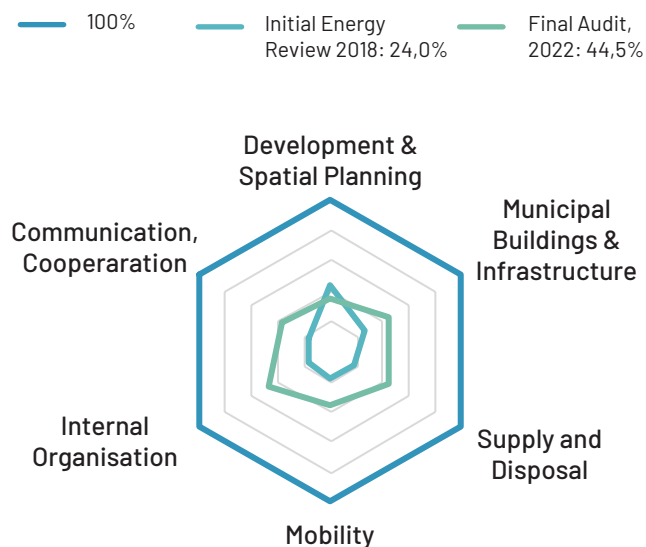
Vrbas' participation in MEEMP and in the EEA

As part of the Municipal Energy Efficiency and Management Project MEEMP (2018-2023), the municipality of Vrbas officially joined the international association of the European Energy Award (EEA). The EEA is a quality management and certification system which awards municipalities for planning and implementing sustainable energy and climate policies according to an interdisciplinary and integrated approach. Following this target, Vrbas committed to continuously improve its sustainable energy management system to achieve ambitious climate and energy goals.

The city's EEA energy policy profile 2022

For its progress and results regarding its energy and climate performance, the Municipality of Vrbas achieved a score of 44.5% during the EEA assessment process and hence was awarded the nationally valid label Pioneer of the European Energy Award in Serbia (EEAS).

The diagram shows Vrbas' profile assessed by the EEA association according to six EEA areas.



City: **Vrbas**
 Region: **Južna Bačka**
 Population: **36.601 inhabitants**
 Area: **376 km²**
 Website: **vrbas.net**

Entry to the EEA: **2019**
 EEAS certification: **2022 (Pioneer of the EEAS)**



Representatives of MoME, SECO, the MEEMP pilot municipalities and team members during the Signatory Event



Antonela Solujić (MoME), Tijana Aleksić (Municipality of Vrbas)

Key Achievements per area:

Area 1: Development and Spatial Planning

- The Energy Efficiency (EE) program for 2022-2024 has been developed. It refers to the EEA approach with its six areas which expanded the scope of the program.
- The Spatial Heat Supply Program (SHSP) 2021-2030 was developed and enacted with the objective to increase the use of renewable energy sources for heating supply.

Area 2: Municipal Buildings and Facilities

- Three public buildings were reconstructed to reduce energy consumption and increase user comfort.
- There is a GIS public lighting cadaster including specifications on the lamp type, capacity and location. Electricity consumption in public lighting system was reduced by 40% compared to 2019.



Area 3: Supply and Disposal

- The wastewater treatment plant Vrbas - Kula is in operation.
- The Spatial Heat Supply Program envisages the integration of a local geothermal well and of a private biomass plant into the existing district heating system to considerably increase the share of renewable energy in the district heating system.

Area 4: Mobility

- Vrbas is a member of the CIVINET-initiative and publicly advocates for sustainable urban mobility.
- As part of the reconstruction of the state road Vrbas - Kula, the bicycle path was reconstructed.

Area 5: Internal Organization

- Energy and climate criteria are considered in public procurement whenever possible.

Area 6: Communication and Cooperation

- The municipality provides subsidies to private households for energy renovations of buildings.
- A communication strategy related to the municipality's energy policy was developed and approved.
- The energy manager is providing advice to households on EE measures and use of RES since 2011.

Next steps:

- Area 5: Development of the Action Plan for the implementation of its energy-related communication strategy. In addition, Vrbas will promote environment-friendly behavior in the municipal administration.
- Area 1: Revision of the Local Development Plan to include climate goals.
- Area 4: Improve capacities in sustainable urban mobility.



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