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De Bonne neighbourhood project - in-depth interview with Pierre Kermen, 2nd Vice-Mayor of Grenoble

Mr. Pierre Kermen, Second Vice-Mayor of Grenoble, is in charge of urban planning and environment. He is also President of the SEM SAGES, the developer which implements the De Bonne project. The timeframe of this project: End of the 1st phase of dwellings by the end 2007 / beginning 2008. The school will be inaugurated in January 2008.

How is the implementation of De Bonne project going?

The project is well on track, with building permits provided last summer and nine property developers and social housing companies working on-site. The design phase has ended, and the implementation phase will start. It will be closely monitored and ensuring the construction phase is successful will be a challenge. This is a crucial phase – involving workers on-site, implementing specific training and disseminating information on how to effectively implement new building engineering approaches among the building contractors.

Thus far only one project has had some difficulties to meet CONCERTO targets (50 kW/m²/y for heating; 4,4 kWh/m²/y electricity for the common area; 35 kWh/m²/y for dhw). The project is on track thanks to the SEM SAGES HQE consultancy team and political support. Furthermore one of the social housing companies is experiencing some financial problems due to higher than planned, with this additional burden to be handled internally as it can not be covered by a rental increase or grants.

What do you find unique or particularly exciting about the project?

This is the first time in Grenoble that various local stakeholders (private and public) are working together on the same target, i.e to build a sustainable energy district, to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to combat climate change.

The SESAC project gives us the opportunity to be innovative. In the final part of the De Bonne project, we will construct a passive building, to demonstrate this is a viable solution.

In the De Bonne area, just on buildings included in CONCERTO-SESAC project (which is nearly

half of the De Bonne project), we expect to save around 2202 MWh per year, to produce 1594 MWh/y of electricity and 1360 MWh/y of heat. That represents a reduction of 590 tons of CO₂ emission per year.

Is this a model you can recommend to other cities?

Cities should aim at achieving high quality projects, addressing their own aims and considering the environmental characteristics (also potential resources) of the city. For example, we do not use wind turbines as there is not enough wind, but we do take advantage of solar radiation for domestic hot water provision and to produce green electricity through photovoltaics (PV). Furthermore the groundwater present in the underground reservoirs of the city is easily used for cooling. So look at your options and make use of local resources.

Has this project helped to increase awareness on the need for sustainable energy among the Grenoble public and businesses?

The De Bonne project is the leading project in the field of sustainable energy and environment quality in our city. However, for dissemination in Grenoble we also launched a "Sustainable Housing Biennial" in 2006. This event is comprised of forty different actions: meetings, visits, conferences, exhibitions, etc. - organised with a wide range of partners, fifty in total. These activities offer various ways to look into the environmental, urban and architectural quality of our accommodations/dwellings. This first event was successful, and we reached more than 12, 000 people from the metropolitan area over a two-month period. The Sustainable Housing Biennial Event will be held again in 2008. We hope that this kind of event will help to change the way of thinking, encouraging a trend towards choosing options that are more considerate of environmental issues.

Has it inspired the development of similar projects in France or in Europe?

Many politicians and decision-makers in other French cities are curious about this project and considering how to implement something similar. I think that some building projects or urban renewal inspired by De Bonne will emerge soon. Regional governments used the results of CONCERTO project analyses (Grenoble and Lyon) to develop a framework for their grants. They have fixed a ceiling to their grants according to the average over cost of CONCERTO building construction.

How will the reduction in energy consumption (30-40 % below applicable dwelling indices) be achieved?

In 2003, when we responded to the CONCERTO call for proposals, the energy targets of De Bonne dwellings were far better than the final energy consumption based on the current French regulation (RT 2000): 41% below this. De Bonne targets are still better than the new thermal regulation (RT 2005) approved in June 2006. Reduction in energy consumption will be achieved as a result of the bioclimatic design, using passive solar energy (e.g. for heating living space, daylighting), through the compact dimensions, high external insulation, excellent window glazing, and heat recovery ventilation system. Further to this the energy supply is provided by solar thermal systems for domestic hot water, and additional heating and domestic hot water needs will also be supplied by mini gas co-generation.

Who funds the De Bonne project? (apart from the EU)

The De Bonne project is supported by several national institutions: Ademe, Rhône-Alpes Région and Metropolitan committee have committed to co-financing the CONCERTO-SESAC project. The socio-economic evaluation of CONCERTO projects in France will be financed at the national level when the project Concert'Action, led by Hespul, gathering the 4 French cities involved in CONCERTO, will be formally accepted.

Växjö wins the Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2007

During the European Sustainable Energy Week, the City of Växjö received the *Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2007* in the category Sustainable Communities for its activities on *Fossil Fuel Free Växjö*. The former mayor of Växjö, Carl-Olof Bengtsson, and Henrik Johansson, Environment Officer at the City of Växjö, received the award on 1 February 2007 in Brussels.

The award was conferred within the Sustainable Energy for Europe (SEE) Campaign, initiated by the European Commission (EC) to contribute towards achieving the European Union's energy policy targets within the fields of renewable energy sources (RES), energy efficiency (EE), clean transport and alternative fuels.

More information on the SEE Campaign: www.sustenergy.org

Contact person: [Henrik Johansson](#)
Tel. +46 470 41330

Eco-buildings and demand-side management in Växjö

The city strives to attain a high level of energy efficiency, and activities in this regard are also being implemented through the SESAC project. This is for example illustrated by the Välle Broar demonstration projects, where public and private housing companies are building energy efficient housing.

Through demand-side management (DSM) methods the project aims at saving energy of around 10% by changing tenants' behaviour concerning energy use. The DSM apartments are equipped with systems for individual measurement. These also display energy consumption in each apartment – drawing the users' attention to their energy usage. The results were promising. After a very short period of measurement electricity consumption was reduced in the apartments where the method was applied.

Contact person: [Martin Magnusson](#)

Distributed absorption cooling by VEAB (Växjö Energy Company Ltd) and KTH

Distributed absorption cooling is a technique based on cooling equipment, that is operated by district heating instead of electricity.

The system will be installed at the Växjö University and the hospital in Växjö city centre. In connection with the hospital the Växjö Energy Company Ltd (VEAB) is exploring whether excess heat can be cooled in the Växjö Lake or if a pool has to be built nearby. This could have a positive spin-off for local inhabitants with a prolonged bathing season. For the moment a new construction is providing the VEAB premises with cool air installed at the Sandvik power plant. The nearby office is connected through a district-cooling culvert. This project and technique used will be evaluated by the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and will provide a basis for further building plans.

Contact person: [Lars Ehrlen](#)

Three representatives of Kaunas- an observer city - share their views

Inhabitants:	360,000 (2nd largest city in Lithuania)
Located:	At the confluence of the rivers Neris and Nemunas; two international road transport corridors: east-west (Minsk-Vilnius-Klaipėda) and north-south (Helsinki-Tallinn-Riga –Kaunas-Warsaw)
Industry:	Light industry (textile), machine building, food processing, chemical industry, wood and paper industry. Seven universities with more than 35,000 students.

Arvydas GARBARAVICIUS, Mayor of Kaunas City



"In 2003, at the beginning of my career as mayor, the municipality had built up a debt of 270 million Lt on municipal district heating. To address this situation a group of public advisors was assembled, and the municipality considered options for scientific and international cooperation in the field of energy. As mayor I was interested in, and open to, all initiatives where we could learn and improve our systems, giving priority to renovation and energy projects. In this sense we are glad to link up to the SESAC project. The Kaunas Regional Energy Agency was also established in 2003 with support by the SAVE II programme. At the moment it is supporting the municipality with involvement in various international projects. I hope that the new elected Council will lastingly pay attention to, and allocate a substantial budget to sustainable energy."

Adolfas Antanas Balutis, Deputy-Mayor



"The SESAC project allows experts to exchange information and opinions, and to clarify possibilities in adopting technical innovations in the energy sector. Of primary interest to me are the issues of modernising households, which is a process that has just started in Lithuania and is accelerating fast. Kaunas also pays extensive attention to sustainable transport."

Algirdas Vaitiekunas, Head of Energy Division



"The Municipality of Kaunas was invited to join the SESAC project as an observer by Sarah Nilsson, a member of the delegation from Växjö, which is a twin city of Kaunas. For us the issue of energy sector management and obtaining the latest technical information is important. While participating in this project, we have prepared the energy balance for the City of Kaunas, and are paying special attention to the low temperature district heating and mini co-generation demonstration projects."

NEWS SNIPPETS

DEEP toolkit - Supporting Public Authorities in Energy Efficient Procurement The DEEP Toolkit is a package of resources designed to help public authorities that would like to use purchasing power to improve their energy efficiency performance. For more information download the leaflet with an introduction to the tools, including basic information on the application, purpose and features. For more details please send an e-mail: procurement@iclei-europe.org www.iclei-europe.org/deep

European agreement on a new energy policy

The European Council demonstrated in spring of 2007 that the EU is taking the lead in the fight against global warming. EU heads of state and government adopted an energy policy for Europe which doesn't simply aim to boost competitiveness and secure energy supply, but also aspires to save energy and promote climate-friendly energy sources.

EU leaders set a firm target of cutting 20% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 - the EU will be willing to put this goal up to 30% if the US, China and India make similar commitments. EU leaders also set a binding overall goal of 20% for renewable energy sources by 2020, compared to the present 6,5%.

A binding minimum target of 10% for the share of biofuels in overall transport petrol and diesel consumption by 2020 was also set.

www.ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/index_en.htm

EU Energy Package

A collection of relevant documents and links to energy package published by the European Union in January 2007. www.europa.eu/press_room/presspacks/energy/index_en.htm

EVENTS

3rd International Congress for SE Europe – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources

Date: 24-26 April 2007

Place: Sofia, Bulgaria

Web: www.viaexpo.com/congress-ee-vei/eng/congress.php

12th Annual Conference of Energie-Cités - Energy & Climate: communicating to change our behaviour

Date: 25-27 April 2007

Place: Brasov, Romania

Web: www.energie-cites.eu/conference

Sustainable Regions and Municipalities 2007

Date: 8-10 May 2007

Place: Växjö, Sweden

Web: www.energikontor-so.com

DENEX® 2007 (decentralized energy systems) / ENBIO® 2007 (wood energy sector, biofuels and biogas) / BAUSAN® 2007 (energy efficient construction and renovation) - Congress and Trade Fair

Date: 11-13 May 2007

Place: Kassel, Germany

Web: www.energie.kjm2.de/ref.php?id=79dee6830320ms393

Global City - Creating a sustainable future for our cities

Date: 14 - 16 May 2007

Place: Lyon, France

web: www.globalcityforum.com

9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation, will take part during EE21 Steering Committee

Date: 30 May – 1 June 2007

Place: Geneva, Switzerland

Web: www.ee-21.net

Local Renewables Freiburg 2007: Powerful local action for secure and sustainable energy

Date: 13-15 June 2007

Place: Freiburg i. Br., Germany

Web: www.local-renewables2007.org

Sustainable City Development

Date: 12-14 September 2007

Place: Malmö, Sweden

Web: www.malmo.se/sustainablecity

European Meeting Point: Energy for Development 2007

Date: 10-12 October 2007

Place: Beja, Portugal

Web: www.energyanddevelopment-2007.net

We invite your comments on the newsletter.

Do you have articles or events of interest relevant to sustainable energy systems in advanced systems or to climate protection? Please pass these on to [ICLEI](http://www.iclei.org) or to [Energie-Cites](http://www.energie-cites.eu)

Other projects:

For further information on the CONCERTO initiative and other CONCERTO projects, please visit the CONCERTO homepage www.concertoplus.eu.

Contacts:

- Newsletter Editors: [ICLEI](http://www.iclei.org) - www.iclei-europe.org - Local Governments for Sustainability, Climate & Air Team and [Energie-Cites](http://www.energie-cites.eu) - www.energie-cites.eu - The association of European local authorities promoting a local sustainable energy policy.

- Project Coordinator: City of Vaxjo, Sweden - Sarah Nilsson, sarah.nilsson@kommun.vaxjo.se, Manager of International Projects

- Website: www.concerto-sesac.eu

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