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STEP UP – Strategies Towards Energy Performance and Urban Planning

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What is STEP UP?

STEP UP is an EU funded project that aims to provide cities with the tools and approaches necessary to enhance their existing energy plans. A partnership of twelve organisations, the programme is working together with local government, research and commercial partners in the European cities of Ghent, Glasgow, Gothenburg and Riga. The cities will improve their existing Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) which will be integrated into their wider city planning. The project is working closely with the EU Covenant of Mayors that is gathering and approving SEAPs from across Europe.

To register for future news updates on STEP UP please sign up to our newsletter [here](#).





Learning Network

As the STEP UP project progresses, results of the energy planning and development of low carbon energy projects will be made available to members of the learning network, published on the Learning Network section of the [STEP UP website](#) and updated in this newsletter. The end result of the project will be a coherent and easy-to-use model for energy planning.

Are you a city contact willing to share your best practices? Do you want to sign up to the learning network and be updated on new events and information on the STEP UP learning network site? If so, please email STEP UP on:

network@stepupsmartcities.eu

Ghent

The [City of Ghent](#) has set the ambition to become climate neutral and energy independent by 2050. This strategic city target is supported by a wide range of residents and users of the city of Ghent which together form a [Climate Alliance](#).

In Ghent, STEP UP is looking for innovative solutions to enhance energy efficiency for the city and its districts. At the city level Ghent is creating a climate plan containing an integrated and enhanced Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). At a district level, STEP UP in Ghent will carry out a pilot study on smart city energy planning by investigating how the district of Sint-Amandsberg-Dampoort can become climate neutral. Sint-Amandsberg-Dampoort is the subject of an urban regeneration project that will be linked to activities within STEP UP. In collaboration with inhabitants and workers of the district, STEP UP will investigate which viable interventions

with respect to sustainable building renovations can generate a significant reduction of CO₂ emissions and reduce fuel poverty. The conclusions of this pilot study will provide an important input to the new climate plan for the city.

Ghent - News

Ghent is in the process of building and testing different scenarios for its climate plan towards its climate neutrality target. These scenarios and its criteria are being discussed with a wide range of stakeholders. In one specific district of Ghent the STEP UP team has started a pilot study on smart city energy planning by investigating how this district can be made climate neutral. In November residents of this district will get acquainted with this pilot in a workshop on energy efficient living. In the meantime, six coaching trajectories on energy planning are starting up in different Flemish companion cities of the [Flemish Smart Energy Cities Network](#).

Glasgow

Glasgow is aiming to become one of Europe's most sustainable cities by 2020. The existing [SEAP for Glasgow](#) sets a target of 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020 through energy efficiency in buildings and transport and maximizing the use of sustainable energy resources. The city of Glasgow is engaging with a wide range of stakeholders through its '[Sustainable Glasgow](#)' partnership and is embarking on a number of innovative projects that will revolutionise how the city's energy is produced and distributed. For example, a new energy centre and district heating network has been built to heat and power the Athletes' Village for the [2014 Commonwealth Games](#). Work is underway also to examine the feasibility for other district heating networks around the city. Scottish Power has been developing detailed heat maps of the city that will establish areas of high energy demand and opportunities for integrated energy solutions.

Glasgow - News

Glasgow is in the process of developing an [Energy Services Company](#) (ESCo) that will help provide cheaper heat to residents and help eliminate fuel poverty in the city. Glasgow City Council is currently evaluating expressions of interest from organisations interested in helping the Council achieve this. ([News item here](#)). The ESCo will develop a business model that will deliver an affordable and secure energy supply to residents of the city. The proposed new energy company could help attract investment in new community based energy projects and could also assist in the city's future economic growth and skills development. Glasgow is also evaluating the possibility of developing an extensive district heating network in its city centre and north of the city centre. The proposed development would generate significant CO₂ reductions and provide

affordable heat and power for both businesses and social housing tenants in some deprived areas of the city.

Gothenburg

Gothenburg has set itself the target of reducing the average greenhouse gas emissions per citizen in the city from 10 tons of CO₂ equivalent to below 2 tons. An energy model able to map energy balances of production and consumption by the hour, location and energy type is being constructed to support a strategic energy plan for 2050.

Gothenburg has adopted a local environmental objective to reduce its carbon footprint. The aim is that by 2050 the city will have a sustainable level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The average emission level of CO₂ equivalent per person in Gothenburg will have to be reduced from the current level of about 10 tons per person to less than 2 tons per person for this goal to be reached. The city also adopted an interim target which states that by 2020, emissions levels of CO₂ will be reduced by at least 30 % compared to baseline levels of 1990. Currently, Gothenburg's SEAP is being updated and will include strategies on how to achieve the 2050 targets. This will also include a new energy plan for the city. As a part of the SEAP, a new energy model will be developed that will be able to show the energy statistics for the city by hour, districts, different energy sources, consumers etc. The Gothenburg model will provide fundamental information for developing new innovative projects.

Gothenburg - News

An energy model able to map energy balances of production and consumption by the hour, location and energy type is being constructed to support the strategic energy plan for 2050. The model will provide fundamental information for developing new innovative projects.

Gothenburg's learning network within the STEP UP project has begun working in partnership with 3 companion cities, Bergen in Norway and Borås and Malmö in Sweden. Bergen has similar challenges to Gothenburg and is undertaking process and project working with respect to urban infill development and is also developing models and plans for adapting to climate change and how this is reflected in city planning. Cooperation with Malmö will involve issues such as how to develop successful projects and how to reach out to communities. In Borås, STEP UP will be engaged in the city's ongoing energy and comprehensive planning process.

Riga

Riga City together with city wide stakeholders is currently in the process of enhancing the Riga Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This will be achieved through the integration of innovative ICT technologies in energy and transport, bringing the city towards the smart city status. The enhanced SEAP structure is already prepared and is open to public discussion and alignment of the new SEAP with the overall new city development strategy is underway. Riga City Council has already approved a new SEAP (2014-2020) management structure. The CO₂ emissions for 2012 have been calculated and the reduction of emissions in 2012 compared to the baseline year of 1990 were found to have reached 53%. In October, the first public discussion about the new SEAP was held which was streamed live over the web in order to reach wider audiences. Emissions and the city's energy supply were discussed. Four more public discussions will be held, once a month, in the format of a seminar-discussion on other areas of the SEAP. Riga City Council expects to receive the new Sustainable Energy Action Plan for approval by the end of March 2014.

In October 2013, Riga Energy Agency organised 'Riga Energy Days 2013' - a month long programme of seminars, exhibitions and consultations. The international exhibition 'Environment and Energy 2013' - central energy days event brought together 114 companies and institutions from 13 countries and was attended by 24,750 visitors.

Riga Energy Agency hosted a stand for professionals and inhabitants and also organized two major seminars, participating in discussions organised by other parties. A well reported event was the presentation (first in Baltic countries) of test drives of commercial Fuel Cell Hybrid Buses by Van Hool, Belgium. The first commercial car with hydrogen technology - Hyundai ix35, was presented by Skåne Region, Sweden, as the City of Riga is preparing for the gradual introduction of hydrogen buses in city public transport in order to improve air quality in the city centre.

STEP UP Activities

The next STEP UP conference for cities within the learning network will be held in Ghent, Belgium on the 27th November 2013. This will then be followed by the Eurocities Conference with the theme - 'Smarter Citizens' also in Ghent 27-30th November.

Speakers on the STEP UP learning network conference will include Pirita Lindholm from the Covenant of Mayors. Themes addressed during this conference include:

- Financing sustainable and innovative cities
- Current trends, benchmarking and creating enhanced SEAPS
- How do SEAPs and pilot schemes stimulate the economy and employment?

If you are interested in attending the STEP UP learning network conference on Wednesday 27th November please contact us on:

info@stepupsmartcities.eu

Register for Eurocities [here](#).

Website: The STEP UP website has been redesigned. Please visit:

www.stepupsmartcities.eu

European News

EU Covenant of Mayors: There are now 5,204 signatories to the [Covenant of Mayors](#) from municipalities making a commitment to increase energy efficiency and utilise renewable resources in pursuit of the EU 2020 carbon reduction target of 20%. One year after joining the Covenant of Mayors, signatory cities pledge to adopt a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and report every two years on its implementation. Over the past months, the Covenant of Mayors Office and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission have been active in developing this Covenant monitoring framework as well as in revising and enhancing the procedures for SEAPs. As a result, a revised version of the SEAP template, including new monitoring fields will be shortly released. [Read more on the monitoring framework update here.](#)

Smart Cities: The High Level Group of the [European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities](#) has adopted the Partnership's Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), which is to serve as the basis for accelerating the deployment of Smart City solutions in Europe, as part of which the European Commission is expected to invest around €200m to create Smart Cities in the next two years, the Commission recently said in a [press release](#).

Covenant Capacity Project: The [Covenant Capacity project](#) is a 3-year project, co-funded by the [Intelligent Energy Europe](#) programme. It started in June 2011 and runs until May 2014. The main project aim is to assist Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) development in Europe - from

motivation, planning, implementation, to monitoring and evaluating. [Read more on upcoming events in the Covenant Capacity project here.](#)

European Union: European Union regulators are considering doubling the region's greenhouse gas emissions target to 40% by 2030 and setting a tougher binding goal for renewable energy use, EU sources have said in a [Reuters report](#). The [European Commission](#), the EU's executive, outlined new targets earlier this year but has yet to follow up with a firm legislative proposal. That is expected around the end of the year. One source said the Commission was considering two legal targets to follow the three green energy goals that expire at the end of this decade. [Read the full article here.](#)

Contact STEP UP

If you have comments, news or events you wish to contribute please get in touch with us at:

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