



July 2004



SolTherm News

I. Renewables 2004 - the Conference

II. Renewables 2004 - Activities of Soltherm Partners

III. Further Activities of SOLTHERM partners

I. The Conference

The Conference: renewables 2004 and local renewables 2004

On Friday, 4 June, government delegates from 154 countries adopted the Political Declaration of renewables 2004. The declaration contains definitions of common political objectives for promoting the role of renewable energies, making clear, that renewable energy should play a major role in the energy economy of the 21st century. But it does not include binding numerical targets and is therefore more voluntary and less-binding in character than the Kyoto Protocol.

In the International Action Programme, governments, international organisations and stakeholders have committed to activities that are geared towards the increased use of renewable energies. So far, 165 of the proposals for voluntary measures have been endorsed while many further submissions for action are being screened at present. Some cities and towns have already committed themselves to actions, all of them members of the Climate Alliance. The Climate Alliance committed itself to a program, including among others promotion of the Local Governments' Renewables Declaration, development and promotion of schemes to citizen finances renewables energy plants, and further work on a monitoring systems for renewable energy on the local level.

Policy Recommendations give practical advice on how to promote the development of the market for renewable energies in the North and in the South. In comparison to the draft version, the final documents underlines the role of communities more clearly, ascribing not at least to the intensive work of city networks like the Climate Alliance and the local renewables 2004.

Renewables 2004 was unusual in that it was designed as a formal intergovernmental conference but with official participation of U.N. and other international organizations and a variety of other „stakeholder“ groups, ranging from the private sector to rural development organizations. It turned out to be the largest ever meeting of government and private sector leaders on renewable energy, with over 3,000 participants according to the organizers.

The follow-up mechanisms for Renewables 2004 are still being developed, but are likely to include an official monitoring process that reports to the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006 and 2007. In addition, a global policy „network“ or „forum“ will likely be created to provide information exchange, analysis, and capacity building both in governments and in non-governmental organizations.

(Source: Climate Alliance, Worldwatch)

Local Governments

Renewables Declaration adopted

With „local level takes the lead“ as their motto, 75 mayors from 25 countries and the Lady Mayor of Bonn, Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann, adopted the Local Governments Renewables Declaration in the course of the international municipal leaders conference „Local Renewables 2004“. The Declaration, which has been worked out by the Climate Alliance of European Cities, represents the local position on a sustainable energy policy, including demands, suggestions and self-commitments. It was introduced to the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue of the renewables 2004.

The communities see their own role especially in urban and environmental planning by setting the conditions for the expansion of renewable energy sources, favouring passive and active use of solar energy and providing sites for biomass electricity plants and wind turbines. In local decrees and financial incentives for certain energies, such as solar-thermal energy in buildings, or tax benefits for renewable energy plants, or investing in an infrastructure for the use of power-, heat- and cold-coupling from renewable energies. By initiating cooperation and financing strategies, investors, providers and consumers are brought together in order to put into practice joint renewable energy projects.

For further information:

www.klimabuendnis.org/aktuell/renewables.htm

One example

Global Market Initiative launched at Renewables 2004

German Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin and the representatives of several other countries have agreed a „Global Market Initiative“ (GMI) at the „renewables 2004“ conference in Bonn. The Initiative's aim is to bring to the market solar thermal power plants located in the world's solar belt. An overall generation capacity of 5,000 megawatts is to be installed by 2015. This will make the technology viable on the market within a decade.

Participants agreed to ensure the Initiative's success by adopting appropriate legislation and incentives to foster the feed-in to grids of electricity generated from renewable sources; by engaging in the transnational or intercontinental transmission of electricity, with improved payments for renewable

power; and by establishing CO₂ certificate schemes and bi- and multilateral financing programmes.

II. Renewables 2004 - Activities of Soltherm Partners

German Climate Relay reached the International Renewables Conference in Bonn

Just in time for the opening of the International Conference for Renewable Energies „renewables 2004“, the CLIMATE RELAY „KlimaStaffel 2004“ reached Bonn: During the 23 days of the relay, more than 15,000 active participants carried a relay baton through all regions of Germany - 4000 kilometres of walking, cycling, skating, riding, rowing, with solar boats, horses, huskies - all environmentally sound means of transport have been allowed. The relay baton was handed over to Federal Environment Minister Juergen Trittin, Chair of the Conference. Inside the relay baton is the „Climate Relay Declaration“, signed by all the 16 regional states that make up Germany, whereby they commit to strongly promote the use of renewables. Moreover, a „book of messages“ comprises local declarations, wishes and proposals of local governments and thousands of citizens who actively participated at the CLIMATE RELAY. Organiser of the relay is the Climate Alliance of European Cities, with 1200 member municipalities the largest network of local governments working in the field of climate change policy and sustainable energy.

The 200 staging posts of the climate relay included exemplary renewable projects, highlighting that a sustainable energy system is based on a broad variety of technologies, involving local and regional governments, private investors, business, and NGOs. Participants included activists and



local government representatives from Germany and other European countries like Austria, Denmark, Belgium, and The Netherlands, and, moreover, delegates from indigenous peoples from the Amazon rainforest, partners of the European cities in the Climate Alliance.

For further information:
www.klimastaffel.de (in German)
about the Climate Alliance:
www.climatealliance.org

Campaign to increase awareness for solar thermal and renewable heating at EU level

At renewables2004, ESTIF has given a presentation in a side-event on possible policy instruments to promote renewable heating, including solar thermal. Throughout this process, ESTIF has always made clear that promotion campaigns, that are the main issue dealt with by the Soltherm Initiative, are a necessary and very important tool to promote solar thermal. Consequently, ESTIF (European Solar Thermal Industry Federation) has started - within the timeframe of the Soltherm Europe Initiative - a campaign to increase awareness for solar thermal among opinion leaders and particularly policy makers.

However, ESTIF made clear, that this is not enough. ESTIF identified as a major cause for the lack of strong political support for solar thermal in many European countries: the almost exclusive focus of EU renewable policy measures and debates on the electricity and transport sectors.

Therefore, a first step has been the Joint Declaration for Renewable Heating and Cooling, initiated by ESTIF and supported by a broad coalition of nine relevant European associations. The declaration asked for binding targets at national and European level, more effective financial incentives and regulations such as the „Barcelona model“ to be enacted in all countries of the Union, as well as for a stronger focus on renewable heating issues in the European and national research programs.

A second milestone has been the „Bielefeld Declaration -a European initiative for legislation for Heating and Cooling from Renewable Energies“, launched by the senior Member of the European Parliament Mechtild Rothe, who committed herself to work for an Initiative Report in the European

Parliament that should call for a European directive to promote renewable heating and cooling.

Finally, the campaign initiated by ESTIF has found official recognition in the Communication of the European Commission on the progress of renewable energies in the EU, published on 26/5/04.

The next step is to define clear proposals for a EU action plan to promote solar thermal and renewable heating. ESTIF will be glad to share this discussion with the participants in the Soltherm Europe Initiative and any other interested partner.

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RegioSolar fosters solar initiatives in Germany

At renewables 2004, BSI offered all participants an excellent opportunity for relaxing: the Solarcafé. The Solarcafé equipment artfully demonstrates the possibilities of solar energy technology. Original solar power prepared coffee and cooled cold drinks have been enthusiastically received by visitors.



Beyond this, BSI is the coordinator of the RegioSolar initiative: RegioSolar is a platform set up by the Bundesverband Solarindustrie (BSI - German Solar Industry Federation) to assist and boost the dynamics of solar energy initiatives. Three instruments have been set up during the first half year 2004:
1) A short study on „Solar Initiatives in Germany“ (in German),
2) A National Conference of Regional Solar Initiati-



ves in Berlin (2nd-3rd April 2004)

3) An internet portal for solar initiatives under www.regiosolar.de, featuring all the contents of the National Conference (in German)

The goal is to inform about the amazing activity results of solar initiatives in Germany and to enable them to easily share experience and know-how as well as to improve their networking abilities. Regio-Solar is co-funded by the German Environment Ministry (BMU) and part of the German contribution to SOLTHERM Europe.

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Best Practice proposed by the Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME)

At the renewables2004, ADEME presented the main results of the MEDA project „Applications of Solar Thermal Energy in the Mediterranean Basin“.

The members of MEDENER (Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Management) have designed a project that aims to transfer to southern countries the GSR (Guarantee of Solar Results) concept that is successful in Europe:

The procedure of Guarantee of Solar Results or GSR allows to guarantee by contract the technical and economic performances of an installation equipped with a solar water-heater. The technical team in charge of carrying out the installation proposes the GSR to the customer. This latter agrees by contract on the energy contribution of the solar installation. If the contribution does not match the levels specified in the contract, compensation is paid to the customer.

In the project, very detailed studies on the energy market were realized. To encourage experience exchange, high level regional meetings were organised in Tunisia and in Egypt with a very strong implication of authorities, six training sessions, addressed to study offices, installers, installer's trainers and professionals of the field were held, tele-monitoring equipment on selected pilot installations were installed and the website „www.solarmed.net“ was created. Last, but not least, a support to

Southern countries were provided in analysing sectors to be developed in priority as well as elaborating a national strategic plan for solar thermal collective as well as individual applications.

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New Solar Publication presented within the renewables 2004

This study was prepared within the framework of the Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (SHC) of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and supported by the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). The goal of the study was to document the collector areas previously installed in the important markets worldwide, and to ascertain the contribution of solar plants to the supply of energy and the CO₂ emissions avoided as a result of operating these plants. The collectors documented are unglazed collectors, glazed flat-plate and vacuum tube collectors with water as the energy carrier as well as glazed and unglazed air collectors.

The 26 countries included in this study represent 3.3 billion people which is about 50% of the world's population. The collector area installed in these countries is estimated to represent 85-90% of the solar thermal market worldwide.

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Costs: 4 EURO.

The orders should be sent to the following e-mail address:

versand@projektfabrik.at

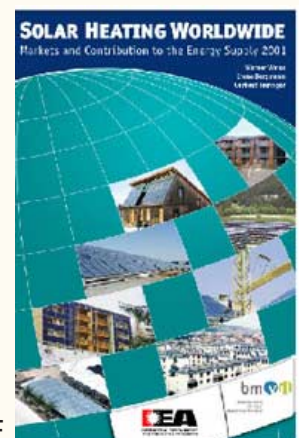
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III. Further Activities of SOLTHERM partners

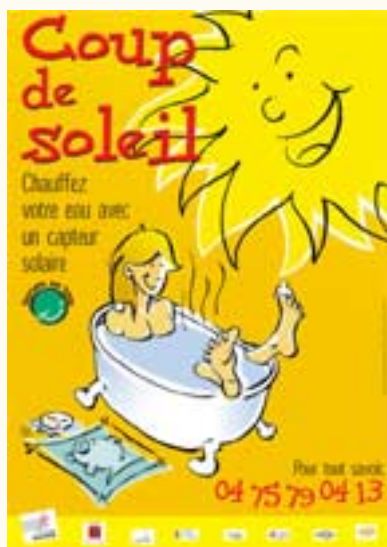
Promotion activity in the Rhône-Alpes region „Coup de soleil sur Romans“ (Sunburn on Romans):

During a meeting of the Soltherm group in Rhône-Alpes region (France), good practises in the Netherlands for the promotion of solar thermal at a local level were presented by Ecofys.

The municipality of Romans (33000 inhabitants), with the help of Rhônalpennergie-Environnement, decided to develop such a local promotion campaign on his territory, to promote solar individual hot-water systems. This new promotion activity has just began: „Coup de soleil sur Romans“. During the 7 months of the campaign (June-December 2004), the inhabitants of this town will benefit of :

- a new subsidy (300€) from the municipality
- wide diffusion of the information with a press conference, a poster campaign, leaflets in the mailing boxes, advertising insert in the municipality bulletin
- advices from energy advisors with a specific phone number
- visits of solar installations
- information meetings and solar exhibition in different locations in the town
- solar conference during the local trade fair

Different partners are involved in this campaign: the local energy information centre (ADIL26), the regional council, the departmental council, the national energy agency (ADEME), a federation of craftsmen (CAPEB).



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A solar thermal user's guide

In the framework of the Soltherm Campaign developed in the town of Cardedeu (near Barcelona) a booklet with the aim to be a guide for the new users of solar thermal systems has been published. This booklet is a useful tool for the people interested in solar installations because explain with the support of photos, drawings and technical schemes the basic information needed to understand this technology and its applications. It's also useful for the new user's. The basic maintenance actions, the way to reduce the consumption of water, etc, is clearly developed.

This Guide has been published by the user's association SEBA, has been written by Trama Tecnambiental, with the support of ICAEN and the municipality of Cardedeu.

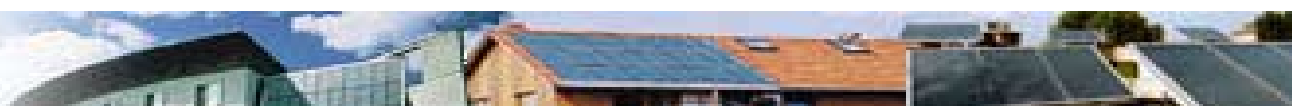


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Solar conference & site visit in Upper Austria

The „O.Ö. Solartagung 2004: Wärme von der Sonne“ (Upper Austrian solar conference), held on 8 June 2004 in Linz, met with very high interest. More than 115 people participated in the one-day event organised by O.Ö. Energiesparverband.

The conference gave an overview of innovative technologies an exemplary key topic was solar cooling. A second session was dedicated to successful examples of solar thermal utilisation: best practice examples of public and commercial buildings, of multi-family buildings in the residential sector and of facade integrated solar buildings were presented. In the afternoon a site visit to a new city district in Linz, the so-called „solar city“, was organised.



The delegates took the opportunity to visit among others, the following solar installations:

a kindergarten was visited which features 40 m² solar thermal and 100 m² PV installations. The kindergarten is part of the new residential city district of Linz „solar city“, where more than 4,000 m² solar thermal collectors have been installed.

Besides the kindergarten, a multi-family apartment



block with a large solar installation was visited and a block of flats with a new solar facade concept was presented.

The event was part of the Upper Austrian solar campaign implemented in the course of the European Soltherm Initiative.

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Space For Solar

The goal of the ‚Space for Solar‘ project is to cover 10.000 square meters of roof area in the Netherlands with solar collectors. Currently more than 3100 m² in 19 projects has been realised. The parties involved profit from central project support which will both ensure the quality of the installations and reduce the workload of the institutions,

from the price advantage through large scale procurement and from a special investment incentive. This will enable the institutions to invest without trouble and with an acceptable economic profitability in a renewable energy supply. The members thus show their concern with renewable building and fulfil their obligations resulting from central energy saving agreements. Further, the realisation of solar heating plants enables the institutions to increase the value of the housing stock.

Initiated by consultant Ecofys and the Project Agency ‚Duurzame Energie 2050‘ the foundation ‚Space for Solar‘ has been established to collectively offer solar water heating installations to housing associations and care institutions, including project support, quality control, acceptable profitability and with minimal paperwork. The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs through Novem and conducted under the umbrella of the Soltherm Europe Initiative. The project executed by Ecofys.

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