

# **TCPA (Town and Country Planning Association) Intelligent Energy Europe project proposal 2010**

**(Draft 6 April 2010)**

## **2010 Call Priority: Integrated Initiatives: Local Energy Leadership**

### **Aim of project:**

**To develop the local leadership in 'old' and 'new' EU member states to enable the effective introduction, or strengthening and integration of sustainable energy policies into planning and other relevant policies in order to move towards a low-carbon economy.**

### **Objectives:**

1. To develop a partnership of 5-6 local authorities from 'old' and 'new' EU member states with different levels of experience and learning needs in providing effective local sustainable energy planning and management leadership. More **'experienced'** local authority partners will be brought together with **'learning'** local authorities.
2. To implement a **process of exchange of experience** between the partner authorities and **capacity building** for the 'learning' partner authority in order to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of these partners in the field of sustainable energy planning and implementation.
3. For the 'experienced' partner local authorities, through the development of a local energy stakeholder partnership structure, to lead the **review of an existing** local Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) with a particular focus on district heating, cooling and energy supply from Renewable Energy Sources and CHP.
4. For the 'learning' partner local authorities, through the development of a local energy stakeholder partnership structure, to lead the **production of a new** local Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) with a particular focus on district heating, cooling and energy supply from sustainable Renewable Energy Sources and CHP.
5. Through each local energy stakeholder partnership structure, for each 'experienced' partner local authority to carry out the implementation of a number of SEAP **priority demonstration actions** (Benchmarks of Excellence) in order to progress the implementation of their SEAP whilst **providing 'a learning by doing opportunity'** for the 'learning' project partners (staff placements).

## **Key project benefit to partners**

For the **'learning' project partners**, the proposed project will provide the main benefit of accessing the experience and expertise of the 'experienced' project partners as well as gaining peer and financial support (including staff development) in order to produce an effective local Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and begin the implementation of a number of priority SEAP actions (Benchmarks of Excellence).

For the **'experienced' project partners** the key benefit of the project will be the financial and peer support to review their existing local SEAP and to further progress the implementation of a number of priority demonstration SEAP actions (Benchmarks of Excellence), especially the translation of energy objectives into spatial planning plans and processes.

The **Sustainable Energy Action Plan** is a key document that shows how the local government will reach its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target by 2020. The SEAP concern the whole geographical area of the city/town and should include actions concerning both the public and private sectors. In principle, it is anticipated that most SEAPs will include actions in the following sectors:

Built environment, including new buildings and major refurbishment;

Municipal infrastructure (district heating, public lighting, smart grids, etc);

Land use and urban planning;

Decentralised renewable energy sources;

Public and private transport policies and urban mobility;

Citizen and, in general, civil society participation;

Intelligent energy behaviour by citizens, consumers and businesses

Sustainable Energy Action Plans should be presented and debated by the civil society. SEAPs with a high degree of citizen participation are the most likely to get continuity in the long-term and to succeed in attaining their objectives.

**Benchmarks of Excellence** are relevant examples of local initiatives which partners have realised in their territories and feel particularly proud of, and moreover endorse as useful actions for other local authorities to replicate.

**Proposed project duration: April 2011 - Dec 2013 (33 months)**

**Estimated Project Budget 1.5m Euro**

**Proposed work packages:**

- 1. Project Management & Coordination**
- 2. Communication & Dissemination**

### **3. Staff exchange & peer reviews**

- SEAP production/review through a partner mentoring programme (more 'experienced' partners act as mentors to 'learning' partners)
- Implementation of two pronged partner peer review process of each new/revised SEAP document (1. 'experienced' partner with 'experienced' partner and 'learning' partner with 'learning' partner & 2. 'experienced' partner with 'learning' partner)
- Two phase work shadowing/placement programme for partner staff (1 month placement with a project partner linked to WP6):
  - Phase one (project year 1/2): 'learning' partners observe experienced partners' implementation of SEAP demonstration actions
  - Phase two (project year 2/3): experienced partners assist 'learning' partners' in the implementation of SEAP demonstration actions

### **4. Partner workshop/ seminar and study visit programme**

- A programme of themed seminars for partner staff (including site visits if appropriate)
- Two study tours for partner decision makers and politicians to good practice sites

### **5. Partner Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs)**

- Project year 1: Set up or further development of a local energy stakeholder partnership structure by each partner involving public authorities, energy companies, developers, consumer groups, financial institutions etc.

- Project year 1: Review of an existing local Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) by 'experienced' project partners with a particular focus on district heating, cooling and energy supply from Renewable Energy Sources and CHP
- Project year 2: Production of a new local Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) by 'learning' project partners with a particular focus on district heating, cooling and energy supply from Renewable Energy Sources and CHP
- Implementation of local Citizen consultation and/or participation process by each project partner in the review/renewal of the existing (experienced partners) or production of the new (learning partners) SEAP.
- Production or renewal of a high level, political statement on sustainable energy and/or sign up to national, EU, international covenant (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors) of experienced & learning partners.

## **6. Benchmarks of Excellence: Implementation of partner SEAP priority demonstration actions**

- Phase one (project year 1/2): Implementation of SEAP demonstration actions (Benchmarks of Excellence) at the local level within the competence of the more 'experienced' project partners and observed by the 'learning' partners (including work placement of 'learning' partner staff in the 'experienced' partner's organisation)

Partners will be expected to implement a number of local actions in several or all of their possible roles:

- Consumer and service provider;
- Planner, developer and regulator;
- Advisor, motivator and a model; and
- Producer and supplier.
- Phase two (project year 2/3): Implementation of first SEAP demonstration action (Benchmarks of Excellence) at the local level within the competence of the 'learning' project partners with peer assistance of the 'experienced' partners (including staff work placement of 'experienced' partner in the 'learning' partner's organisation)

### **Envisaged Project Outputs:**

- Project Partnership of experienced and learning local authorities in old and new EU member states
- Work placement of 6 staff from 3 learning local authority partner to experienced local authority partners
- Work placement of 3 staff from 3 experienced local authority partner to learning local authority partners
- Review and renewal of 3 existing SEAPs (experienced partners)
- Production of 3 new SEAPs (learning partners)
- SEAP production mentoring programme (experienced partners act as mentors to learning partners)
- SEAP peer review between partners (experienced-experienced, learning-learning, learning-experienced).
- Set up of or further development of 6 local energy stakeholder partnership structures
- 5 Themed Seminars for project partner staff and key actors of their energy stakeholder partnership
- Two study tours for partner decision makers and politicians to good practice sites
- Implementation of key SEAP demonstration actions at the local level within the competence of the local governments (to be identified by each partner – ‘experienced’ partners more actions ‘learning’ partners less actions)