

PRIME (Private Investments Move EcoPower) promotes participatory sustainable energy projects in public buildings. The necessary investments needed for projects involving Rational Use of Energy (RUE) and/or Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in public buildings are raised using private capital from citizens and local stakeholders.

PRIME engages the users of a building to play their part in climate protection. The participating cities promote, facilitate and prepare the ground for sustainable energy projects that they can contribute towards. Some **PRIME** partners may even be able to implement their projects during the course of the initiative.



PRIME develops practical and adaptable models for reducing CO₂ emissions from public buildings. The flexibility of the tools means that they can be used by towns and cities across Europe, thus avoiding the costs for developing strategies on their own. Moreover, the development of an easy-to-implement action package, including best practice examples and tried and tested approaches, will contribute to lowering the cost of implementing RES and RUE projects for municipalities.

PRIME creates an effective European network of stakeholders who are building a broad knowledge base on the application of participatory sustainable energy projects in public buildings. Experiences, initiatives and ideas can be exchanged and strategies discussed using a web-based platform that includes best practice examples, conceptual tools for feasibility checks and a database with contacts.

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Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect
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EPTA
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www.graz.at

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www.maribor.si

Provincia di Bologna
www.provincia.bologna.it

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The Future is Renewable

The limited nature of coal, gas, oil and uranium resources on the one hand and the limited capacity of the atmosphere to absorb the gases from combustion for energy production on the other makes it necessary to develop an energy system with three objectives.

1. The reduction of the energy requirements (savings)
2. The avoidance of energy waste (efficiency)
3. The increased use of renewable energy sources

Advantages for Local and Regional Authorities

With **PRIME** the municipalities can enjoy tremendous financial benefits. Many forward thinking public authorities opt for best practice when it comes to energy efficiency and sustainable development.

PRIME allows this by encouraging and enabling investments in renewable energy technologies. By taking part in a **PRIME** project the local authorities and the community can be seen to be contributing positively to climate protection and sustainability efforts.

PRIME brings motivates citizens to become involved in demonstration projects. Public participation by local citizens allows them to show that they want to invest in a future for the community in which they live.

PRIME provides opportunities for local and regional authorities to be involved in a vast European network in which they will also receive practical guidelines and information about European funding.



Case Study

Private Investment for a solar and saving project in a high school in Emmerich

A solar-energy panel with a total output of 50 kilowatt was installed on the roof of the Willibrord High School in Emmerich. Other extensive measures for energy savings have been made at the school, in particular the reorganisation of both the ventilation system and the heating system.

According to the contract between "Solar&Spar GmbH and Co. KG Willibrord - Gymnasium Emmerich", the school has borne the expense of the investment but will ultimately benefit from saved energy costs. The solar electricity yielded from the solar energy system will through the feed-in payment arrangement contribute considerably to the overall profitability of the solar and saving project. In 2005 the first profit was yielded from the project.



Contracting – How the Capital was raised:

Employees at the school and the parents of the pupils were invited to buy share certificates from 500 Euro upwards. Anybody else who was interested in investing could buy share certificates starting from 2.000 Euro upwards. Capital raised by private citizens, amounted to approximately 380.000 Euro. The interest rate from this investment was judged to be between five and six percent.

The solar and savings project at the Willibrord High School is a long-term business arrangement. The private partners are silent partners with the Energy Services Company responsible for the project. All private partners have limited liability so there is little risk associated with this sort of investment.

Advantages for schools

Schools can really benefit from participating in a **PRIME** Project. Parents of pupils are invited to contribute towards the installation of RES at their local school and contribute to a sustainable future for their children.

Such a project will permit pupils to experience sustainable technology in everyday life and teachers will receive a number of suggestions for practice-oriented activities. Finally, it demonstrates to young people how to deal responsibly with energy generate enthusiasm and show publicly that schools have a keen interest in a sustainable future.



Advantages for Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)

With **PRIME**, an ESCO can increase and broaden its capital resources by sourcing investment from local people in the community.

The ESCO will have the advantage of increased access to the local authority and be part of demonstration project that will raise the profile not only the municipality but the ESCO involved. ESCOs can use the transfer of knowledge to create a new facet to their business with **PRIME**.

They can use the positive image associated with renewable energy to finance energy saving measures.