From strategy to implementation: Upper Austria's GEP programme

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The region of Upper Austria
Oberösterreich

- Capital: Linz
- Population: 1.4 million
- Area: 12,000 km²
- Economic activity: 25% of the Austrian industrial exports
- Municipalities: 442
The region of Upper Austria
industrial and rural

70 % of the population live in (very) small municipalities
13 % in municipalities with > 50,000 inhabitants
18 % in municipalities with 10-50,000 inhabitants
33 % in municipalities with 3-10,000 inhabitants
36 % in municipalities with < 3,000 inhabitants

A weakness and a strength at the same time
😊 committed individual staff members can have big impact; short decision making routes; the power of local communities: energy groups/school groups/fire-brigades/active farmers....
The Regional Energy Agency of Upper Austria
OÖ Energiesparverband

promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy

provides services to households, businesses & municipalities

develops & implements policies & manages programmes
Share of renewable energy in different sectors
Upper Austria

- **Electricity**: 75% (clean biomass 50%)
- **Space heating**: 61%
- **Total heating**: 46%
- **Primary energy consumption**: 32%
- **Mobility**: 10%

### Breakdown:
- **Hydro**: 34%
- **Clean biomass**: 50%
- **Other RES**: 16%
Greenhouse gas emissions from buildings
Upper Austria

Source: UBA

-43%
Municipalities - key actors in the energy transition

Why?
• Own public buildings and installations
• First contact point for citizens and local business
• Authority (e.g. building permits)
• "lead by example"

Support
• EGEM programme (development of municipal energy strategies, > 180 municipalities)
• Facilitation services for energy investments
• Subsidies for EE and RES
• Information and training for mayors and municipality staff
When Publenef started...

- 180 municipalities with energy strategies and energy groups (EGEM)
- Funding and financing instruments available
- Lack of time resources & skills for project planning (identified by PUBLEEnEf)
- Investment projects (implementation)

GAP

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Publenef: Closing the Gap with GEP

- 180 municipalities with local energy strategies (EGEM)
- Funding and financing instruments available
- Lack of time resources & skills for project planning (identified by PUBLEnEf)
- Investment projects (implementation)

creation of the GEP programme (Gemeinde-Energie-Programme)
The GEP programme - Facilitation and financing

Energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in public buildings and installations
• planning costs, max. 10,000 Euro
• small-scale investments, max. 3,000 Euro per project (LEDs, pumps, controls)
• often followed by use of other funding (regional EPC programme, regional/national investment subsidies)

Facilitation by the ÖÖ Energiesparverband (GEP roll-out)
• events, information materials
• step-by-step support, also on-site
Facilitation: activation, information, advice
Personal contacts is critical!

- **Activation**: Workshops, information events, publications, participating in local councils meetings
- **Pro-active visits** to municipalities by our energy adviser
  - prioritising those with very little contact so far
  - better understand needs, explain potentials & programmes
  - assess concrete projects
  -> 73 municipalities visited personally
- **Energy advice**:
  - individual support for specific investment projects on technical, financial and regulatory issues
  - support and guidance for funding applications
  -> 83 advice sessions held, over 500 enquiries answered
Impacts so far

- **Projects triggered:** 47 projects triggered (21 are fully implemented)
- **Investments:** 4 Million Euro

For energy savings and quality of life!
From commitment to action: Upper Austria's GEP programme

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