

Solar energy boost in Niepolomice

Joint Public Procurement to boost solar energy in South-East Poland

A Covenant of Mayors 2015 Case Study

In a nutshell

Four Polish municipalities - Miechów, Skawina, Wieliczka and Niepolomice – decided to join forces and jointly purchase and install renewable energy systems (RES) on public and residential buildings in their area.



Niepolomice in numbers

Number of inhabitants in Niepolomice:
24,500

CO₂ reduction target: 24,7% by 2020
(Baseline year 2008)

Covenant of Mayors signatories in the
region: 39

Background

Niepolomice was one of the first Polish cities to join the Covenant of Mayors in January 2009. The municipality has boosted sustainable energy use in the public sector through green purchases, energy consumption monitoring, replacement of electricity meters in municipal buildings, thermal retrofitting and the modernisation of public street lighting.

The city has also strongly invested in renewables, notably installing heat pumps in Niepolomice castle, using biomass or installing solar panels on the roof of public buildings. Assisted by the Covenant of Mayors Supporter Polish Network Energie-Cités (PNEC), the municipality of Niepolomice has also participated in the European “Green Twinning” project.

A joint financial scheme

In 2012, Niepolomice and three other municipalities - Miechów, Skawina and Wieliczka – decided to cooperate for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems on their territory. Led by Niepolomice, they invested more than €17.3 million to boost green energy in their area. 60% of the total budget was co-financed by the Polish-Swiss Cooperation Fund, while the remaining 40% were covered by the municipalities’ own contribution.

Three quarters of the municipalities’ contribution was obtained through the payments of citizens who had RES systems installed, while the remaining quarter was covered through resources from the municipal budgets. When RES were installed on public buildings, the involved municipalities covered 100% of the costs with their own resources.

Engaging the population

During the course of the project, Niepolomice and its partnering municipalities jointly selected a contractor and organised information and training campaigns to encourage citizens to join the project. While at first citizens were skeptical about the benefits of the project (notably in regard to cost and efficiency), the four cities managed to effectively address their questions and needs. Moreover, the encouraging feedback from the first households that had joined the project subsequently led to other citizens joining in.

Solar energy for all

Between 2012 and 2015, RES were installed in 3,841 households and 32 public buildings. For instance, heat pumps and PV panels were installed in the building of the ambulance service and in the indoor swimming pool of Niepolomice. Citizens could be granted a 70% subsidy for the installation of RES (mostly solar thermal) on their buildings.

In total, solar thermal collectors were installed in 26 public buildings, while four were equipped with PV modules and two with heat pumps. An area of more than 18,500 square meters has been equipped with solar thermal collectors. In addition to this, installed PV modules now cover an area of roughly 2,700 square meters. The combined efforts of Niepolomice, Miechów, Skawina and Wieliczka led to the participation of more than 1,400 citizens in RES installation training programs.



Project numbers

Project duration: **2012-2015**

4 municipalities involved

€17.3 million invested by the 4 municipalities

60% of the total budget co-financed by the Polish-Swiss Cooperation Fund

3,841 households equipped with solar systems

32 public buildings equipped with solar systems

Relevant links

www.niepolomicesolary.eu

<http://green-twinning.eu/>



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