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## Boosting Green Energy in Urban Areas

# NEWSLETTER No. 2 -

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## Citizen Participation

With terms like “mach watt selbst” and “Sonnenscheinfabrik” (Sunshine Factory), new forms of active citizenship are developed in the field of renewable energies. The involved population is boosting the application of renewables: citizen-friendly, decentralized, democratic - that's the motto.

The Central Europe project “Cities on Power” analyses the natural potential for the use of renewable energies in the cities of Warsaw, Dresden, Klagenfurt and Salzburg as well as the provinces of Turin and Ravenna. At the same time, the project evaluates regulative frameworks implemented to ease the breakthrough of renewables. These are the basis for another important requirement for the energy turnaround: citizens’ investment of time and resources. Therefore, “Cities on power” analyses and refines various participating instruments for specific target groups. In this newsletter, examples from Dresden (Germany) and Salzburg (Austria) are presented.

## Participation Model: Sports Hall Dresden-Weixdorf

In a small residential area behind the town hall of Weixdorf, a sports hall was built on the area of a former elementary school. The local sports club as investor and builder wanted to ensure long-term low costs and to exemplify ecological awareness. A valuable addition to the townscape for residents, the gym is used by both club members and the school classes from Weixdorf. It was financed by the sports club “SG Weixdorf e.V.”, which currently has about 850 members, of which 50 per cent are children and adolescents.



Photograph by Königswald Planungsgesellschaft mbH



Photograph by Klaus Gaber

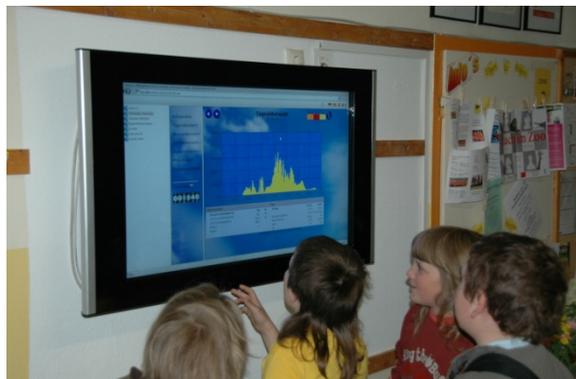
After two years operational experience with the new passive house gym the adjusting of the hall is largely completed. A ventilation system with highly efficient heat recovery of 93 per cent was installed. The coverage of heat demand in winter is ensured by geothermal probes that were installed vertically in the ground. Heat is generated by an adsorption heat pump. Using a solar thermal system will ensure the hot water supply. The photovoltaic panels on the roof have a capacity of 30 kWp. The generated electricity is fed into the local grid. Due to the low energy consumption, the building has a very good CO<sub>2</sub> balance of only 11.65 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

## Participation Model: Photovoltaic Plant „Laboratory School Dresden“

The first part of the photovoltaic plant on the roof of the laboratory school was officially taken in operation on June 22nd, 2009. The financial impulse came from a family from Dresden with the establishment of the endowment fund "Sonne und Wind" ("Sun and Wind") under the umbrella of the community foundation of Dresden. Donating over 20,000 Euro, they financed the first part of the plant with 4.7 kWp. In October 2010, the plant was enlarged by a further 66 modules, through the foundation "Studentenstiftung Dresden" and the citizens' initiative "mach watt selbst". In total there are now 19.55 kWp installed on the roof.



Photograph by Alexander Marthaus



Photograph by Alexander Marthaus

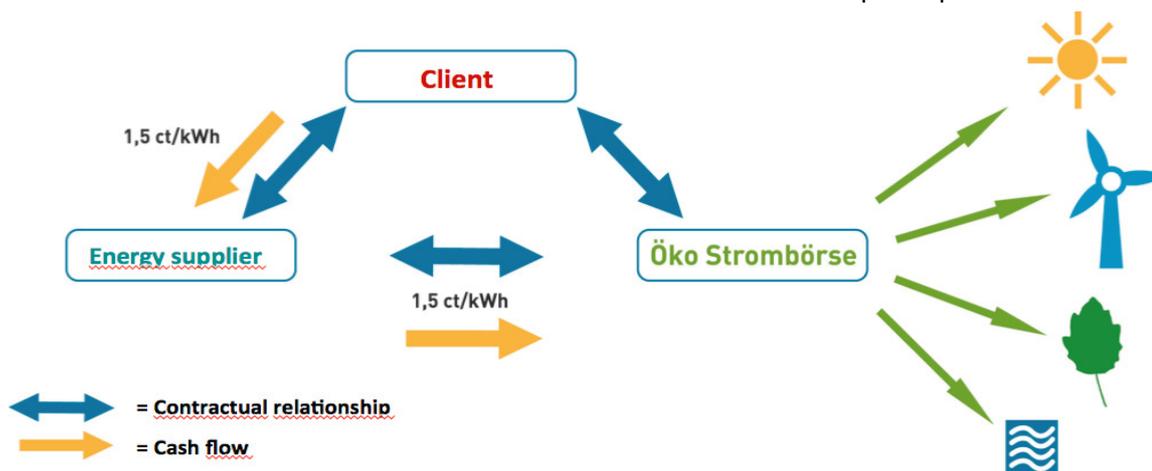
The beneficiary of the earnings through the feed-in remuneration is the Omse society which uses the achieved income for its educational programs, especially for its so-called "laboratory school" and its nursery schools. Besides the avoidance of about 3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, a first school project in the laboratory school has dealt extensively with the PV system. It was supported by the initiative "Be a Futurist," with a total of 1,000 Euro. In addition, a professional monitoring of the PV system with a radiation sensor, temperature and wind sensors can be guaranteed with the income from the feed-in remuneration.

Through its extensive measurement data logging, the photovoltaic plant became known in Germany-wide press and is regarded as the reference system of the study "Monitoring investigation for the operation of photovoltaic systems on schools in Saxony" of the Saxon State Ministry of Education.

The network "Lokale Agenda 21 für Dresden" promotes public participation in renewable energies in Dresden using various instruments. Visit [www.buergerkraftwerk.de](http://www.buergerkraftwerk.de) to learn more about the instruments "public power plant" and existing power plants.

## Participation with Ecopower Stock Exchange - a Non-Profit Model!

The idea of the Ecopower Stock Exchange Salzburg was conceptualized and tested in pilot projects. It allows private investors to spend money in ecopower production plants. Energy consumers and investors can support the expansion of renewable energy production and have a share in concrete facilities. Thus the non-profit stock exchange model (!) acquires capital and disseminates subsidies to enhance the number of small-scaled ecopower plants.



In the framework of Cities on Power successful ways of involvement both in investments and participative politics will be described. This shall turn on European people's appetite for their own joint efforts to press ahead with energy turnaround.

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