

Background: Over the past 5 years, the Alliance to Save Energy, through the USAID-funded Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency (MUNEE) program in Armenia created a strong understanding of flexible financing mechanisms for energy efficiency and heating projects with municipalities and housing associations; mobilized communities to initiate residential heating projects; trained municipalities and heating companies to design and seek financing for energy projects; brought together disparate energy stakeholders from all sectors to start an energy policy dialogue and to promote energy efficiency reform.

Objectives: The MUNEE Program works in four key areas: (1) persuasion of energy policy reform, (2) promotion of residential energy efficiency and heating, (3) provision of education and awareness campaigns on methods, financing and management of energy efficiency; and (4) building municipal capacities and networks on energy efficiency network.

Policy Reform

- Armenian Energy Efficiency Council (AEEC) brings together ministry officials, non-governmental organizations, academia, energy businesses and donors, generating a dialogue on national energy policy issues and promote energy efficiency reform
- Law on “Energy Saving and Renewable Energy” of the Republic of Armenia:
 - AEEC roundtable discussions of intermediate drafts
 - Public hearings (NGOs and media)
 - The Law was ratified in December 2004
 - *Ongoing project:* development of secondary legislation and ordinances
 - *Ongoing project:* development of National Energy Efficiency Program

Residential Energy Efficiency and Heating

- Conducting condominium surveys in a number of cities on energy efficiency and heating status, problem areas, needs and priorities to design training programs
- Mobilizing condominiums for initiating loan-financed community operated heating projects
- Researching, publishing and disseminating:
 - Heating Equipment and Service Providers’ Market Assessment
 - Decentralizing Residential Heating in Armenia: Review of Pilot Projects
 - Review of 22 Energy Efficiency Laws: Guide for Policy-Makers
 - Energy efficiency advice booklet
 - Condominium Heating Guide
 - Current Energy Saving Status and Needs in Armenian Condominiums
 - Barriers to Residential and Municipal Energy Efficiency in Armenia
 - Participatory Assessment of Low-Income Household Needs and Financing Mechanisms in Community-operated Heating Projects

Education and Awareness Campaign

- Building Energy Efficiency Program software adaptation and training for energy efficiency project design and business planning: ACEE train-the-trainers; 11 municipalities trained and 10 condominium associations
- Organizing condominium trainings, workshops and day-to-day consultations on residential EE and heating
 - technical and institutional solutions for energy efficiency,
 - financing sources and mechanisms,
 - low-income issues in heating projects,
 - roles of ESCO’s and municipalities.
- Jointly developing a Renewable Energy educational poster for all schools of Armenia.
- Holding energy education workshops in high-schools

Strengthening the Municipal Energy Efficiency Network in Armenia/Outreach to Cities

- Creating strong ties with local authorities and municipalities to discuss and share experience on energy efficiency issues in Yerevan and its districts, Kapan, Yeghegnadzor, Tsaghkadzor, Ararat, Sisian, Hrazdan, Charentsavan, Sevan, Gumri and Vanadzor.
- Study Tours on success stories in the field of EE in residential and municipal sectors (Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine).
- Training on EE financing tools and project design software products
- Municipal Energy Planning Training for 14 Armenian municipalities (Armenia, Moldova)
- Holding a dialogue with local municipalities on establishment of Municipal Energy Working Group to address energy efficiency financing and targeted social assistance to low-income households for heating purposes.
- Compiling and disseminating “Armenia – Energy News Review” electronic newsletter
- The MUNEE.org website providing regular updates on achievements in Armenia