

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Alliance has over 10 years of experience in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The involvement began in the mid-1990s with local energy-efficiency initiatives in Kaliningrad, Russia, and Lviv, Ukraine, and soon evolved into a region-wide effort that continues to this day. The Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency (MUNEE) program allows Eastern European and Eurasian municipalities to implement cost-saving energy-efficiency improvements in heating and water systems, residential structures, and municipal buildings – particularly schools and hospitals.

Supported with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by the Alliance to Save Energy, MUNEE has worked in 17 countries and continues to reach many others in the region. Currently the Alliance has two fully-staffed MUNEE offices in Moldova and Armenia, in addition to an extensive network of partners with demonstrated skills in energy engineering, policy development, resource economics, training, and public outreach.

MUNEE: STUDIES UNDERWAY in 2006

Currently the Alliance is leading research and preparation of two major studies that examine and analyze the experience with heat-sector reforms and the potential for energy-efficiency solutions to address the challenges of transitioning from a subsidized to a market-based energy economy. Both studies will cover the regions of Southeast Europe, the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Urban Heating Sector in Europe and Eurasia: Experience from the Transition and Future Directions will examine and analyze the policies and programs of the past 15 years aimed at enabling private investment and commercial viability in the E & E region's heating sector, while addressing social and economic needs of consumers. The goal of this study is to identify critical countries for priority technical assistance/investment projects; to reveal institutional development needs; to evaluate financing requirements for rehabilitation and modernization; to emphasize the role of public-private partnerships; and to identify commercial opportunities.

Energy Efficiency and Urban Residential Utility Affordability Study will analyze the policies, projects, and programs affecting utility services in multifamily buildings, making recommendations on whether and how energy efficiency can improve the affordability of those services - heat, electricity, water, and wastewater. The goals are to assess impact that reform and restructuring in essential utility services will have on the affordability of heat, electricity, water and wastewater; to document residential energy efficiency experiences; to add to the Athens Process; and to present the policy case for energy efficiency vs. traditional approaches.

Both studies will focus on multifamily buildings and heating systems serving those buildings in urban areas.

MUNEE FOCUS AREAS

Financing

The Alliance and its local MUNEE partners provide technical assistance on obtaining financing for energy-efficiency projects. MUNEE has developed energy-efficiency business plans for cities in Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, and Kazakhstan, a number of which have been implemented. In Armenia, the Alliance helped launch a revolving fund for residential energy efficiency projects in the city of Aparan and Gyumri. In addition, MUNEE has introduced innovative financing methods, such as leasing, third-party financing, vendor-credit, and municipal bonds. Currently, the Alliance is working on a project funded by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) which will result in a forum for relevant stakeholders, guidelines for financing municipal energy efficiency projects in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and case studies documenting successful project financing.

Energy Planning and Energy Management

The Alliance and its MUNEE partners help local and regional governments develop long-term energy plans by comparing the savings from increasing energy efficiency to the cost of future energy supplies. In Lithuania, Serbia, and elsewhere, MUNEE and its partners developed energy-management plans and systems that integrate demand-side potential with supply-side needs. The Alliance has developed

software tools (ASE 2.3 and “BEEP”) that enable local facilities managers to monitor energy use in public buildings and identify areas of energy waste.

Networking

Through its field offices, numerous partner organizations, municipal associations, the MUNEE website, database, newsletter, and regional seminars, the Alliance effectively disseminates information to municipal officials in local languages. The information includes meter installation advice, energy monitoring software and training, and sources for project financing.

Policy Reform

The Alliance and its MUNEE partners offer guidance and technical assistance on how to change existing laws – or, where necessary, introduce new laws – so cities, utilities, and consumers in various sectors will be encouraged to invest in energy efficiency. On the local level, the Alliance has drafted regulations to create mechanisms that allow municipal facilities to accumulate and keep the savings from efficiency projects, a major incentive to reduce wasteful energy use. The Alliance prepared a matrix of laws and policies related to energy efficiency to be used for comparative analyses in countries throughout the E&E region.



Working with local NGOs in Armenia

In Armenia, the Alliance contributed substantially to drafting the Law on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy that was ratified in December 2004. Now the Alliance is working with the Armenian ministries to

prepare secondary legislation. In Moldova, the Alliance drafted a comprehensive heating-sector plan that recommends changes to heating and housing policy to improve the financial viability of the heating sector and the affordability of quality heat services. Several of the plan’s recommendations are included in secondary legislation, which the Alliance helped draft.

Public Awareness

The Alliance has developed a range of materials, news articles, a Web presence, videos and public service announcements to educate consumers on their role and actions in saving energy. For example, the Alliance created a humorous and educational documentary in Serbia that has aired on national and local television. The documentary, which provides 40 tips on how to save energy, helped Serbia reduce its energy use by 1,700 GWh during winter of 2001-2002. The documentary has also been a useful tool for municipal energy-efficiency training conducted in Bosnia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and other countries.

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