

MUNEE NEWS :: e-zine # 1

WELCOME TO MUNEE NEWS!!

The newsletter of the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency
Washington, DC June 2001
Sponsored by the Alliance to Save Energy

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- * [Who we are](#)
 - * [Why we're here](#)
 - * [The latest goings-on](#)
 - * [Up coming events around the region](#)
 - * [We want your feedback](#)
-

WHO WE ARE

Welcome to the inaugural issue of MUNEE News - the official newsletter of the Municipal Network for Energy Efficiency. For those not familiar with MUNEE, we're a network funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, designed to improve energy efficiency in the cities of Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

MUNEE's lead implementer is the Alliance to Save Energy, a non-profit group based in Washington, DC. But MUNEE also relies on partners in each country for the on-the-ground work, especially the leading energy efficiency centers in Poland, Bulgaria, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine. Check out the [MUNEE website](#), to find out more about the overall objectives, the various partner organizations, the latest activities and the countries of focus. To learn more about the Alliance, you can visit the [web site](#).


back to top

WHY WE'RE HERE

Municipalities throughout the region struggle with high energy costs, environmental problems and poor heating and water services - and energy efficiency is part of the solution. The network - made up of representatives from individual cities, municipal associations, and other non-governmental groups - is designed to develop and disseminate practical solutions on improving energy. Our goal is for the network to be a resource, an information service to municipal leaders looking for ways to reduce energy waste and improve their city's bottom line. Just a small sample of our activities include:

- developing municipal energy plans for cities;
- promoting national policy reforms that encourage cities to invest in energy efficiency;
- tracking success stories - ranging from financing large projects to improving tariff designs - and disseminating that information throughout the network;
- helping cities restructure district heating utilities in a manner that encourages both energy efficiency and better service for consumers;
- helping cities and citizens finance actual projects - both large and small - working with large international financing institutions and small microcredit facilities;
- designing software tools in local languages to monitor energy use, develop baselines and put together actual projects and business plans.

 [back to top](#)

THE LATEST GOINGS-ON

Alliance Opens MUNEE Office In Poland: The Alliance recently opened its regional office in Krakow to manage and coordinate MUNEE activities. The Alliance is co-located with the Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency (FEWE) and the Polish Network for Energie Cités (PNEC). Alliance MUNEE Program Manager Dan Przeworski is the regional manager and the Alliance encourages those interested in municipal energy management issues to contact [Dan](#) or at 48-12-421-3911.

MUNEE Holds First Regional Meeting: On May 15 in Krakow's grand City Hall, the MUNEE partners gathered for the first Policy Working Group Meeting. The working group is designed to provide overall direction to the initiative, and the May event gave participants an opportunity to learn about the initial progress of MUNEE projects in each country. The meeting included representatives from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and others. In addition to the overall directions for MUNEE described above, the participants urged program administrators to pay particular attention to the issue of financing, as well as helping cities improve water efficiency - another energy-intensive municipal service. More information can be found at the MUNEE website or a summary of the meeting can be e-mailed to you by contacting [Angela Morin](#).

MUNEE Database: Check out the MUNEE database, soon to be accessible from the MUNEE website. Still in the process of being updated, the database is a fully searchable and comprehensive listing of non-governmental organizations and national government agencies from throughout the region dealing with energy efficiency and municipal issues. The resource is designed to improve the exchange of energy efficiency information throughout the region, by facilitating cross border communication on energy efficiency and providing a means for disseminating results of MUNEE programs. Database listings are developed from brief surveys that organizations have completed and sent back to the Alliance. If you have not completed the survey or would like to be included in the database, please click [here](#) to fill one out and submit it on-line. Surveys are available in Russian and English.

EnEffect Completes Phase One of Municipal Energy Planning: The Sofia-based Center for Energy Efficiency (EnEffect) is the MUNEE partner for Bulgaria. EnEffect recently completed an innovative training program to help cities design systematic and comprehensive energy plans - to understand how much energy is consumed, to forecast energy needs in the future and to develop ways to improve efficiency (and reduce future energy needs). EnEffect focused in particular on the concept of integrated resource planning - assessing future energy needs based on supply and on reducing demand through efficiency.

EnEffect is also taking their expertise to other countries in the MUNEE network and recently returned from a trip to Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia. This is part of their effort to establish a related network for energy and water resource management throughout the Balkans (called the Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources or RENEUER). For more information, please contact [Pavel Manchev](#) or visit [EnEffect's site](#). You can also learn more about [RENEUER](#).

ARENA ECO Working on Ambitious Effort in Ukraine: The Agency for Rational Energy Use and Ecology (ARENA ECO, a MUNEE partner) is helping to develop a comprehensive energy efficiency project in the city of Rivne. With partial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the State Committee of Ukraine for Energy Conservation, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the total size of the potential investment is \$24 million. If successful, the project will be one of the first examples of a large municipal project occurring with the involvement of an energy service company. Operating under energy performance contracts, this first of its kind ESCO would prepare, implement and finance investments in municipal buildings, district heating systems and other areas. The experience gained through this process will be disseminated through the MUNEE network. For more information, contact [Mykola Rapsun](#) or go to: http://www.arena-eco.kiev.ua/e_news.htm#Project

Alliance and USAID to Launch Major Energy Efficiency Public Awareness Campaign in Serbia: Coming out from years of political and economic isolation and subsidized electricity prices, Serbia is now in a precarious position. Frequent power outages due to damaged generation facilities and lack of capital are expected to mean severe shortages for electricity and heat this winter. At the same time, the government needs to reduce its subsidy burden and is raising electricity prices. To help educate the public on the need for energy efficiency, the Alliance and USAID are launching a series of public service advertisements (PSAs) on Serb TV and radio. At the same time, USAID is undertaking a series of demonstration projects in three cities to show the potential savings from efficiency improvements in schools, hospitals and other buildings.

In conjunction with MUNEE, the Alliance will work with Serbian cities and other stakeholders on energy planning. The Alliance is also working with the national municipal association (called the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities) on educating municipal leaders about what they can do to save energy and reduce their city's financial burden. For more information, contact [Eric Carlson](#), Program Manager, or view our [website](#).

Cross-Border Networking: Polish and Ukrainian Cities Share Energy Saving Solutions: The Polish Network "Energie Cites" (PNEC) has been working with the newly-formed Ukrainian Network of Energy Efficient Cities (UNEEC) and the Alliance to Save Energy/Ukraine to share Poland's experience in municipal energy management. With support from the Polish American Ukrainian Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI), several Polish city technicians and private companies have been visiting cities in Western Ukraine to

develop the tools necessary to design energy efficiency investments.

A more formal arrangement has developed between the cities of Lviv (Ukraine) and Bielsko Biala (Poland) to adapt Polish software tools for municipal energy monitoring. Both cities have designed innovative software programs that monitor energy consumption and identify hot spots in demand side consumption. These databases help prioritize investments and reduce the cost of building energy audits. For more information, please contact [Maria Stankiewich](#) or [Anatoliy Kopets](#).

 [back to top](#)

UP COMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

MOSCOW: July 17-18, 2001: MUNEE partners, the Center for Energy Efficiency (CENEf) in Moscow and the International Institute for Energy Conservation are holding a seminar called "Market Transformation: Capitalizing on Energy Efficient Technologies." The event is sponsored by the Common Fund for Commodities and the International Copper Association. For more information, please go to <http://www.cenef.ru/info/invit-en.htm>.

WARSAW: July 26, 2001. MUNEE To Hold Regional Event on Municipal Energy Software Tools: Increasingly throughout the region, we are seeing national energy institutes, private companies and cities themselves develop software programs that can help cities monitor energy use - heat, gas and electricity - and identify energy "hot spots," buildings with excessive amounts of energy losses relative to other buildings in the city. As more and more cities develop computer capabilities, these software tools can be weapons for city officials to fight energy waste. To aid in this effort, MUNEE will be holding a regional seminar on energy monitoring tools for city governments. The seminar will take place in Warsaw on July 26, 2001. Please contact Dan Przeworski or [Seth Baruch](#) for details.

STOCKHOLM: August 12-18, 2001. World Water Symposium: The Symposium in Stockholm will bring people from all over the world to focus on every aspect of water use and sustainable development. Of particular interest is a workshop called "Bridge Building Between Water and Energy." The workshop will focus on how to strengthen the links between energy and water professionals and how to incorporate energy issues in water planning. For more information contact sympos@siwi.org or go to <http://www.siwi.org/sws2001/sws2001.html>

YEREVAN: September 23-28, 2001. Second International Energy Conference. Sponsored by the Armenian Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers, the conference will bring together engineers, consultants, and other professionals on the subject of energy efficiency and renewable energy. For more information, please contact [Dr. Zohrab Melikyan](mailto:Dr.Zohrab.Melikyan) or zmelik@edu.am or visit <http://www.iatp.am/resource/confer/energy/index.html>

GENEVA: November 19-20, 2001. Energy Efficiency 21 Project Steering Committee. The next meeting of the EE21 Steering Committee (part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) will be this November. The meeting will have a special session on the RENEUER project in South-Eastern Europe, as well as a report on investment projects being developed under a program funded by the United Nations Foundation. For more information, please contact catherine.pierre@unece.org or visit <http://www.ee-21.net/>

back to top

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have or know of an innovative municipal energy efficiency program - we want to hear about it!! The Alliance is constantly looking for innovative efforts that city leaders are undertaking to improve energy efficiency. We put these projects on our website so others can learn about them. If you have a "cutting-edge" program and want others to know about it, please contact [Seth Baruch](mailto:Seth.Baruch).

Comments on MUNEE NEWS? If you have any comments or suggestions as to what information you would like to get from MUNEE NEWS, please don't hesitate to contact any of us:

[Seth Baruch](mailto:Seth.Baruch) or [Sarah Meyer](mailto:Sarah.Meyer)

back to top

AND FINALLY...

With One Click - Support Energy Efficiency and Help Needy Children: To help support energy efficiency improvements in Ukraine, the Alliance has partnered with Green Choices, a group that operates a website called the Environment Site. The money raised from this site is being used to weatherize and improve schools and orphanages in Ukraine.

Please go to <http://www.environmentalsite.org/> and click on the green leaf. Every click brings a small donation from companies such as OSRAM SYLVANIA, Whirlpool, I-Group Hotbank NE, energyguide.com, and Johns Manville. The more the clicks add up, the more windows and heating systems the Alliance can help improve. These energy efficiency measures not only lower energy costs but also help children who might otherwise not have adequate heating or air quality.

In one such project in Lviv, Ukraine, we have noticed a significant decline in respiratory illness as a result of energy efficiency improvements. The Lviv School for Children with Cardiovascular Disease provides housing, education, and healthcare to 370 students, many of whom suffer from radioactive fallout-related illnesses associated with the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Alliance and USAID weatherized the school and installed a modern control system. The result has been greater comfort for the students and 40 percent lower heating bills for the school. Prior to the Alliance's efforts, the School was notable for its inefficient, poorly maintained energy systems and buildings that were either too hot or too cold.

* * * * *

Sarah Meyer
Alliance To Save Energy
1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 530-4343
Fax: (202) 331-9588
Web: <http://www.ase.org/>

 back to top