



Aiming for 100% Renewable Energy

Kaposvár, Hungary - 68 000 inhabitants

Going 100% RE – Solar energy – Strategic planning

With its all-encompassing strategy, the city of Kaposvár is not only showing its ambition and courage but is delivering with real projects to become 100 % renewable. In Hungary it is a pioneer and role model for a renewable and sustainable development. In 2017 it received the European Solar award from EUROSOLAR, the European Association for Renewable Energy.

Project in a Nutshell

The city of Kaposvár, located in the southwestern part of Hungary, has the second highest number of sunshine hours in Hungary. In 2014 the 2050 Kaposvár Smart City programme was developed with a main focus on solar energy and energy efficiency. The ambitious target, which is manifested in various fields of urban development and urban policy, is to create an energy supply based on 100% renewable energy by 2050. In 2015, Kaposvár joined the ICLEI city network stating that through its actions, the city intended to grow its green economy and establish itself as an exemplary green city in Europe.

In order to achieve the 100% renewables goal, the city focussed on using all the viable locally available renewable energy resources. The following initiatives have been taken:

- PV plants have been installed on 19 public buildings with a total capacity of 900 KW, reducing 2 000 tons of CO₂ per year;
- Since 2012 all local busses are powered by the biogas produced by the local sugar factory in the form of renewable compressed natural gas (CNG).
- Biogas from the sugar factory is also used to heat the public swimming pool and spa
- At the end of 2017 electric buses and 170 electric bicycles were integrated to the local transport;
- The electricity created by the district heating CHP unit is used to power electric vehicles.

Impact & Next steps

Local citizens have been involved in the Smart Cities processes, underlining the socio-cultural dimension of a successful energy transition. There are also a number of concrete SMART (technology) and energy efficiency projects that have been carried out. For example, in the public lighting sector, Kaposvár is now using LED and intelligent lampposts, spending thus 37% less on public lighting annually. The lampposts are also equipped to measure air pollution and traffic.



The city of Kaposvár's ambitious strategy is relying on a number of projects planned for the future. These include: The installation of solar power plants in areas surrounding the city, expanding the district heating network and installing wood-fired biomass heaters next to gas boilers as well as the development of a Smart Grid System.

Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

The citizens of Kaposvar are active and involved in the decisions regarding their city. This has a positive effect on the success of an initiative. Also, having forward looking decision makers is fundamental when building an integrated plan towards the creation of a sustainable city.

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