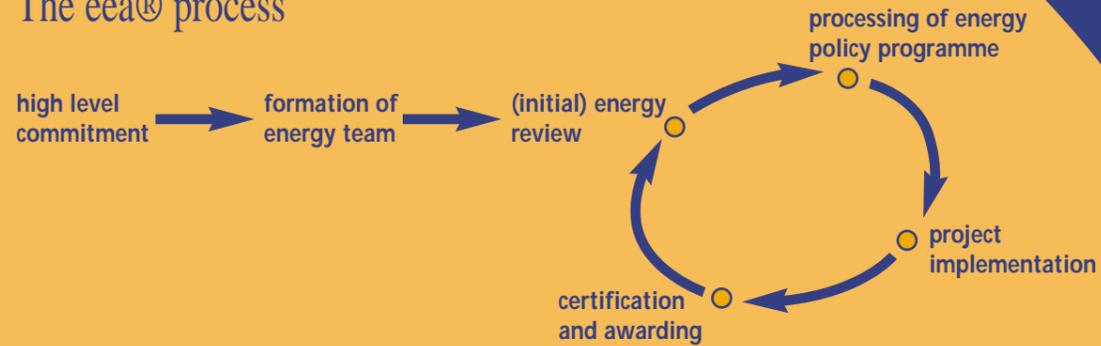




The eea® process



Certification

When a community has carried out the necessary steps within the eea® programme and the degree of implementation of energy measures is at the required level, the community can apply for certification through external audit. The certification is awarded in two categories.



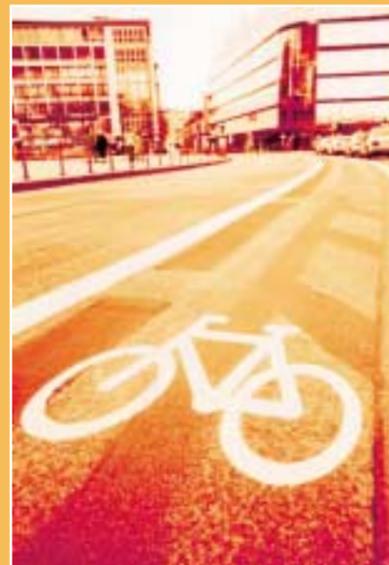
When a community attains 50% of possible points the European Energy Award® is awarded by a regional trustee.



When a community attains 75% of possible points the European Energy Award®Gold is awarded by the European eea® Office.

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT:**

www.european-energy-award.org



Guiding Communities Towards a Sustainable Future.



*The European Certification
and Quality Management
systems for towns and cities.*



What is the European Energy Award®?

The European Energy Award® (eea®) is a certification and quality management system for towns and cities across Europe that are making a significant contribution to improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energies.

The inefficient use of energy wastes money and natural resources while unnecessarily causing environmental pollution. The eea® programme reinforces the message to energy consumers that by making a few simple changes in the way energy and natural resources are used can make significant savings and a positive contribution towards a sustainable future.

Switzerland and Austria have implemented similar programmes. The concept of the European Energy Award® was researched and developed by Germany, Poland, Austria and Switzerland. The European Energy Award® combines the expertise and tools developed and is currently being implemented in Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain, and Switzerland.

In most European countries, energy legislation has been advanced and significant knowledge of technologies is available. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of systematic and effective implementation of those measures. The European Energy Award® (eea®) helps to overcome these barriers with a certification scheme, effective management tools, training and communication measures.

The European Energy Award® is a qualified instrument for steering and controlling communal energy policy in order to review all energy-related activities. The eea® allows communities to identify their strengths, weaknesses and potential for improvement and above all, implement energy efficient measures. The success of a city or town's effort is then made visible through the award. The standardised assessment allows for benchmarking between the eea® communities and allows participants to share their experiences and expertise.

The European Energy Award® consists of two main elements:

- an energy certification and labeling programme for towns and cities in participating European regions and countries
- a process for improving administrative structures, frameworks and policies in the field of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies



What are the benefits to your town in participating in the eea®?

Communities that participate in the eea® can enjoy a variety of benefits that include:

- A systematic review of the energy activities in the community.
- Continuous increases in energy efficiency and associated cost savings
- A continuous assessment of success through a comprehensive monitoring system.
- Highlighting the community's achievements in the field of energy.
- Benchmarking with other towns and cities participating in the eea programme on a national and European level.
- Access to the know-how and experience of leading energy cities and towns throughout Europe.
- A significant contribution to common climate protection and sustainability efforts by implementing energy policy for the future
- Successful dissemination of the "energy-activities" amongst eea® participating towns and cities across Europe.
- Improvements in location attractiveness and image for the community.
- Involvement of committed citizens and interest groups in energy policy planning and in the decision making.

What is involved?

This eea® is a step-by-step programme based on quality management systems traditionally used in the business sector. Initially, the current status of a community in relation to energy efficiency and the use of renewables is assessed during an initial energy review. Next a community puts into place a work programme for the short, medium and long terms to ensure concrete measures are in place for future improvements. The community then implements its work programme. Annually, an energy review is carried out where achievements are updated as appropriate. The community can apply for certification when the necessary points have been achieved.

Who is involved?

The Energy Team is formed within the community to carry out the necessary steps involved in the eea programme. The team consists of representatives from the community administration and politicians. Citizens are encouraged to participate within the Energy Team. During the process an eea advisor provides expert guidance to enable the maximum benefits to be realised.

What is the role of the Energy Team?

The 'Energy Team' work with an accredited eea® advisor to:

- Carry out the energy review with the support of the assessment tool
- Develop an energy policy work programme
- Develop and realise energy efficient projects
- Prepare documentation for the certification process