

Newsletter # 1
July 2007



Editorial

Dear reader,

Here is the first issue of our act2 Newsletter. Much has happened in the last few months: three project meetings of act2 cities have been held, and in mid-April the Political Steering Board convened in Hannover, bringing together the political representatives from the five Project Cities Nantes, Hannover, Malmö, Koszalin and Newcastle to discuss about act2 and its integration within the climate protection programmes locally led. Demonstration projects have begun - and some are already completed - in Hannover and Nantes.

We wish you plenty of interesting reading, and would also like to direct your attention to our website at www.concerto-act2.eu, where you'll find further information about Concerto-act2.

Best regards

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If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this newsletter please send an e-mail to the editors vincent.hure@nantesmetropole.fr or ute.heda@hannover-stadt.de.



Nantes - 1st demonstration project to be delivered by August 2007

The residence for young workers is the first delivery in Nantes within the act2 project. Atlantique Habitations - the real estate company involved on the project - expects the end of the works by the beginning of August 2007.

The 1,800 m² building is connected to the local waste-to-energy district heating network to provide heat and domestic hot water to the occupiers. All the elements of the envelop have been set so that the residence respect energy standards that are 25% above the targets of the national regulation (insulation comprising external wood panels, efficient ventilation systems and windows...).



Hannover - Plaque for Concerto/act2 Project Buildings

This plaque will be fixed on houses retrofitted by their property companies; tenants and visitors can see the savings on CO₂ emissions and that the work was funded from the Concerto programme. The plaques will also appear on the City of Hannover's own projects; Lister Bad swimming pool will soon have one at the entrance drawing visitors' attention to the solar thermal installation on the roof.



act2 project - First Political Steering Board Meeting in Hannover

The political representatives of the five cities of the act2 project met in Hannover on 13th of April 2007.

Hans Mönninghoff, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Economics and Environmental Services of the City of Hannover welcomed his colleagues: Ronan Dantec, Deputy President of Nantes Métropole for the Environment, Lari Pitkä-Kangas, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the City of Malmö and Councillor for Ecology and Consumer Protection, Mike Cookson, Councillor of the City of Newcastle and Commissioner for Regeneration, Planning and Transport and Jerzy Krauze from the City of Koszalin who participated the meeting on behalf of Mirosław Mikietyński, Mayor of Koszalin and Sylvain de Royer-Dupré as representative of the European

Commission.

The members presented recent energy and climate protection activities of their communities. They identified a great mutual understanding of the challenges in the local energy sector, on which local authorities have to react today. They also underlined the important role of demonstration projects. To these regards, the Concerto Initiative is an appropriate frame to give the local energy policy of European communities a voice. Because of the direct contact to the citizens, local authorities can play an important role in the European energy policy by representing the demand side.

The members of the Political Steering Board expressed their interest and readiness to support the Concerto Programme activities. They raised the idea to get in closer touch to the other fifty communities which are involved in the Concerto programme to give local authorities a voice in the European energy policy.



Hannover - Lister Bad swimming pool soaks up the sun

Since May 11th 2007 the water at Hannover's biggest open-air pool, Lister Bad, has been heated by solar energy; north Germany's largest solar thermal installation was ceremonially opened by Hans Mönninghoff, the city's director of environmental and economic affairs. Pool water passes through rubber tubing woven into mats on the flat roof and absorbs the heat of the sun, thus making a heat exchanger unnecessary. On cooler, cloudy days a gas-fired backup boiler will ensure a constant 22°C water temperature.

This is good news for the environment - depending on the amount of sunshine, natural gas use could sink to zero, preventing emissions of up to 95 tonnes of climate-altering carbon dioxide.

The European Union provided 79,000 € funding for the project through its 'Concerto' programme.



Hannover - Retrofitting of Spar & Bauverein and Gundlach & Co. Apartments

In Vahrenwald, Hannover, the housing and construction companies *Gundlach & Co. Wohnungsunternehmen* and *Spar- und Bauverein eG* have completed extensive modernisation work in their Ernst-Eiselenstrasse, Linsingenstrasse, Hirtenweg and Auf dem Hollen properties. The work was coordinated by *GMW Consult*.

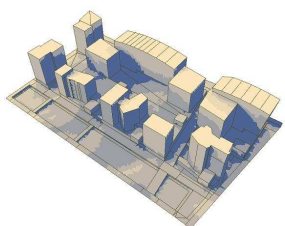
Apartment blocks dating from the 1950s and '60s were insulated to new-build standard as set by the German energy-saving regulations (EnEV) and connected to the district heating network. One particular challenge for *Gundlach* and *Spar- und Bauverein* was to retrofit apartments while they were occupied; replacing windows, partial alterations to balconies and connection to district heating all caused considerable discomfort and inconvenience to tenants, and so both companies contracted special representatives to support and liaise with tenants, to solve problems fast and keep the nuisance to a minimum.

The City of Hannover has commissioned a tenant survey for the Concerto/act2 measures, enquiring, about comfort standards before and after retrofitting and other aspects. Findings will be available in the autumn of 2007.



Hannover - Energy Saving Advice in Retrofitted Apartments

GMW Consult was contracted by the City of Hannover to run a door-to-door campaign to advise tenants of the retrofitted *Gundlach & Co.* and *Spar & Bauverein* apartments on saving energy. The property owners were also advised, and installed energy-efficient lighting in stairwells and cellars. Evaluation and recommendations will follow when the advice campaign winds up in 2008.



Nantes - Tripode-A site eco-design optimised by simulations

Scientists of CERMA* laboratory have worked in partnership with Nantes Métropole and the architects of Tripode-A demo site to foster an eco-design of this 45,000 m² built area. Simulations have been carried out to analyse the local sunlight and wind conditions, as well as the interactions to be expected between buildings. The study also deals with visual comfort and natural lighting conditions to ensure a good quality of occupancy in these buildings to be erected right in South of the River Loire.

Results have been presented to the architects and engineers who will then work on the completion of the design. The first deliveries on this site are expected by 2009.

* CERMA stands for CEntre de Recherche Méthodologique d'Architecture and is the Research Centre of Nantes National School of Architecture.



Nantes - the 180 kWp PV Power Plant ready to be implemented

One of the largest PV power plants in France will be implemented by Nantes Métropole by 2008. The Urban Community Council held on 9 March 2007 approved the programme of the project.

The 180 kWp installation will be implemented downtown, on the top of the car-park to be erected within the renovation of the Beaulieu Commercial Centre. This 1500 m² installation is to be realized within an innovative legal arrangement which specifies the conditions for installing the PV power plant under Nantes Métropole's ownership on a private domain (the shopping centre).

Agenda and Upcoming Events

August 2007 - Nantes, France

Delivery of the 1st Concerto-act2 demonstration project in Nantes: a 1800 m² residence for young workers.

21 September 2007 - Ostfildern, Germany

1st Regional Meeting of Concerto I cities from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic (with a visit of POLYCITY projects).

4-5 October 2007, Koszalin, Poland

4th act2 Project and Steering Committee meetings co-staged by the City of Koszalin and the MEC district heating company.

12-18 November 2007 - Nantes, France

3rd Nantes Metropole's energy week (dates to be confirmed and further information to be issued at www.nantesmetropole.fr)

Autumn 2007 (dates to be fixed) - Nantes, France

- 1st Regional Meeting of Concerto I communities from France (Ajaccio, Grenoble, Lyon and Nantes - with a visit of the act2 project), combined with:
- 1st Concert'Action Conference and Workshops gathering key actors of the demonstration projects in the French Concerto I communities

www.concerto-act2.eu