



act2 is a project of the
CONCERTO Initiative co-funded by
the European Commission within
the Sixth Framework Programme

Editorial (#4)

Dear Reader,

The collapse of the USA property market and the global financial crisis will make it harder to achieve the climate protection aims that we have set ourselves quickly - but the effects of climate change are becoming more obvious by the day. The Maldives Islanders are considering whether to abandon their home to the rising seas, while in Germany the month of October was the wettest since records began in the 19th century. Scientists have found that climate change is happening faster than anyone expected. It's time to wake up and act!

In this spirit we would like to encourage everyone to commit even more strongly to climate protection. Concerto is already acting, helping exemplary climate protection ideas become reality. And it is to be hoped that the European Commission will devise more municipal climate protection funding programmes in collaboration with towns and cities. Let's get to work!

Yours,

Astrid Hoffmann-Kallen

Project coordinator

Visit www.concerto-act2.eu for further information about the Concerto-act2 project. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this newsletter please send an email to the editorial team (vincent.hure@nantesmetropole.fr or ute.heda@hannover-stadt.de).



Nantes Metropole - Participation in Poznan to the post-Kyoto roadmap

The 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to Climate Change Convention was held from 1 to 12 December 2008 in Poznan (Poland). There, more than fifteen international networks representing cities and local governments jointly requested national governments and the COP14 to formally consider the role local authorities play in the fight against climate change.

As chairing the Eurocities Climate and Energy working group which initiated a common declaration of European cities on Climate Change, the role of Nantes Métropole was recognised. Representing Jean-Marc Ayrault, Ronan Dantec, Nantes Métropole Deputy President, has in particular co-chaired the event centred on the role of cities with the ambassador of the French EU Presidency. He also introduced the Local Government Climate Sessions by reporting the status of the COP14 negotiations.

In 2009, Nantes Métropole will maintain its effort to coordinate the speech of local authorities in the frame of this international negotiation process. It will thus apply for the host of several work meetings of the international networks representing the involvement of the cities and the local governments.



Hannover - Korean journalists visit the city

A rather surprising wish was expressed by ten journalists from South Korean newspapers, radio and television stations in Seoul: to visit Concerto/act2 projects in Hannover at the end of November as part of a European study tour on climate change. Seoul Climate Change Centre had issued invitations to the tour and prepared the visit. Their main interest was in how Concerto-act2 was incorporated in the City of Hannover's overall climate protection strategy, approved by the City Council in December as the new 2020 Climate Protection Action Programme. Hans Mönninghoff, Hannover's Director of Economic and Environmental Affairs, explained how the City intends to achieve a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions by the year 2020. The delegation then visited individual Concerto projects and gathered information about modernising buildings for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in Concerto districts.

Nantes Metropole - 4th Energy Week



In association with the Member cities, Nantes Métropole and many local associations coordinated by Ecopole jointly organised the 4th local Energy Week from 19 to 22 November. Set downtown in the most frequented area, an expo stand offered the possibility to the local population to get, among other things, direct advice and information on the energy solutions for one's home or daily life. Many site visits and conferences took place as well during the week.

It was also the opportunity for ARAIS, a cooperative company specialised in socio-economic surveys, to inaugurate on 21st November its exposition relative to fuel poverty and its prevention. This exposition is partly based on the results got from the study of the Ile de Nantes district which was initiated in the frame of Concerto-act2 project.

Download the full programme [here](#).



Hannover and Nantes Métropole - Both join the Covenant of Mayors

After the new climate protection action programme for 2008-2020 was approved by the Hannover City Council, Lord Mayor Stephan Weil signed Hannover's accession to the Covenant of Mayors. In the same period of time, the Nantes Métropole Council held on October 17th unanimously took the same decision.

In this respect, Hannover and Nantes Métropole, together with the other member cities, commit to take an active role in the work for a European Commission climate protection policy tailored to the needs and capacities of local governments.

This initiative of the European Commission already gathers more than 90 local authorities and will be the purpose of a specific ceremony held during the EU Sustainable Energy Week with representatives of the signatory cities and the EU institutions.

More information: <http://www.managenergy.net/com.html>



Hannover - Advice on saving electricity for tenants on low incomes

A campaign to help tenants on low incomes reduce their electricity consumption has been running in the Concerto district of Hainholz, Hannover, since September 2008. Hainholz has a high unemployment rate and many people from ethnic minorities. As the district is also a 'Social City' federal project area, it has excellent formal and informal communications networks and was seen as a suitable place to start such a campaign which, if it turns out well, will be extended to other districts. Long-term unemployed people are trained as energy advisors by the employment agency and go from door to door with tips for saving energy. Visiting around 500 households, they also fit energy-saving light bulbs and install switched multiple sockets. Project evaluation will be available in June 2009.



Nantes Métropole - The Ile de Nantes energy criteria evolve and foster passive cooling

A set of energy prerequisites to be applied in every new construction of the Ile de Nantes district has been defined since the beginning of 2008. It has been anticipating the reinforcement of the French thermal regulation decided during the "Grenelle de l'Environnement".

This document evolved to encourage passive cooling in all new tertiary buildings. In this respect, a dynamic thermal simulation has now to be carried out by architects or energy engineers. Beside, this simulation must integrate only non-active cooling solutions or technologies.

act2 project - 2nd Political Steering Board in Malmö



In early September, Directors of Services from Concerto/act2 cities met in Malmö to exchange news and views on municipal climate protection programmes and the measures derived from them. The representatives found that there were many overlapping interests and activities that could be shared throughout the project. Dialogue was seen as particularly valuable on comparable monitoring concepts and their evaluation, on training measures for crafts(wo)men and architects, energy efficiency retrofitting in brick houses and on fuel poverty. The next meeting will be in Newcastle in 2009.

Agenda and Upcoming Events (#4)

28-30 January 2009 - Grenoble, France

10th Energy and Climate Conference of Local Authorities
programme at www.assises-energie.net

9-13 February 2009 - Brussels, Belgium

3rd European Union Sustainable Energy Week
programme at www.eusew.eu

- Signature ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors
- Specific Concerto event on 9 February

9 February 2009 - Brussels, Belgium

2nd Concerto Plus Dissemination Workshop

mid 2009 - Newcastle, United Kingdom

6th act2 Steering Committee
(dates to be fixed)

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