



PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PRIMORSKA THE LONGEST SOLAR NOISE BARRIER



Up to now, “green energy” in Slovenia has been almost exclusively derived from hydro-electric installations, but that is set to change: Switzerland is supporting a project in Slovenia that promotes other sources of renewable energy. A noise barrier along a motorway will be equipped with solar panels, and 32 public buildings that were previously heated with oil will be converted to biomass heating.

In March 2007, the EU agreed that by 2020, 20% of its total energy requirements would be met through renewable sources of energy – biomass, water, wind and sun. Individual targets were set for each EU member country. To help Slovenia reach its national target, funds are being provided through the enlargement contribution for the promotion of renewable energy: Switzerland is contributing CHF 3.68 million to support the use of renewable energies in municipalities in the Slovenia coastal region of Primorska.

LONGEST SOLAR NOISE BARRIER IN SLOVENIA

The project consists of three parts: first, a 600-metre long noise barrier along the motorway to Italy is being equipped with solar panels. This photovoltaic installation – the longest solar noise barrier in Slovenia – will supply 46 households with electrical power.

HEATING WITH BIOMASS

The second project component is the use of biomass for heating in 32 selected public buildings. For this purpose, 14 oil heating systems will be replaced by biomass boilers. Among the 32 buildings are schools and kindergartens with nearly 2,000 children as well as two information centres in Triglav National Park which are visited by 45,000 people every year. The conversion of the heating systems to biomass will enable heating costs in these buildings to be reduced by about 40%.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WITH TELEVISION COMPETITION

The third part of the project is a public awareness campaign. Information sites are being set up in Triglav National Park, in the schools and near the motorway’s solar noise barrier. The public, local business-people, teachers and pupils will be made aware of the topic of renewable energy through local events, brochures, textbooks, the Internet and other media. A “Renewable Energy Group” will be set up in each of the involved schools with the aim of teaching pupils about energy efficiency and renewable energy. Young people who are trained in this way to become “Energy Managers” will then raise awareness among others. The programme culminates in two television competitions: the winners’ prize is the possibility of a school exchange with a Swiss school.



THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

SUBJECT

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

COUNTRY

Slovenia

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The EU plans to cover 20% of its energy requirements with renewable energy by 2020.

PURPOSE

Improved environmental protection and economic growth through the promotion of renewable energy.

ACTIVITIES

Expansion of a noise barrier into a solar noise barrier, installation of biomass heating, information campaigns

TARGET GROUPS

Municipalities and the public

COSTS

Total project budget:

CHF 5.29 million

Swiss contribution:

CHF 3.68 million

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Goriska Local Energy Agency

DURATION

2010 – 2014

OTHER PROJECTS TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SLOVENIA

Switzerland is participating with around CHF nine million in a total of two projects in Slovenia to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Alongside funds for the coastal region of Primorska, support is being provided for the Gorenjska region.



We are pleased that, with Switzerland's support, we are able to construct a small photovoltaic power plant on the noise protection barrier on the motorway near Bazara. By doing so we are setting a good example for other investors concerning the introduction of renewable energy sources. Thanks to the contribution by Switzerland and the subsidised electricity tariffs, it will be possible for us to quickly recover the investment costs. The quantity of green energy produced in this way will suffice to meet the requirements of around fifty households. The savings resulting from own production of electricity will cover around two-thirds of the costs of public lighting in the town. We want to reduce electricity consumption and thus make our town even more environment-friendly.

Milan Turk,
Mayor of Šempeter-Vrtojba