

**BEST
PRACTICE**



100% RES Community in Slovenia

Šentrupert, Slovenia – 317 inhabitants

Solar energy – Heat Pumps - Green procurement

The small municipality of Šentrupert developed a strategy to supply all its heating and electricity needs with local renewable sources by 2020.



Credits: Šentrupert Municipality

Project in a Nutshell

In 2009, the Municipal Council adopted a "Local Energy Concept," which was created and produced by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Financial support came from European Cohesion Funds and through energy contracting. The "Local Energy Concept" described how to increase energy literacy among citizens and included measures on energy efficiency and the use of local renewable energy sources to better secure heat and electricity supply for the municipality. An energy manager was hired to keep track of energy accounting and steer activities linked to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Municipality started with improving the quality of heating of school buildings in Šentrupert Elementary School: the new kindergarten was equipped with a biomass boiler room, becoming the first energy efficient one in Slovenia. In 2014 the Dob prison, the biggest energy consumer of the municipality was also equipped with a boiler room alimented with woodchips. When a cogeneration unit became operational during the summer of the same year, producing heat and electricity, the wood supply chain was also re-organised so that only locally sourced woodchips could be used as biomass.

Impact & Next steps

Thanks to the new boiler room for the kindergarten CO₂ emissions were reduced by 131 tonnes per year. The reorganisation of the wood supply chain is allowing savings of around € 200 000 per year, beside reducing oil consumption and contributing to the local economy and job creation.

The municipality has been recognized for its commitment to energy independence and sustainability: Šentrupert was awarded the label of "100 RES Community" in 2014.



Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

The success of the initiative lays in the redirection of the local cash flow towards the local economy, which lead to increased purchasing power for the citizens and also to local job creation. The municipality has been the leading actor of this process but a wider participation was encouraged. Citizens were invited to join local cooperatives and local actors were invited to join energy contracting schemes. In Dob prison, trainings were offered to teach prisoners how to process woods for the cogeneration unit.

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Green Slovenia: Towards a Social Knowledge and Value Based Society and Economy at the Heart of Europe - Darja Piciga, Alexander Schieffer, Ronnie Lessem, 2016 Routledge

