



AER action plan on energy 2006-2012

UPDATED VERSION 2007

Background

“The energy challenges of the 21st century require a common EU response” (European Commission President Barroso). On 8 March 2006, the EC set out the basis for this European Energy Policy in a **Green Paper**, which outlines six specific priority areas and over 20 concrete suggestions for possible new action.

Two of the key action areas of the Green paper are the setting up of a more sustainable, efficient and diverse energy mix, and the promotion of energy efficient and low carbon technologies. These priorities were reasserted in the EC Action Plan on energy efficiency published on 19 October 2006, and in the EC Energy package announced on 10 January 2007. In that context, the development of renewable energy sources (RES) and projects for energy efficiency take a new dimension.

The achievement of these objectives can only be achieved through full commitment of all levels of government and their citizens. Regions, in particular, have the possibility and responsibility to help increase the share of RES and support rational management of energy. They can work out their own subsidy programmes, or act as leaders by favouring energy efficient technologies in public buildings, for instance.

Many Regions in Europe have already put in place such kind of projects to promote RES and energy efficiency on their territory, and a lot can be learned from them. **To actively contribute to the overall goals of security of supply and fight against climate change, the AER has therefore decided to take its responsibility in the European energy strategy, by launching an Action Plan.**

Main actions for 2007

This Plan aims at encouraging each of your Regions to actively promote RES and energy efficiency measures on its territory, through concrete actions:

- **ACTION 1:** The first Action is the support to the **Declaration of the Regions in favour of RES and energy efficiency**. This Declaration was launched by the FEDARENE (European Federation of Environment and Energy agency) and the Upper Austrian Energy Agency, in co-operation with the AER in 2006. Since then, over 70 Regions have signed this document which contains quantified RES targets for each of the signatory Regions and thereby represents, beside a political statement, a concrete and visible involvement of the Regions in favour of RES. **The AER warmly encourages its member Regions to sign this Declaration.**

Interested Regions should send an official letter, mentioning the RES targets in your Region and the wish of your Region to sign the Declaration, to the AER Secretariat (Agnès Ciccarone: a.ciccarone@a-e-r.org) The Declaration can be found under the AER website on its energy webpage.

- **ACTION 2:** The second Action is **the setting up of a concrete interregional project in the field of RES or energy efficiency, to be co-funded** in the framework of the new EU programme : Intelligent Energy Europe – Next call for proposal: Spring 2007 or 7th Framework Programme. As mentioned above, many Regions have already developed best RES practices: A common project could contribute to the dissemination of these best practices and benefit to other Regions in Europe which are less-advanced in this field. A draft project could be presented in the framework of the meeting of the AER working group on energy, to be held on 21 March 2007 in Amaro, Friuli Venezia Giulia (I).
- **ACTION 3:** The third Action is **the further development of the existing online partnership pool**, which offers a platform for partner search for Regions willing to develop interregional projects in the field of energy.
- **ACTION 4:** The fourth Action is the preparation of a Conference on energy efficiency, to be held between 6-8 December 2007 in Montpellier, Languedoc-Roussillon (F), at the occasion of Energaia, the regional energy fair.

Calendar of activities

NB: Activities marked in *italic* have already been fulfilled

February 2007	<i>1st meeting of the AER working group on Energy & Research, Brussels</i>
----------------------	---

	<i>Conference in grid integration, Oldenburg, Lower Saxony (D)</i>
--	--

March 2007	Co-organisation of the World Energy Days, Wels (A)
-------------------	--

	Meeting of the AER Committee C working group on Energy & Research, Amaro, Friuli Venezia Giulia
--	---

May/ June 2007	Study of the call for proposal under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and setting up, if possible, of a first common project to be submitted for co-funding. Possible topic: Wood fuel
-----------------------	---

Summer 2007	Development of the AER online partnership pool on energy
--------------------	--

September 2007	Presentation of the draft interregional co-operation project on energy by the working group, to the Committee 1 members, at Committee 1 plenary meeting, Durres, Albania
-----------------------	--

6-8 December 2007	Organisation of a Conference on energy efficiency, at the occasion of the Energaia energy fair, in Montpellier, Languedoc-Roussillon (F)
--------------------------	--



Spring 2008

Launch – during the Committee 1 plenary meeting – of the AER interregional project for RES: presentation of the project, of the co-funding opportunities, of the structure for the project, and call for partners

December 2008

Conference on geothermic energy, Poland (main focus and meeting venue tbc)

2009-2010

Development of the AER interregional project

+ in parallel:

-

- Organisation of dissemination Conferences (at least 1 a year)
- and / or Organisation of thematic seminars Biomass (evolution of the EU action plan?), the forest sector (an unexploited source with strong potential for local use and local development), or wind energy (a potential in particular in the North Sea). *Exact issues and calendar to be determined later on.*

Monitoring of the mid term review of the EU Action Plan for energy efficiency

2010-2012

Monitoring of the EU medium-term renewable energy strategy (evolution in the building standards, requested by the EP before 2012, etc.)

Assessment and follow-up of the AER interregional project on energy

AC, 13 February 2007

