

NEST Newsletter



Networking with EMAS for Sustainable Development

NEST will streamline and simplify EMAS to help small local authorities to implement environmental management.

Welcome to the first NEST newsletter

The NEST newsletters will introduce you to the key developments and outcomes of the NEST project. The four project newsletters will give you information on new developments in environmental management within local governments; including best practice examples, tools that help you implement environmental management systems and ideas for capacity building and training.

About the project

The NEST project will introduce EMAS (EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) to a network of 10 local authority partners: 4 in Hungary, 3 in Poland and 3 in Greece, and aims to have a verified environmental management system in place in all 10 partners within the 3 year project period.

NEST is using an innovative network approach in EMAS implementation. This

means that a local country coordinator supports partners within each of the participating countries. This facilitates the exchange of good practice and ideas among the partner municipalities.

The networking also extends between the countries through the different service areas in which EMAS will be introduced. Some of the local authorities are using EMAS for all activities of the municipality (municipality wide implementation) and others are focussing on key activities such as waste management, water treatment and urban planning.

NEST news

The second electronic newsletter will be published in May 2006. The next edition will introduce more best practice examples and guidance for setting up environmental action plans. We hope you enjoy reading the NEST newsletter and will visit our project website

www.emasnetwork.org



Training – an essential part of EMAS implementation

A key element of the NEST project is to build capacity within participating municipalities to develop and implement EMAS. Training sessions are held at each project meeting to introduce the topic. These training sessions are followed by local workshops to extend the training and develop the local systems. Global to Local are providing mentor support and working alongside local consultants in Hungary, Poland and Greece to assist with this process.

Training materials have been developed to support the key stages of EMAS implementation and local workshops. The training materials are all translated into the local language. The training is linked to a recording system that has been developed for the project on an Excel spreadsheet. The aim is to create a

simple, streamlined approach to the EMAS process. Training workshops so far have focussed on: environmental policy and environmental review, development of environmental programme with objectives and targets, and establishing operational procedures.

Please visit our project website for more information: www.emasnetwork.org



Benchmarking: how to learn from other local authorities

Good and best practice is a source of inspiration for local authorities implementing EMAS. The NEST project aims to identify a number of best practices to facilitate the development of environmental programmes of the participating municipalities. The collected best practice will be analysed and, in particular, the aspects of transferability assessed. The benchmarking exercise will concentrate on the following themes: strategic and spatial planning, development and construction, waste management, parks and open space management and public procurement.

CEMR and Global to Local have started to identify good and best practice and these will be further developed into a set of useful tools for the local authorities.

The following materials will be produced:

- A series of **illustrated case studies** linked to different service areas mentioned above in order to show how specific best practice and actions can be turned into practice .
- A set of **fact sheets**, which will describe a series of measures for each selected service area helping local authorities to improve their environmental management process. The aim is to create a tool that will look at the transferability of best practice.
- Finally, these examples will be complemented by a **DVD video** that will illustrate key material from the case studies and factsheets and that will also serve as a training tool.

These materials will be discussed and developed in two workshops. The first took place in Huddersfield in October 2005; the second will take place in Hungary in Spring 2006. The materials will be finalised by October 2006.

Best practice in Kirklees: Spen Valley Sports College

An energy efficiency project for schools run by Kirklees Metropolitan Council resulted in a renewable energy demonstration project at the **Spen Valley Sports College, nr Huddersfield, UK.**

The School Council Renewable Energy Committee took the initiative to install a wind turbine with a 15m mast and a 9m blade at the school. The wind turbine produces around 29000 kWh of electricity per year; this accounts for 10% of the school's electricity need. The wind turbine makes the Spen Valley Sports College not only a driving force in the promotion of alternative forms of energy, but also educates the school and community about renewable energy.

The turbine features largely in the educational curriculum for science,

maths, geography and design, and also allows the other schools within the area to make use of it in their lessons.

Further information:

<http://www.emasnetwork.org/en/about/bestpractice>



Best Practice in Kirklees: Primrose Hill

A European scheme called SunCities has encouraged the creation of a solar village in **Primrose Hill, Huddersfield, UK.** As a part of an overall regeneration scheme, 121 solar powered homes were planned with the aim of providing 20% of the electricity needs and 50-60% of the hot water needs of the tenants.

The project will reduce both the tenants' fuel bills and the carbon dioxide emissions (over 50 tonnes per year). The project has already created social and economic benefits; enthusiasm within the tenants, new local jobs and skills in photovoltaic (PV) installation.

The project includes a total of 400 kW of PV power in Kirklees. This represents 4,9% of the UK's installed solar PV capacity (in 2004) demonstrating the magnitude of

this project. In the next phase solar installations will be included in new build Yorkshire Housing Group homes.

Further information:

<http://www.emasnetwork.org/en/about/bestpractice>



The project team – project leaders

Kirklees Metropolitan Council is the lead partner in the project bringing the long experience and knowledge that they have for using EMAS in their local authority.

Global to Local Ltd has a major role in the project developing training packages for the local authorities, providing mentoring and support for the partner authorities and developing new tools together with Kirklees to simplify the EMAS process.

CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions) plays an important role in benchmarking European good practice examples with the experiences of the 10 local authority partners. CEMR makes contacts with local government associations and networks to extend the information and project results across as many local authorities as possible.



The local authority partners

Hungary: Miskolc, Győr, Dunaújváros, Sopron – Country coordinator: **G2L Hungary**

Poland: Plock, Trzebina, Olkusz, – Country coordinator: **Umbrella**

Greece: Holargos, Serres, Olympia – Country coordinator: **EPTA Ltd**

NEST in brief

NEST is a 3 year project funded by the EU Life programme. It aims to streamline and simplify EMAS in order to help small local authorities to implement environmental management systems. The project will deliver:

- A guidebook to help small and under

resourced local authorities implement EMAS

- Best practice case studies for exchanging experiences across Europe
- Successful verification under EMAS of participating local authorities
- A report with recommendations to increase participation in EMAS across Europe

Further information:

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