

COMMISSION ON ENERGY ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2011 - SEPTEMBER 2013

Commission Meetings

The 9-11th of May 2012 a joint commission meeting for the commissions on Energy, Environment, Transport and Urban Planning was held in Halmstad Sweden. The theme of the joint commission meeting was “Re-vitalize the city for sustainability” and gathered over 80 participants from 30 cities. The meeting contained inspirational lectures and practical work concentrating on two areas in Halmstad that needs revitalizing. The work was presented to the politicians and media in Halmstad.

The 10-12th of April 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia, a new joint commission meeting was arranged. The commissions joining forces were the commissions on Energy, Environment and Transport. The theme for the meeting was “Saving energy and the environment through sustainable transport solutions”. This meeting gathered also over 80 participants.

The Energy Commission reported to the UBC Executive Board at the meeting in Koszalin, Poland, the 4th of October 2012.

Cooperation with other commissions

It has been very natural to cooperate with other Commissions as a way to get more participants to the meetings and to get wider perspectives. Most of the cooperation has been with the Commission on Environment, but there has also been cooperation with the Commissions on Transportation and Urban Planning.

Cooperation with other organizations

Baltic Development Forum and the Nordic Council

Before the UN Climate Conference, COP15, in Copenhagen 2009, a cooperation was started called *Joint Energy and Climate Platform of the BSR Organisations*. The JECP was cooperation between a number of BSR organizations on local, regional, national and international level. The work of the platform was a preparatory policy work prior to the UN Climate Conference, COP 15, held in Copenhagen in December 2009. The JECP finalized its guiding principles and goals for the ongoing cooperation in a communiqué. Among the active organizations were Baltic Development Forum and the Nordic Council. The cooperation with these have proceeded in for example a project in the Kaliningrad region and invitations to each other's meetings, conferences and summits as speakers, moderators etc. Eva Hjalmered acted both moderator and speaker at the III International Energy Conference in Kaliningrad “Energy Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region – New Challenges and Prospects for Cooperation” in Kaliningrad the 1-2nd of November 2012. The plenary section for the speech was called “Climate and Energy planning”. The section where she moderated was called “Optimal location of energy resources as the basis of sustainable development of the territory”. The work of the UBC and the UBC Energy Commission was highlighted during the speech and was brought up

by other speakers in the rest of the programme. Local examples of policies, strategies and also practical examples were presented.

Eva Hjalmered was invited to be one of the speakers at the “St Petersburg Gas Forum” the 5-6th of June 2012. The subject was international cooperation with the consumer in focus, where the work of the UBC and the UBC Energy Commission was highlighted.

Eva Hjalmered was also invited as one of the speakers at the “BDF Summit 2012” in Copenhagen. Once again the focus was the local mandate and cooperation between municipalities with good examples from the UBC member cities.

Projects

LED – Light in Public Space

3 year long project (2009-2012) in the South Baltic Region Programme. Cooperation between 15 partners to investigate the possibilities to convert to LED-lighting in public space from an energy perspective, economical perspective as well as a way to make the cities and municipalities more safe and attractive. Partners from the UBC-cities of Oskarshamn, Kalmar, Wismar, Rostock, Gdynia, Gdańsk and Klaipėda.

www.ledlightproject.com

ITEST (Increased Total Efficiency in Sewage Treatment)

3 year long project (2010-2012), prolonged to 2014 in Life+. Sewage treatment project looking at the possibilities of remove Nitrogen and Phosphorous from the sewage by adding excess heat from for example district heating. Oskarshamn in cooperating with KTH (The Royal Institute of Technology), Jayway and Emerson.

www.itestlife.eu

EEMTE (Energy Efficiency in Municipality – Training and Exchange of experience)

A sub-project to the Interreg IVC-project EnercitEE. Educational project about energy efficiency of housing for politicians and civil servants of municipalities and public bodies of the Småland and Blekinge Region. The project started the summer of 2011 and proceeded till May 2013. Cooperation between Oskarshamn and regions in Germany, France and Poland outside the UBC area.

<http://enercitee.eu/>

RENSOL (Renewable Energy Solutions)

A triple-helix project in the EU-programme Non State Actors and Local Authorities Programme for the Baltic Sea Region (within the framework of priorities of the Northern Dimension) during 2011-2014 involving stakeholders cross-border, cross-sector and cross-level in the Baltic Sea Region. The project's key focus will be on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in Kaliningrad Oblast. The overall project objective is to enable partners in Kaliningrad – in collaboration with the Nordic partners – to tackle climate change challenges more effectively through EE and RES solutions, and thereby supporting the cross-border and cross-level cooperation.

Bulletins

The Energy Commission buys a spread in each issue of the UBC Environmental Bulletin. The Bulletin has two issues per year and the Energy Commission often write about and distribute to external projects in order to disseminate the information about the work of the UBC to as many as possible.

Other

The Energy Commission has actively worked with making the UBC network more flexible and web based as a complement to physical meetings. The Energy Commission was the administrator for UBC's account at Adobe Connect. Several meetings were held, for example between commissions and among cities for a specific subject.

The Energy Commission was invited to write an article in the Baltic review of the Pan European Institute the fall of 2012. The article was called "The 'small' actors are the major actors" and was a discussion about the municipalities part of the energy market due to the consumption and responsibilities of the municipalities.

In the project RENSOL a study visit was made to Sweden and Denmark. Oskarshamn was responsible for the Swedish part of the trip and chose to highlight the work in three of the Swedish UBC-cities; Kalmar, Oskarshamn and Växjö. The three cities complement each other in inspirational and practical work regarding energy efficiency. The study visit focused on lighting, housing, Energy Performance Contracting, policies, strategies and social institutions.

ACTION PLAN 2014 - 2015

The overall Aims and Goals of the Energy Commission

From a broad perspective break down the energy issues to a local level and point out a few focus areas where the energy commission can have great impact. We will look at the energy system issue rather than individual sources, and introduce this to the municipalities.

- To boil down the EU-level and national level energy issues to a local level
- To raise awareness about projects and to take practical use from experience exchanges in projects within the UBC network
- Promote municipalities to use great examples to get more energy efficient
- To bring science and university knowledge closer to the municipal/local level

Focus areas

- Reduction of greenhouse gases related to the energy sector
- Energy efficiency programs
- Higher self sufficiency and local energy production

Concrete goals

- Further cooperation with other Commissions within the UBC network
- Disseminate the projects
- Start at least two new project
- Organize meetings with the Competence Board

Action Plan – an implementation

- Organizing commission meeting and workshops. This is a central arena where all cities are invited to give their input to the work of the commission.
- Interactive meetings and cooperation in order to reduce the carbon footprint
- Initiate and promote good project ideas
- Organize meeting with the competence board to narrow the gap between the university knowledge and the work in the municipalities
- Dissemination regarding Energy perspectives for the Baltic Sea Region

Eva Hjalmered, Head of Secretariat