

50/50 schools

Unlocking energy savings in the schools of Weiz, Austria

A Covenant of Mayors 2016 Case Study

In a nutshell

The municipality of Weiz has included the 50/50 method in its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and has started 50/50 projects in three schools. The 50/50 method aims at mobilizing energy savings in schools through raising energy awareness amongst the pupils and involving them actively in energy-saving actions. The schools and the municipality signed a 50/50 contract: the achieved financial savings are shared equally between the schools and the city of Weiz, which covers the energy bills.

A longstanding energy commitment

Weiz has endeavoured to advance efficient and sustainable environmental and energy projects for years. It joined the Covenant of Mayors in 2014 and has been active within the European Energy Award programme since 2007, achieving gold certification. In order to achieve this, the municipality has always aimed for a high citizen involvement, as shown by the 50/50 project.

The 50/50 method: saving energy and money

The 50/50 method can significantly contribute to achieve local climate and energy goals. Schools have huge energy saving potentials. Pupils are the drivers of the action and they are increasing their knowledge and awareness on energy savings. Furthermore, 50/50 can inspire the parents to follow their children's examples by saving energy and implementing energy efficiency measures themselves. The 50/50 project gives the municipality the opportunity to reduce its energy bill and CO₂ emissions while the school gets extra funds to invest in more energy efficiency measures or other needs.

The EURONET 50/50 MAX project

The 50/50 schools in Weiz are part of the project EURONET 50/50 MAX, which is co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union and implements the 50/50 energy-saving method in more than 500 schools and 48 other public buildings in 65 municipalities from 13 European countries.

More information on www.euronet50-50max.eu



A nine steps methodology

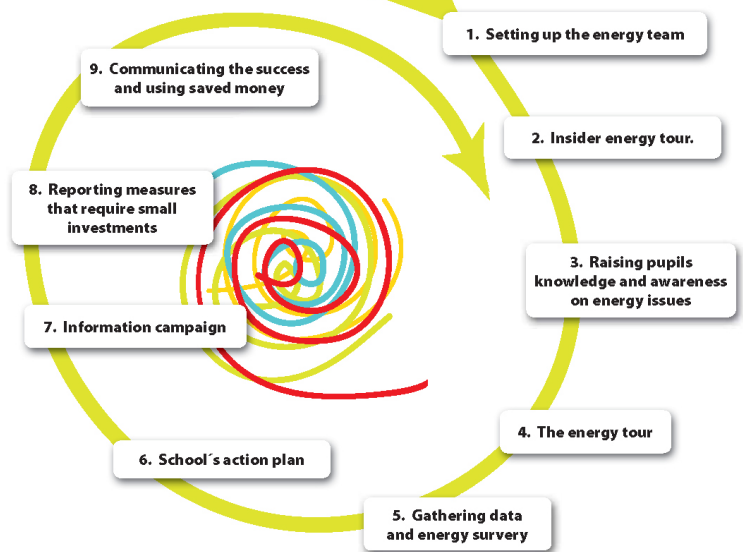
The 50/50 methodology consists of nine steps. The first step is to set up an energy team made up of pupils, which examines saving potential by gathering energy data at their school (Energy tour) and develops an action plan with energy saving measures for the school community. The focus of all energy saving efforts is on lowering electricity and heat consumption, but the schools can also work on the reduction of use of water and rubbish. The next important step is to let the rest of the school community know how to save energy at school. The energy team prepares signs, posters, checklists or even little videos to promote their ideas. After one year, the energy team receives the results of their actions in terms of money saved and decides on how to use that money.

Results

In Weiz, three schools are participating in the 50/50 project. In the first year, these schools saved more than 18,000 kWh, which is around €1,560 or 7 tonnes of CO₂! All these savings have been achieved in the electricity sector. The pupils used signs and checklists in all classrooms to remind everybody to turn off the lights and computers, to air the room correctly, etc. In all classes “Energy Managers” have been appointed, who are responsible for the implementation of the energy saving measures in their classes. Furthermore, the energy teams of the schools found out that it is much too warm in the classrooms. In one school, the temperature has already been reduced by 2°C and the other schools will follow the example, because this measure helped the school to save 12,656 kWh (more than 10%) of heating energy within three months. This means that the municipality saved more than €1,000 and that nearly 5 tonnes of CO₂ have not been emitted. In general the heating system in schools is a large potential for energy saving.

The 50/50 schools will continue their efforts to save energy and further schools in Weiz will join.

50/50 methodology



Project numbers

Project start: October 2013

3 schools enrolled

2°C temperature reduction in the classrooms

€1,560 energy cost savings in the first year



The energy team of the primary school Weiz is celebrating its success. They saved more than €1,100 euros !

For more information on the 50/50 schools in Weiz, contact:

Barbara Kulmer

Franz-Pichler-Straße 30 8160 Weiz

barbara.kulmer@weiz.at 03172-2319-441

Covenant of Mayors, press@eumayors.eu