In a nutshell

The “Drop by Drop” programme oversees the installation of innovative fittings in public buildings, that reduce water and energy consumption for heating tap water. The programme is funded by an Energy Service Company (ESCO).

Background

Częstochowa is located in Southern Poland on the Warta River. It is an economic, cultural and administrative hub in the northern part of the Silesian Voivodeship. The city has been a Covenant signatory since 2012 and committed to a 20% CO₂-reduction on its territory through its Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The municipality’s efforts regarding sustainable energy management date back to 2003, when the City Engineer’s Office launched a broad-scale programme on energy efficiency, including the “Programme of Energy and Environmental Management in the public buildings in Częstochowa”. This programme resulted already in a reduction of 27% in fuel and electricity consumption, 38% in water consumption and 26% in CO₂ emissions between 2003 and 2013.

The “Drop by Drop” programme

In 2012 Częstochowa launched the second phase of its zero-cost management activities and extended it to include the installation of innovative fittings offered by an Energy Service Company (ESCO) under a programme called “Drop by Drop”. The program aims to reduce water and energy consumption for heating tap water, based on individualised technical solutions for specific facilities (such as water aerators that decrease water consumption in sinks, kitchens and showers, or containers that diminish the volume of old-fashioned flushing reservoirs). The office opted for implementing the “Drop by Drop” programme in educational facilities that had the highest water consumption.

Częstochowa in numbers

- Number of inhabitants: 235,798
- CO₂ reduction target: 20% by 2020 (Baseline year 2005)
- Number of Covenant of Mayors signatories in Poland: 54
Financing the programme

Neither the municipality of Częstochowa nor any of the entities participating in the programme had to cover any initial costs. The company that installed the innovative fittings agreed to be paid from the savings made by the participants in the programme. The financial arrangements of the programme foresee 30% of the savings staying with the given educational facility and 70% going to the company to pay off modernisation costs. The payoff period varies from two months to one year depending on the building. Additionally, the innovative water supply fittings remain installed and continue to generate savings for the municipality. The programme generates reduction in three kinds of costs: water supply, tap water heating and wastewater discharge.

Other projects

EURONET 50/50 MAX – the main purpose of this project is to save energy within public buildings through the implementation of the 50/50 methodology that is used in 12 educational facilities in the city of Częstochowa.

MESHARTILITY – the main purpose of this project is to develop tools that facilitate the exchange of data on energy consumption between utilities and local authorities.

The City Engineer’s Office has also engaged in comprehensive educational and promotional activities to promote eco-friendly behaviour, including awareness-raising campaigns, workshops and training courses. By partnering with the Energy Efficiency Foundation (based in Katowice), the office now runs a website (“Częstochowa – Energy and Environment”) that provides up-to-date information on the city’s energy activities and their results, thus ensuring transparency of information.

“Every municipality has the possibility to pursue its own energy and environmental policy, which includes ensuring the security of electricity and fuel supply to citizens, optimising individual energy service costs and improving the quality of the environment. For me, it is equally important to encourage citizens to engage in activities in their daily lives that prevent negative climate impacts.”

Krzysztof Matyjaszczyk, Mayor of the City of Częstochowa

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