

## EU funds trigger large energy-saving investments

A Covenant of Mayors Case Study



**9,000**

old luminaires  
replaced with  
LED

Despite a reduced municipal budget, Sofia is making efforts to lower local energy consumption to preserve its residents' health, quality of life and purchasing power. From low-hanging fruit to large-scale investment, the measures taken are expected to bring the Bulgarian capital closer to the energy targets set for 2020.

### Less power waste through LEDs

One of the first initiatives Sofia took after joining the Covenant of Mayors, was to replace its old, inefficient street lamps with more economical LED alternatives. As a city-wide deployment of LEDs entails significant costs, the project was partially funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Several districts have already seen the public lighting system replaced, generating annual energy savings of over 5,500 MWh and reducing carbon emissions by 5,322 tonnes per year. Moreover, considerable maintenance savings are expected due to the new luminaires' longer life span.

### Taking electric mobility further

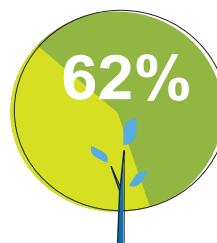
Already historically popular in the region, electric mobility is further promoted in Sofia through large-scale investments in trolleybuses, trams and metro system. The city is using municipal, regional and European funding to replace 90% of its old trolleys with modern, highly efficient vehicles while promoting its new trams as a cleaner, cheaper and faster alternative to the private car. Energy consumption in public transport is expected to drop by at least 15% and over 5,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> will be avoided thanks to these investments. Moreover, the ever-growing metro network is now accompanied by park and ride facilities that not only act as congestion buffers, but also impact on commuter behaviour.



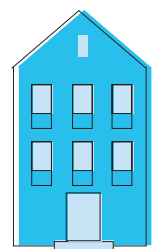
will help Sofia reduce CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions by **5,000 tonnes**

### Making neighbourhoods smarter and more efficient

Sofia is also refurbishing its most energy voracious districts through a programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The €25 million to be utilized on national level until the end of 2015 covers measures such as building insulation, improved connections to district heating and smart building management systems. The European Union covers 75% of the refurbishment costs, while home owners fund the remaining 25%. Sofia will ensure that residents have access to low-interest loans and bank guarantees in order to participate in this refurbishment programme. The Bulgarian government has additionally launched a new national programme of €500 million for renovation of residential buildings.



of Sofia's CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions  
come from  
buildings



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