REGION JÄMTLAND HÄRJEDALEN

BUILD2LC
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Action plan

Interreg – Build to Low Carbon BUILD2LC

Region Jämtland Härjedalen

How to boost low carbon innovative building renovation in European regions

PGI014403

Interreg – BUILD2LC – Action plan
Region Jämtland Härjedalen: October 2018 - September 2020
Interreg Policy Context and Delivery Plan

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

BUILD2LC
Interreg Europe

REGION JÄMTLAND HÄRJEDALEN

ACTIONS

The purpose of this action plan is:

1. to try to respond to the increasing need for skills and professional knowledge within the energy sector.

2. to investigate opportunities to develop a document management tool that supports and drives progress towards greater energy efficiency in properties.

3. to influence the adaptation of the European Union's policy instruments and funding tools within the energy area, so that they better align with the existing conditions in the northern regions of Sweden.

The Action Plan aims to impact: NUTS2 region: Mellersta Norrland through direct involvement in the policy and programme writing and adjustments by this project's stakeholders of the northern regions of Sweden. This will have a huge effect in how the northern parts of the European Union, through the impact on the financial governance instruments, will be able to contribute in a much more effective and larger scale to the common European aim of reaching a better climate and become more energy efficient.

The Action Plan aims to impact: also other regional and national development policy instrument such as the **Regional development strategy of Region Jämtland Härjedalen** through direct impact on and participation of this projects members and stakeholders in the formal writing of the content and the formulations of actions, aims and objectives in for instance the regional Climate strategy, the Competence platform and the development of the different strategies of the Swedish national Energy Agency.

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument: Through the different action stated in this action plan and through the participation of the various stakeholders from different sectors, ages and areas, who express and share their expertise, knowledge, thoughts and needs – build the ground on which the suggestions to improvements of the policy instruments lays and will therefore ensure that the they will make a positive effective difference to the executers and therefore also to Europe.

REGION JÄMTLAND HÄRJEDALEN

BUILD2LC
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: BUILD2LC

Start 1 April 2016, End 30 September 2020

Partner organisation: Region Jämtland Härjedalen

Country: Sweden

NUTS2 region: Mellersta Norrland

Project manager Katarina Ryckenberg
E-mail address:
katarina.ryckenberg@regionjh.se
Phone number: +46 (0)706573041

Political context

This action plan aims to have an impact on: NUTS2 region: Mellersta Norrland and other regional and national strategies by the impact on:

1. the response to the increasing need for skills and professional knowledge within the energy sector.
2. the development of a document management tool that supports and drives progress towards greater energy efficiency in properties.

3. the form of policy instruments and funding tools so they are better suited to the northern regions of the EU.

Political institutions involved:

1. Region Jämtland Härjedalen, the Boards of the region's upper secondary schools and the municipal business liaison offices.
2. The energy agency of Region Jämtland Härjedalen
3. European Commission's energy department

Aim and objectives

Since May 2016, Region Jämtland Härjedalen has been participating in the European Interreg Europe project Build2LC (Low Carbon), in which a total of seven regions from seven countries are participating (Spain, Lithuania, Great Britain, Poland, Croatia and Slovenia).

These programmes have existed for five of the EUs programme periods since 1990. Interreg programmes develop cooperation across borders and they also have a peace-keeping purpose.

The aim of Build2LC - Build to low carbon - is to stimulate increased energy efficiency in buildings through inspiration, knowledge-sharing and good examples.

Currently within the European Union (EU), 75 per cent of privately-owned properties are energy inefficient. The main goal of this project is to work to improve the energy efficiency of properties, which both reduces carbon dioxide emissions, tackles the problem of energy poverty and improves quality and comfort for occupants of homes.

Build2LC follows a multi-disciplinary approach, in that long-term and sustainable solutions, investments, renovations and reconstructions are identified at many different levels and from many different directions.

The final result of the project will therefore encompass everything from improvements to private properties, to increased general public awareness and higher competence levels of those whose work involves all kinds of aspects of energy and energy efficiency. The results also aim to have an impact on financial governance instruments at different organisational levels within regions, countries and the EU.

During the first three years, the project members mainly focused on sharing good examples and holding in-depth meetings. This has led to the creation of these regional action plans in which every region, inspired by good examples from other regions, has defined the actions that are appropriate for the region in reaching the future goals regarding improved energy efficiency.

The suggested actions herein have been created with the intention of their being implemented, but this is not a requirement.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The region of Jämtland Härjedalen has a substantial and growing surplus of cheap, reliable and renewable energy, including hydropower, solar energy and wind. In the near future, an estimated SEK 200 billion is set to be invested in wind. Investments in energy production and electricity grid infrastructure are currently being planned and implemented to enable the establishment of energy intensive production facilities in a range of sectors. These planned investments in renewable energy form a natural foundation for a shift in the region's focus in terms of its work with the property sector. Based on these investments, Region Jämtland Härjedalen should include energy efficiency in the priority areas of the region's innovation strategy. In order to manage this change, Region Jämtland Härjedalen needs to raise the competence and skills levels of those whose work involves energy and energy efficiency, establish a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system in the region's energy agency and influence the EUs support system to the energy sector, so that financial support becomes accessible and relevant to our region.

1. *Higher level of skills within the energy sector*

To obtain and meet the future needs of qualified persons working within and innovate and developing the field of energy and energy efficiency we need to enlighten, inspire and inform the younger population and students. The stakeholders from Region Jämtland Härjedalen companies and industries are very clear - they need more competent personnel and they want to be a part of the student's education to show the kind of skills and knowledge required. The stakeholder from the school and students are likewise very positive to get the chance to meet with the world outside of the classrooms. This action will be the start of a process changing this.

There is currently very little cooperation, in the form of work placements, traineeships, special work and summer jobs, between the business community, general working life and students. Contact between energy sector companies and schools is even more limited. Consequently, students are not aware of all the interesting jobs that are available and the different career paths they can choose. This lack of cooperation is one of the factors that have led to a shortage of students graduating from upper-secondary school who see a future within the energy sector. Knowledge-sharing between the energy sector and schools, along with work placements, traineeships and summer jobs, could raise the level of education such that it better matches the skills needs of the sector. At the same time, the sector would gain access to a larger number of people interested in long-term work in the energy sector.

Cooperation could be established both between practical and theoretical upper-secondary school programmes and the energy sector. The energy sector needs professionals such as engineers, electricians, bio-technicians, systems analysts, fitters, architects and more. In this way, students can strengthen both their CVs and their network in the sector. Companies also have the opportunity to secure their future supply of skills.

This action is inspired by Gloucestershire's Your Green Future and Young Energy People good practices. In Gloucestershire's programme, as early as school years four and five students receive education in carrying out energy inventories/energy declarations - working together with property managers to examine, monitor and report the school's energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. The students propose energy-saving measures and can see the direct results - both in terms of energy usage and financial savings. Getting the students to do projects on the school energy consumption could fit into the final projects students do in upper secondary school, or in the "student's choice" in the curriculum in lower secondary school where the students can choose one subject to immerse themselves in. The practical adoption of energy saving habits amid the pupils and the early learning of energy saving techniques impacted largely in the education parameters of the Gloucestershire students as it was explained during the ad-hoc held bi-lateral meeting: SWEA hosted Region Jämtland Härjedalen, held on June 2017 at the SWEA premises and due to follow up discussions and clarifications during the meeting in Slovenia March 2018 Region Jämtland Härjedalen were convinced that this kind of action, with the needed modifications to adapt to its reality, is a powerful and suitable way to achieve the solution to some of our regions need within this area.

Even though the equivalent Region Jämtland Härjedalen project would look different, the focus would still be on creating cooperation between schools and the energy sector, as well as creating interest amongst upper-secondary school students in energy matters and professions within the energy sector

2. *CRM system for the energy agency*

This action was inspired by good examples from Warm and Well's Gloucestershire Good Practice. Region Jämtland Härjedalen had the opportunity to dive deeper into Warm and Well and to receive very useful information and tips from the project partner SWEA both through the bi-lateral meeting: SWEA hosted Region Jämtland Härjedalen, held in June 2017 at the SWEA premises, several mail contacts, discussions and opportunities for questions in Slovenia March 2018 and finally during the meeting in Málaga in September 2018.

To implement the Warm & Well in full as it was presented is an enormous effort, not likely to happen in our regional context in the coming years, as the population and the administration of Region Jämtland Härjedalen is of a much lesser size than Glouchestershire's.

However, the CRM-system that the SWEA advice line uses is very interesting and kick-started an old discussion for our energy and climate advisors: There is a very basic CRM-system for energy advisors in Sweden on a national level, but as of now this system is not very functional and is not used on a daily basis. Discussions were previously focused on the handling of personal data, and the conclusions were that a more detailed CRM-system was not suitable. With the approved General

Data Protection EU Regulation in 2018 the discussion gained new relevance. Region Jämtland Härjedalen's energy agency and energy advice service do not currently have a practical, usable, official register and archive of the cases that the agency receives in Sweden, which impedes cooperation among energy advisors. This is also true for the energy agencies of other regions in Sweden.

For example, by creating a register and archive, the energy agency could collate energy declarations, energy-saving measures that have been taken, and the energy grants that have been applied for and used, and connect all this kind of information to the individual properties. Such information is of great value to property owners, property buyers and potential investors, and also for authorities and public agencies. Further, having all information collated in one place facilitates adherence to GDPR. The information in the archive would help property owners understand how they can save energy, other energy-efficiency measures that may be relevant, and the subsidies and grants used or still available for such measures.

Through this archive/register the region would also be able to measure energy consumption before and after different projects and support. In this way, the region would be able to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate the effectiveness of the region's support and investments. This is something the Swedish Energy Agency can use nationally.

An archive could also be an effective tool through which the energy agency can systematically monitor the mandatory energy declarations/certificates that measure the energy performance of a property. Having energy declarations accessible is also very valuable for investors.

For this type of register and archive to be possible, the region must consider the implications of the EUs new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The region will need to evaluate how the GDPR can be combined with and connected to Swedish laws on disclosure and property unit designations, and laws governing how official records can be combined into the set-up of a new register or archive.

The Swedish Energy Agency, which is responsible for coordinating the work of the regional energy agencies, has previously shown interest in the establishment of such a register and archive.

3. *Future EU support system for the energy sector*

This action is inspired by Build2LC project partners Andalucía in Spain and Lithuania. Through fruitful discussion and informative conversations during ordinary project meetings and a most instructive bilateral meeting in and hosted by Andalucía in May 2018, implications for the results of ERDF TO4 were observed, ELENA-Example, EIB EFSI-instrument and ways forward.

The EUs policies and financial governance instruments concerning energy efficiency do not currently meet the needs and challenges of the energy sector in Region Jämtland Härjedalen and other regions in northern Sweden. Today, companies and organisations active in sectors including the energy, property and construction sectors have very limited possibilities to use and apply for funding from EU programmes. The existing support does not encompass, and is not targeted at, the energy efficiency measures of our companies and organisations as these are often further ahead in progress. The basis and conditions not only differ from those in the rest of Europe, but also from those in southern parts of Sweden.

Through Build2LC, Region Jämtland Härjedalen has recently established a stakeholder group consisting of the business liaison offices of the northernmost regions. The aim is to work collectively on the documentation and policies ahead of the next EU programme period so that documents, formulations and funding measures are submitted that are better suited to our circumstances. This will increase the chances that northern regions can apply for and use the funds.
By using the EUs support programme, we want to use energy efficiency to create the best possible conditions for rural development.

Energy efficiency is strongly connected to rural policies. Energy efficiency in rural areas makes such areas more competitive due to the long-term reduction in energy costs. Through the EUs support programme for energy efficiency, the region of Andalusia in Spain has supported property owners and vehicle owners and succeeded in reducing emissions by 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Investments

1. *Higher level of skills within the energy sector*

Identify the municipalities, schools and companies that may be interested in cooperation and exchanging ideas. In conjunction with interested upper-secondary schools, head teachers, students and municipal business liaison offices, a network will be created that comprises relevant reference groups. Mid Sweden University, sector organisations and civil society organisations will also be invited into the network and reference groups.

Pilot projects will be started that can be developed into long-term cooperation and sharing between schools and the energy sector through work placements, traineeships and summer jobs.

Prior to and during the pilot project, the needs, requirements and practical conditions of the students will be researched. This is to identify the factors that might attract students to the sector and encourage them to apply for work placements, traineeships and summer jobs. The pilot will

also survey the knowledge that students lack when they are accepted into universities or other higher education institutions, as well as the skills demanded by the sector organisations. The methods used, and experiences gained, can then be used to create similar sharing between schools and the energy sector in other municipalities.

Upper-secondary schools and the sector will then work together to create an action plan that can both enhance the courses provided by schools and match them with sector needs and university requirements.

2. *Case archive system for the energy agency*

Map out how cases that are received by the energy agency are currently registered. Based on this knowledge, and the needs and demands of other energy agencies in Region Jämtland Härjedalen and Sweden, we will research the legal and technical possibilities, for example according to GDPR, for establishing a register and archive for all cases that the energy agency receives. We will also find out how this can be connected to property unit designations and to energy-saving measures, energy declarations and any financial support in existence or granted.

A reference group comprised of stakeholders from different kinds of property owners will be used to examine the needs and functionality requirements of such an archive.

These stakeholders will be joined by lawyers, energy and climate advisers, systems technicians, energy agencies, municipal business liaison offices and other concerned authorities.

A prototype register and archive will be built that includes all the cases that the energy agency receives. During the second stage, the prototype will be connected to property unit designations and to other energy and energy efficiency matters regarding a particular property.

Property owners, investors and other potential users will then be able to test the prototype register and archive.

The register and archive will then be evaluated and modified.

3. *Future EU support system for the energy sector*

The newly established stakeholder group will set up strategic and operational goals for the group.

Inter-regional dialogue will be initiated to discuss how different policy areas are integrated and how this new knowledge can be used to create synergies between these different policy areas.

Create new proposals regarding the form and application of the support programmes/funds available so that they better match the needs of the region.

One request is to gain more in-depth knowledge about the EUs support programmes/funds through a visit to the Interreg Europe project Financial Instruments for Energy Renovation Policies (Finerpol). The aim of the visit would be to learn more about how such policies can be better exploited in Sweden and our northern regions, as well as how to efficiently propose changes to the EUs policies so that they match the needs of the region.

Actors involved

1. ***Higher level of skills within the energy sector***

Actor: Region Jämtland Härjedalen
Role: To support the stakeholder group by coordinating meetings between members of the group.

Primary:
Actor: Samling Näringsliv, other company and business groups, Jämtlands gymnasium (upper-secondary school) - Wargentinskolan, Jämtlands gymnasium - Fyrvalla, IUC Z-group, students

Secondary – potential expansion of programme
Actor: The childcare and education departments and business liaison offices of the municipalities of Berg, Bräcke, Härjedalen, Krokom, Ragunda, Strömsund, Åre and Östersund.
Role: Participate in the stakeholder group and support schools and companies in the formation and implementation of traineeships, work placements and summer jobs. The municipality-owned property company may also offer summer jobs.

Actor: Jämtlands Gymnasieförbund (upper-secondary school association), Jämtlands gymnasium, Fjällgymnasiet Svenstavik, Hjalmar Strömerskolan, Härjedalens Gymnasium and the independent schools Dille Gård naturbruksgymnasium, Storsjögymnasiet and Östersunds gymnasieskola.
Role: Participate in the stakeholder group and create an action plan to enhance the courses provided and match them with sector needs together with companies, sector organisations and universities.

Actor: Students from the upper-secondary schools involved.
Role: Participate in reference groups and apply for traineeships, work placements and summer jobs.

Actor: Mid Sweden University
Role: Participate in reference groups to provide input on the knowledge that upper-secondary school students lack when they start energy-related university programmes and courses.

Actor: Companies and sector organisations within the property and energy sectors.
Role: Participate in stakeholder group and help shape an action plan to enhance courses offered and match them to sector needs.

Actor: Civil society organisations focused on environmental issues.
Role: Disseminate information and influence laws and policies.

2. ***Case archive system for the energy agency***

Actor: Stakeholder group comprised of property owners such as municipalities, private companies, co-operative housing associations and individual home owners.
Role: Provide input regarding existing needs and feedback on the development of a prototype.

Actor: Companies that work with energy efficiency and the Swedish Energy Agency.
Role: Provide input regarding existing needs and feedback on the development of a prototype.

Actor: Energy agency in Region Jämtland Härjedalen
Role: Lead the development of a prototype.

Actor: Lawyers
Role: Investigate requirements and possibility for a case archive from a GDPR perspective.

Actor: IT experts
Role: Create a prototype case archive.

3. ***Future EU support system for the energy sector***

Primary:
Actor: Regional business liaison units of Region Jämtland Härjedalen, Region Västerbotten, Region Västernorrland and Region Norrbotten.
Role: Participate in the stakeholder group and help create strategic and operational goals for the group, initiate inter-regional dialogue, and create proposals for possible formulations and applications of the EUs support programme/funds.

Secondary:
Actor: Policy experts in the various regions, political leaders and decision-makers in the various regions.
Role: Provide views so that decisions can be made to give a mandate and approval for the documents to be submitted.

Actor: Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
Role: Support and contribute knowledge on how the region can influence the EUs support programme.

Actor: European Commission
Role: Receive input and feedback from the stakeholder group on existing needs and how the Commission's support programme could be better formulated to meet these needs.

Actor: Companies, sub-contractors and entrepreneurs in the energy sector.
Role: Contribute knowledge and input to the stakeholder group on the needs of the sector.
Actor: Peak Region Science Park and Östersund municipality
Role: Contribute knowledge and input on the kind of support requirements that exist in the region.

Time frame

1. ***Higher level of skills within the energy sector***

Spring and autumn 2018 - Stakeholder group meetings
Autumn/winter 2018/19 - Pre-study on funding possibilities as well as work meetings.
Spring 2019 - Project start
Summer 2019 or 2020 - Students start their traineeships, work placements and summer jobs.

2. ***Case archive system for the energy agency***

Spring and autumn 2018 - Stakeholder group meetings
Autumn/winter 2018/19 - Pre-study on funding possibilities as well as work meetings.
Spring 2019 - Project start
Summer 2019 - Testing of first prototype
Autumn/winter 2019/2020 - Evaluation and modification of the prototype

3. ***Future EU support system for the energy sector***

Build2LCs project plan will provide the framework for the implementation of this programme. A plan is currently being prepared that allows for future adjustments.
Autumn 2018 - Application complete for financial funding.
2018 - 2020 - Implementation based on the flexibility in the future time plan.

Costs

All the actions can (are) happen (ing) in the region and they do not demand certain financial support. They will happen within ordinary work tasks by all stakeholders and officials. All of this based on current political and financial situation and organisation within the Regions Jämtland Härjedalen and Sweden, on a national level.
The Build2LC has contributed highly to the Region Jämtland Härjedalens prioritization of these actions and the other project members knowledge and their good practices have inspired from to new ways and methods to move forward in reaching good results.

1. ***Higher level of skills within the energy sector***

Time for all those involved in the stakeholder meetings and work meetings. Estimate: A total of maximum 40 hours – one week per stakeholder per year
Time for school personnel to participate in networking meetings and administer the students' applications. Estimate: This lays within the ordinary obligations of the school and differs depending on the student program.
Wages for trainee students, work placement students (are they going to be paid?) and summer workers – cost taken by the companies
Insurance for trainee students, work placement students and summer workers – costs taken by the companies.

2. ***Case archive system for the energy agency***

Time for all those involved in the stakeholder meetings and work meetings. Estimate: A total of maximum 40 hours – one week per stakeholder per year
Time for lawyers and IT experts. Estimate: A total of maximum 40 hours – one week per per year

If conclusion - go further with a pilot study including development of digital tools – economical is funding required covering time for technical experts.

3. ***Future EU support system for the energy sector***

Time for all those involved in the stakeholder meetings and work meetings. Estimate: This work lays totally within the ordinary obligations of all people involved and will be carried out in connection to ordinary planned meetings

If conclusion – need to travel to Interreg Europe project Financial Instruments for Energy Renovation Policies (Finerpol) or other that do not lay within planned ordinary work tasks - economical funding or means are required to cover costs

Financing

All the actions can (are) happen (ing) in the region and they do not demand certain financial support. They will happen within ordinary work tasks by all stakeholders and officials. All of this based on current political and financial situation and organisation within the Regions Jämtland Härjedalen and Sweden, on a national level.

The Build2LC has contributed highly to the Region Jämtland Härjedalen prioritization of these actions and the other project members' knowledge and their good practices have inspired from to new ways and methods to move forward in reaching good results.

If other financing opportunities occur it will, of course, open up for more achievements and more profound actions to be carried out.

1. ***Higher level of skills within the energy sector***

2. ***Case archive system for the energy agency***

3. ***Future EU support system for the energy sector***

Date: 190208

Signature: _____
ELIN NIRJENS

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____