

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: Boosting Low Carbon Innovative Building Rehabilitation in European Regions (Build2LC)

Start 1 April 2016, End 30 September 2020

Partner organisation: Region Jämtland Härjedalen

Country: Sweden

NUTS2 region: Mellersta Norrland

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Political context

This action plan aims to have an impact on:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs program
- European Territorial Cooperation program
- Other regional development policy instrument:

Region Jämtland Härjedalen development strategy

Political institutions involved:

1. Region Jämtland Härjedalen and the municipal business liaison offices.
2. The energy agency of Region Jämtland Härjedalen
3. European Commission's energy department



1. Details of the actions envisaged

The purpose of this action plan is:

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

Region Jämtland Härjedalen is the authority responsible for the entire county's priorities and the entire county's/regions development –**the Regional development strategy, RUS.**

The regional development strategy for Jämtland Härjedalen, RUS, contains seven priorities, which are closely linked to the five priorities in Europe 2020. One of the priorities is Efficient and Effective Resources, which is linked to climate and energy policy within Europe 2020. One of the six specific targets within Efficient and Effective Resources, is high energy efficiency in all sectors (construction, building, communication and industries). Our actions in the area are many, where Build2LC is one of the projects that are leading us to achieve that target.

Since the action proposed will be executed during the right now ongoing revision period, it will have a very strong impact on changes of the RUS, in a first step and then further on into nation.

The elaboration of this action plan - as well as other actions performed by the Region Jämtland Härjedalen – is based on the democratic process and legislation of Sweden. This means that every policy work on every level will add up and be incorporated at national level and in national policies, strategies and laws which in turn will have an impact and will be the ground for any changes proposed and made in these policies.

We believe and also state in our laws that policies and strategies must be anchored and properly rooted with the citizens of Sweden. It is a matter of democracy but also the only way to go if your aim with your policies and strategies is to make permanent positive efficient changes. Therefore, we gather opinions, ideas and remarks from the citizens through many different channels - civil society, enterprises, schools, organisations, official etc.



Amongst others, these opinions shall be gathered by the Swedish municipalities and they provide their region with the material so regional plans, policies and strategies - together with national directives – policies and strategies can be conducted.

The overall aim – for us with this kind of action plan within this kind of sector -is to have a direct impact on and influence the development progress for a better environment – for Sweden, in line with it is expected for Europe and for the world. We must advance rapidly with sustainable progress hand in hand with economic progress – it is a matter of survival.

The best way, for us, to meet the objective - more energy efficient - and in the wider perspective - more sustainable - is if the persons, organisations, companies and authorities that through their activities contribute to and also are directly affected by an action –also are the ones conducting the action and through own ways finance and take the costs in for example allocated time form of the action. This is, in Region Jämtland Härjedalen much more powerful and much more likely and certainly less doubts to feasibility than if an authority would put a demand on an action or construct a binding financial unrealistic plan for an action.

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instrument: through the 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.

The results from the action will be monitored by RJH and will have a large influence in the modification of the RUS – which RJH is responsible for.

2. The background (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

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, influence the EUs support system to the energy sector, so that financial support becomes accessible and relevant to our region and establish a customer relationship management (CRM) system in the region's energy agency, that will be the main focus of the present Action Plan.

CRM system for the energy agency

In Sweden the responsibility for the energy advise service lays within the municipals. The regions are – by the correspondent regional energy agency - in turn responsible for the common and total energy advice services for all municipal within the region. Region Jämtland Härjedalen has 8 municipals. All energy advice services in Sweden are gathered and revised by the Swedish Energy Agency.

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, which impedes cooperation between 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, General Data Protection Regulations. 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.

Knowledge that can come out from such a tool can also be important input in the revision of the RUS and therefore in extension also national policies and strategies.

For this type of register and archive to be possible, the region must consider the implications of the EU's 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.

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 Gloucestershire'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.

3. Actions to be implemented

The following actions will be implemented:

- 1) Map out how cases that are received by the energy agency are currently registered.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.



- 6) Property owners, investors and other potential users will then be able to test the prototype register and archive.
- 7) The register and archive will then be evaluated and modified.

4. Players involved

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.

5. Time frame

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

6. Costs

Estimated time - Case archive system for the energy agency – preliminary study of the tool

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



This preliminary action will happen mainly 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.

If conclusion - go further with a pilot including development of digital tools – economical funding is required covering time for technical experts. Depending on the result from the action preliminary study of the tool and from those results, the size of the required cost of further technical development – decision will have to be made how to finance this.

7. Funding sources

As mentioned, if the conclusion results in that RJH shall proceed with further technical development – different ways of funding have to be investigated: if it can be performed within the ordinary work of the RJH or by external funding from National Energy Agency.

Date: 2019-03-21

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____