



PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PRIMORSKA THE LONGEST SOLAR NOISE BARRIER



School classes from all over Slovenia can come to the Eco House in Cerkno to learn about sustainability issues.

Up to now, «green energy» in Slovenia has been almost exclusively derived from hydroelectric power plants, but that is set to change. Switzerland has been supporting a project in Slovenia that promotes other sources of renewable energy: a noise barrier along a motorway has been equipped with solar panels and 29 public buildings that were previously heated with oil have been converted to biomass heating, 12 of which have also been made energy efficient.

In March 2007, the EU agreed that by 2020, 20% of its total energy requirements would be met through renewable sources of energy – biomass, water, wind and sun. Individual targets were set for each EU member country. To help Slovenia reach its national target, funds have been provided through the enlargement contribution for the promotion of renewable energy. Switzerland has contributed CHF 3.68 million to support the use of renewable energies in municipalities in the Slovenian coastal region of Primorska.

LONGEST SOLAR NOISE BARRIER IN SLOVENIA

The project consists of three parts. First, a 648-metre-long noise barrier along a segment of the motorway leading to Italy has been fitted with solar panels. The longest of its kind in Slovenia, this noise-protection wall now generates enough solar energy for all public lighting in the town of Sempeter.

HEATING WITH BIOMASS

As a second component of the project, Switzerland has supported the installation of 12 biomass heating systems that have since been providing heating to 29 public buildings by using locally-produced wood chips and pellets, which is both cost-effective and sustainable. Twelve of these buildings have also been made energy efficient. Among the 29 buildings are schools and kindergartens with nearly 2,000 children as well as two information centres in Triglav National Park which is visited by 45,000 people every year. Thanks to the biomass conversions and renovations for improved energy efficiency, heating costs in these buildings will be reduced by about 50% and energy consumption by 30%.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WITH TELEVISION COMPETITION

The third part of the project is a public awareness campaign. Screens showing the production of renewable energy and CO₂ savings have been set up in Triglav National Park, schools and near the motorway's solar noise barrier. For those who are interested, all the information can also be found in real time on the internet. Local events, brochures, textbooks, the internet and other media are being used on a regular basis to raise awareness of the topic among the public, local businesspeople, and around 5,000 teachers and pupils. «Renewable energy groups» have been set up in each of the schools involved in the project with the aim of teaching pupils about energy efficiency and renewable energy, training young people to become «energy managers» who in turn raise awareness of this topic among their peers.

This noise-protection wall fitted with solar panels - the longest of its kind in Slovenia - generates enough energy for all public lighting in the town of Šempeter.



School classes from all over Slovenia can come to the Eco House in Cerklje na Gorenjskem to learn about sustainability issues. In spring 2015, a well-known business magazine described the project as the most successful and sustainable educational programme in the whole of Slovenia.

OTHER PROJECTS TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SLOVENIA

In total, Switzerland has contributed around CHF 9 million to two projects in Slovenia to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Alongside funds for the coastal region of Primorska, assistance has also been provided to the Gorenjska region in the north-west of the country.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

OBJECTIVE

Protecting the environment

SUBJECT

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

COUNTRY

Slovenia

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The EU plans to cover 20% of its energy requirements with renewable energy by 2020.

PURPOSE

Improved environmental protection and economic growth through the promotion of renewable energy.

ACTIVITIES

- Expansion of a noise barrier into a solar noise barrier
- Installation of biomass heating
- Energy efficient renovations
- Information campaigns

TARGET GROUPS

Municipalities and the public

COSTS

Total project budget:

CHF 5.29 million

Swiss contribution:

CHF 3.68 million

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Goriska Local Energy Agency

DURATION

2010 – 2015



We are delighted that with the support of Switzerland's enlargement contribution we have been able to install a solar power system on the noise barrier of the motorway near Bazara. In doing so we are setting a good example for other investors when it comes to renewable energy sources. Thanks to the contribution by Switzerland and subsidised electricity prices, we will soon be able to recover the investment costs. We want to reduce electricity consumption and make our municipality even more environmentally friendly.

Milan Turk,
Mayor of Šempeter-Vrtojba

THE SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

September 2015

www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch