



European cities exchange winning energy strategies at EUSEW seminar



PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental and economic benefits make local governments decide to choose cogeneration in order to meet their increasing energy needs.

COGEN Europe and Berlin Energy Agency organise on 25 March a seminar at the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) on "Promoting innovative cogeneration in cities". This half-day seminar is an official event of the EUSEW, the reference European event for energy efficiency and renewable energy, which focuses this year on Europe's cities and their efforts in the fight against climate change.

One outstanding example of the promotion of cogeneration by a city is Berlin. Its campaign "KWK Modellstadt Berlin" (CHP Pilot City Berlin) shows how to promote cogeneration in an urban environment and how to combine cogeneration with other innovative technologies and with renewable energy sources.

The Berlin successful experience can be seen in the light of the firm move of national policy towards energy efficiency and cogeneration. In 2007, the German Federal Government launched an Integrated Energy and Climate Programme (IECP) that will set global standards and set out an appropriate response for a modern economy. It includes the aim of increasing the share of high-efficiency cogeneration plants in electricity production will be doubled by 2020 from the current level of around 12% to around 25%.

"Therefore, we have amended the Combined Heat and Power Act, which promotes the construction of new plants and heat grids, to serve this goal", says Wolfgang Mueller, Deputy Head of Division for Energy Efficiency in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Furthermore, cogeneration is promoted in the amended Renewable Energy Sources Act. "The interim audit of the IECP will show, whether we are on the right track" according to Mueller, who speaks at the COGEN Europe/Berlin Energy Agency seminar.

Other pilot cities will present their experience at the seminar (e.g. Paris, Frankfurt and Riga). Stakeholders such as the European Commission, Energie-Cités and Dalkia will discuss their views on how to promote these best practice cases to other cities and regions in Europe. The seminar will take place on Thursday 25 March 2010 starting at 9.15 o'clock at the Centre A. Borschette (Room 1A), rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

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The European association for the promotion of cogeneration
Avenue des Arts 3-4-5 · B-1210 Brussels · Belgium
Tel: +32 2 772 82 90 · Fax: +32 2 772 50 44 · Email: info@cogeneurope.eu · Website: www.cogeneurope.eu

For more information please contact:

Stefan Craenen, Communication Manager
COGEN Europe
Tel: +32 2 772 8290
Fax: + 32 2 772 5044
Email: stefan.craenen@cogeneurope.eu

Achim Neuhaeuser, Deputy Division Manager,
Berlin Energy Agency
Tel: +49 30 29 33 30 – 601
Fax: +49 30 29 33 30 – 99
Email: Neuhaeuser@berliner-e-agentur.de

About cogeneration:

Cogeneration (also known as CHP or Combined Heat and Power) is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. 11% of Europe's electricity and heat requirements today are produced using this proven energy efficiency technology. Cogeneration units can be found in different sizes and applications: industry, households and tertiary sector and spans applications with capacities ranging from below 1kw to hundreds of Megawatts. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in CO2 emissions and can be a large contributor to delivering the targets of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe. In EU Member States where cogeneration has been seriously supported as in Denmark their electricity supply system operates at 65% efficiency overall compared to the current EU average of an unacceptable 33% efficiency overall. Cogeneration substantially contributes to reaching strategic climate and energy goals, such as security of supply, energy efficiency and reduction of emissions.

www.cogeneurope.eu

About COGEN Europe

COGEN Europe is the European association for the promotion of cogeneration. It represents the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies. More information can be found on www.cogeneurope.eu

About Berlin Energy Agency

The Berlin Energy Agency is a private Energy Service Company. The Agency was founded in 1992 on the initiative of the Berlin House of Representatives to open up energy saving potentials and to promote the use of renewable energies. Equal shareholders are the State of Berlin, Vattenfall Europe Wärme AG, GASAG Berliner Gaswerke Aktiengesellschaft and KfW Bankengruppe. Innovative projects that save energy costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions have been developed and implemented for public and non-profit facilities, real estates and building companies, industry, trade and service companies as well as for hospitals. <http://www.berliner-e-agentur.de/>

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