

Page 1: The construction industry as a key to the problem of climate change

Page 2: New content for www.cipra.org/cc.alps

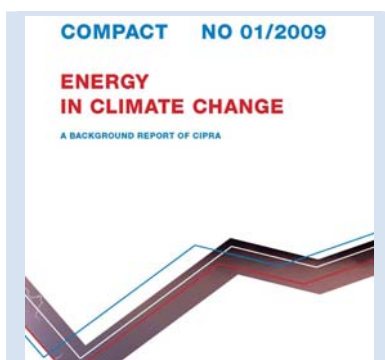
Page 2: cc.alps to continue in 2010

Page 2: Municipalities make the climate!

Page 3: Interview: “The local people feel very much involved in the project”

Information now available in “Compact” form!

The construction industry as a key to the problem of climate change



Expertise center for climate : To bundle existing expert and practical knowledge CIPRA assigns scientists and experts to conduct their own studies, gathers all required facts and conclusions in a database and announces exemplary initiatives at an international level. Thus, undesirable side effects to climate mitigation measures shall be avoided.

The information provided through cc.alps is now available in the form of focussed background reports called Compacts, which can be downloaded from the CIPRA website at <http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/ergebnisse/compacts>. The first three Compacts – on Energy, Nature Protection, and Construction and Refurbishment – address their subjects with reference to climate change in the Alpine context. The authors list and analyse activities relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, assessing them for sustainability, explaining the conflicts of interest involved, and presenting examples of good practice. CIPRA also takes advantage of the Compacts to explain its own position and formulate clear demands.

In the framework of the cc.alps project, CIPRA is currently preparing further publications in the Compact series, which is designed to cover a wide range of subjects such as transport, energy-independent regions, spatial planning, tourism, natural hazards, agriculture, forestry and water. These Compacts will be available shortly and will make a useful addition to the alpMedia collection of dossiers. The first two Compacts – Energy and Nature Protection – are in English and German, while Construction and Refurbishment is in French, German, Italian and Slovene.

Energy in Climate Change: The authors take a critical look at energy consumption and energy production in the Alps and relate them to various national and regional strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. CIPRA’s basic message is made very clear: Increased energy-efficiency is important but not enough if we are to limit global warming; we must also reduce energy consumption levels. And we must promote the use of renewable energies – proceeding with caution because renewable energy sources also have considerable potential for ecological conflict.

The per capita energy consumption in the Alps is about ten percent higher than the European average

Nature Protection in Climate Change: Nature protection is a source of ecological enhancement for habitats in the Alps and protection against natural hazards for the people who live there. This CIPRA Compact offers an overview of nature protection measures in the Alps for climate change mitigation and adaptation. With the restoration of wetlands, near-natural silviculture, the revitalisation of rivers, and the creation of ecological networks, nature protection can make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation.

About half of the 4500 plant species in the Alps will be threatened by extinction by 2100

www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/ergebnisse/compacts (de/en)

Construction and Refurbishment in Climate Change: The refurbishment of existing buildings can make a decisive contribution to climate change mitigation, and for new buildings the passive house standard is to be introduced throughout the Alps. The house of the future will actually produce its own energy! To ensure faster progress in establishing climate-friendly methods of construction and refurbishment, public authorities are called upon to provide more incentives and also to set a good example with their own buildings. This is CIPRA's primary concern in the context of construction and refurbishment. This Compact focuses on the interrelationships between construction and climate change and presents examples of good practice for climate-friendly construction and refurbishment in the Alps.

Heating requires by far the highest amount of energy in private households.

www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/ergebnisse/compacts (de/it/fr/sl)

New content for www.cipra.org/cc.alps

The cc.alps website now offers additional in-depth content in the form of Compacts. Regular updates and additions are planned. For each topic, CIPRA has drawn up a list of demands, which can be downloaded separately from its website at <http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/ergebnisse/forderungen> (de/fr/it/sl). Documentation of the conference held in Crans Montana on 24 - 25 September is also available from the CIPRA website at <http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/downloads/crans-montana> (de/fr). The materials include presentations and photos from the conference, and photos from the excursion to the Plaine Morte Glacier on the second day.

Go to <http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/links> for the links list, which is updated regularly.

If you know of any other websites that are relevant for climate change, please send the link to serena.rauzi@cipra.org.



cc.alps to continue in 2010

The cc.alps project continues in 2010 with a focus on more in-depth research and dissemination of the knowledge generated, above all by promoting specific projects at the municipal level, and also by organising and participating in international events. The implementation of model climate change mitigation measures in pilot regions throughout the Alps is also a project goal for 2010, and the Compacts that are now being published step by step in two languages are shortly to be made available in the four main languages of the Alps.

Municipalities Make the Climate – Mitigation Measures under Scrutiny

That is the title of an international conference being organised by the Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities in collaboration with cc.alps and Rheintalische Grenzgemeinschaft, which will be held in Mäder/A on 21 - 22 January 2010. The Alps contribute to climate change and are particularly affected by it at the same time. But the problem is global and it calls for a global strategy, which is one of the goals of the upcoming climate summit in Copenhagen/DK. But it also calls for local responsibility and action – especially in the Alps. Programmes must be developed, funding mechanisms set up, and specific measures quickly implemented. But not everything that is supposed to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation is meaningful and sustainable! With this international climate conference, the Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities aims to support its members in a sustainable approach to the problems of climate change. The invited experts will take stock of current research and programmes and present examples of good practice in the field of sustainable climate protection. To see the programme and register, go to www.alpenallianz.org/en/up-to-date/ (de/fr/it/sl).



Protecting the climate – Connecting communities: In Mäder/A communities find out about smart climate mitigation measures.

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cc.alps targeting implementation

As co-organiser of the conference, cc.alps will have a good opportunity to communicate and elucidate its concerns in Mäder. Local authorities are key actors in the field of climate protection and stand to benefit from the results generated by the cc.alps project so far. Implementation of the recommendations of the experts and the findings derived from the exemplary climate change mitigation measures col-

lected is the future goal of the cc.alps and dynAlp-climate projects – an ideal basis for a successful joint event.

CIPRA will be making use of the cc.alps project for action at the regional level, too. CIPRA is taking advantage of the EU's Leader programme to make contact with participating Alpine regions with an interest in informed and sustainable action in the field of climate change. A side event in Mäder will be the setting for a first meeting of representatives of cc.alps and the Leader regions designed to lay the foundations for a transnational project.

Further information about events and interesting publications can be found at www.cipra.org/cc.alps (de/en/fr/it/sl)

Cool calculator with warm water: an interview with Ivan Hribar, Manager of Snovik Thermal Spa/SI

“The local people feel very much involved in the project.”



«Climate mitigation pioneers» rule! Communities and organizations that help reduce energy consumption and the emission of greenhouse gases in a particular committed and intelligent way are announced by CIPRA media and networks, just like Ivan Hribar, managing director of the Snovik/SI hot springs.

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Snovik Thermal Spa, the first business in Slovenia to qualify for the EU's Ecolabel for Tourist Accommodation Services, also won one of the seven prizes for energy savings awarded by CIPRA in its cc.alps competition. The following is an interview with Ivan Hribar as manager of the spa.

Interview: Mateja Pirc, CIPRA International

Mr Hribar, when did you decide to adopt an eco-friendly approach with your company?

From the start, the intention was to build an environmentally friendly spa facility in the unspoiled Snovik Valley, a facility that would blend in with the natural setting and would also be energy-efficient. The necessary measures were taken to ensure efficient and cost-saving operation of the spa in spite of the relatively low natural temperature of the water.

In autumn 2008 you won a 10,000 euro prize in the cc.alps

competition. How are you going to invest the money?

We are very proud of the prize we won in the cc.alps competition; it is very important for us in terms of both moral and financial support. It has also proved to be a useful marketing tool for the Snovik Spa brand. Some of the money has already been spent on fact-finding missions to the Strunjan Thermal Spa and the new Kempinski Palace Hotel in Portorož. The rest of the money will be invested in new projects relating to the use of renewable energy, including CHP plants (using biomass to generate electricity) and PV systems.

What is the current situation with regard to energy efficiency in Slovenian industry and tourism facilities?

As far as I can judge, there is growing public interest in energy-efficiency in Slovenia – supported by a general climate now being created at both the national and the European level. Every week we receive a group of visitors looking for examples of best practice in energy efficiency in the systems we employ.

The Snovik Eco-friendly and Energy-efficient Thermal Spa Project involved a high level of citizen involvement. Did that create any difficulties?

No, it all worked perfectly. Our biomass supplier is a local farmer who sells us the heating energy we need. The villagers were involved in the planning for the spa right from the start. We sat down together to see how they could participate in the operation. Before the construction work started, all the houses in the village were equipped with solar thermal panels to ensure that the whole village operates on the basis of energy-efficiency and climate protection. As a result, the local people feel directly involved in the project and, at the individual level, make their own contributions to environmental protection in the Snovik Valley.



[The eco-friendly and energy-efficient Snovik Thermal Spa:](#)

- Country: Slovenia
- Begun: 25.01.2002.
- Approx. 30 new jobs created directly to date plus more 50 indirectly.
- Heating costs reduced by 28% in 2007 through the use of renewable energies while total business output increased by 36%.
- Carbon emissions reduced by 300 tons.
- 2007: EU Ecolabel awarded
- 2008: Prize awarded in CIPRA's cc.alps competition.

Further information:

<http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/wettbewerb/terme-snovik> (de/fr/it/sl)
<http://www.cipra.org/competition-cc.alps/ekomarjetica> (sl)

What are your plans for the future?

We have short-, medium- and long-term plans for Snovik Thermal Spa, all of which respect our commitment to preserving the functionality of the valley. In the short term we plan to increase the total pool area, expand the supporting amenities, and extend our culinary and conference offerings. The long-term plan is to build a 5-star hotel. In all these developments, we will be guided by our green tourism approach for restful holidays in a peaceful natural environment and by the need to make use of renewable energy.

<http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/interview-hribar> (de/fr/it/sl)

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please send an e-mail to serena.rauzi@cipra.org quoting “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

cc.alps in a nutshell

The Project “cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step further!” is organised by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, and financed by MAVA Foundation for Nature. Through the Project, CIPRA is helping to ensure that climate response measures in the Alpine region are in harmony with the principle of sustainable development.

www.cipra.org/cc.alps