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New compacts on Transport and Spatial Planning now online



Full speed ahead ad infinitum? Scientific prognoses assume that traffic emissions will burden our climate in the future even more than now - unless countermeasures are taken.

The assessments of climate response measures for the areas of Transport and Spatial Planning have been available online since the end of February. Both background reports (or "compacts") can be downloaded from <http://www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps/results-and-products/compacts/compacts-1/> (de, en).

Transport and climate change: If we don't change our mobility patterns we won't achieve our climate objectives! That is one of CIPRA's core messages. On the one hand motorised transport has to become more expensive and, on the other, we need to push ahead with environmentally friendly types of transport. This CIPRA compact provides an overview of transport-related measures in the Alps aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. http://www.cipra.org/pdfs/826_en/at_download/file (de, en) Spatial Planning and climate change: Spatial planning

and its instruments can contribute to preserving climate sinks such as bogs, fens, forests and river zones, preserving areas for the generation of renewable sources of energy. This CIPRA compact provides an overview of spatial planning measures in the Alps aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. What is crucial, though, is that spatial planning decisions relating to regional and settlement structures be taken not at the local level but at a regional level. http://www.cipra.org/pdfs/837_en/at_download/file (de, en) Other compacts on the topics of tourism, natural hazards, water, agriculture and forestry in climate change are currently being processed and will be posted online in the spring.

Regions tackle climate change



To your marks! The transnational leader project on climate response measures is now in its preparatory phase.

The participants at the start-up meeting for a transnational LEADER project held in Mäder/A on 20 and 21 January 2010 went one step further. The 20 or so representatives from five interested project regions in different Alpine countries met up with CIPRA staff in Vorarlberg to get to know one another and come up with a joint project design. At the core of the project are climate response measures in individual Alpine regions to be jointly elaborated and implemented by the partners. Mobility and agriculture are the current key issues. The project is to build on the results of the first phase of cc.alps, which provides the framework within which CIPRA monitors and evaluates climate response measures and their effects on the climate as well as their impact on nature, the economy and society. The complete project is to be submitted by summer 2010. It has been planned for a term of three years to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the measures. Source: CIPRA International

CIPRA actively involved in the transfer of know-how



The ExPost building in Bolzano - a model of energy-efficient construction.

Alpine region aimed at coping with climate change. Participation is by invitation only. For more information please contact jts@alpine-space.eu.

Several events have been scheduled as part of the cc.alps project in 2010. At a workshop entitled "Building with a Future" to be held in Bolzano/I on 22 and 23 April following a field trip, participants from towns and municipalities are to exchange views on energy-efficient construction. For more information visit <http://www.cipra.org/de/alpmedia/veranstaltungen/2766> (de/it/sl). On 25 and 26 March a workshop on carbon-neutral communities in the Alps is being held in Romeno/I in the Italian province of Trento. Participants will discuss the effectiveness of climate response measures and consider ways of evaluating these measures. More information is available from: francesco.pastorelli@cipra.org. On 4 and 5 May 2010 CIPRA will be taking part in an experts' workshop in Interlaken/CH on "Coping with Climate Change - Transnational Action in the Alps". The focus will be on alpine-wide, transnational measures in the

Communities committed to an improved climate



The strong attendance in Mäder proved that discussing sustainable climate response measures is a key concern for municipalities.

The international climate conference entitled "Municipalities and the climate - Putting mitigation measures to the test" was held in Mäder/A on 21 and 22 January. Around 130 participants from all the Alpine states responded to the invitation of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities and CIPRA International to discuss sustainable climate response measures. Presentations of examples of best practice from the various countries illustrated just what can happen when municipalities actively address the issue of climate change. The conference themes were reflected in projects in the areas of energy, agriculture, environmental education, mobility and nature conservation. The lecture programme was complemented by a range of field trips focusing on mobility, regional marketing concepts and energy efficiency.

Participants were able to experience first-hand how theory is put into practice. The two dynAlp-climate and cc.alps projects intend to pursue their co-operation to help support local players as they go about implementing sustainable climate response

measures. The next stage is to draw up a catalogue of measures. This will provide the municipalities with a useful tool that can help inspire them to come up with climate response measures of their own. More information is available at <http://www.alpenallianz.org/de/infoservice/presse/pressemitteilungen> (de, fr, it)

cc.alps on the international climate stage



CIPRA makes use of international conferences to publicise its cc.alps project and its findings.

In 2009 the cc.alps project team attended a wide range of international events where it presented the results of the project. On 15 and 16 October 2009 cc.alps was present at the international conference on "An Ecological Network in the Alps - A Response to Climate Change That Will Conserve Biodiversity?" in Berchtesgaden/D, where it showcased sustainable climate response measures in the area of nature conservation. For more information: <http://www.alparc.org/news/news-from-the-network-alparc/international-conference-ecological-network-in-the-alps-a-response-to-climate-change-that-will-serve-biodiversity> (en). cc.alps was also present at the Ademe seminar

(Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie) on "Adapting to Climate Change" in Lyon/F on 20 October 2009. The cc.alps findings and experience were presented under the aspect of the Alps undergoing a process change. The presentations can be downloaded from <http://www2.ademe.fr/servlet/getDoc?id=64602&cid=96&m=3&p1=3&ref=1&p2=1&ref=17205> (fr). Between November 2009 and January 2010 cc.alps attended the European Academy in Bolzano; it also took part in the Green Week in Berlin and was present in Dunkirk/F. The focus in each case was on sustainable climate response measures in tourism and agriculture as well as ways in which municipalities can participate. cc.alps plans to take part in other events in 2010. The project will participate in the 11th Austrian Climate Event in Vienna/A in March, where it will introduce itself and its Nature Conservation compact. More information on this year's climate event is available at <http://www.austroclim.at/index.php?id=95> (de)

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"Cool heads in the hothouse!": Interview with a cc.alps award winner



Thanks to its mayor, Arno Zengerle, the municipality of Wildpoldsried is breaking new ground in the renewable energy sector.

"Everyone wants to do their bit!"

On 6 November 2008 CIPRA rewarded the seven best measures submitted to the cc.alps competition. The Oberallgäu municipality of Wildpoldsried/D won one of the three main prizes for its activities in the area of energy efficiency. Andrea Skiba from the cc.alps team spoke to the Mayor of Wildpoldsried, Arno Zengerle, about their success.

First the cc.alps Prize, now the German Solar Prize 2009 - why is it that Wildpoldsried wins so many awards?

We've come a long way in the area of renewable energy generation and energy savings in the fringe area of timber construction as well as water conservation. We also achieved very good ratings in the European Energy Award and we've working hard to improve them further.

What did the prize money from cc.alps allow you to do?

We want to use the prize money to provide the basis for setting up an experimental facility with fast-growing timber. The facility would examine how sewage sludge fertilisation affects the growth pattern of fast-growing wood fuel and soil quality. We want to combine the whole project with a university so we can obtain long-term data. We already have a sludge humification plant, but we want to go one step further and, with the help of a pilot plant, see whether the ecological cycle can also be completed where sludge is concerned.

Do the prizes help to convince your neighbours to emulate you?

Perhaps not our immediate neighbours, but many other municipalities certainly. I get lots of visits from mayors and their councillors. These exchanges have had huge repercussions because the things we're doing are no longer visions, but a reality, and they're all cost-effective.

Was it difficult initially to convince the population of Wildpoldsried of your visions?

They're not just "my" visions. We must have had at least ten people since the early 1990s who have been involved with this topic. From the very outset the population was certainly receptive to the ideas. Now the climate is such that everyone wants to contribute in one way or another. Even if it's just a matter of replacing your heating pump with a high-efficiency pump and save 80% electricity as a result. Or whether it's a matter of hooking up to the village heating system or installing solar panels on your roof. Everyone wants to do their bit.

Your idea is to cover the village's entire energy needs through renewables by 2020. Is that feasible?

Of course it's feasible. At the moment, i.e. as at the end of 2008, we're already producing 285% of our total electricity consumption using renewables. We're assuming that in two years' time we'll be producing 500% of our electricity consumption with renewables. We'll be generating a high proportion, but we can't quantify it as yet. I'm not ruling out achieving our objective already in two years' time.

What would you say to other mayors who want to do the same?

Get as much information as you can. There are now quite a few energy communities and you can look up on the internet to see how they did things. Start with small-scale measures and see them through to the end. Then be a role model with your own buildings when it comes to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Set up an energy team and with time it'll run by itself.

Project information:

- Country: Germany
- Start date: 01.01.1999
- Three-pillar concept comprising:
 - o 1. Renewable energy generation and energy savings
 - o 2. Maximum use of timber as an ecological material for construction measures
 - o 3. Protection of surface and underground water reserves and ecological sewage treatment
- The municipality already produces more than 250% of its own electricity needs using renewables.
- Building the village heating plant (pellets) cut annual CO2 emissions by 470 tonnes.
- The municipality's positive energy image has inspired other mayors and municipalities to emulate the system, creating a location advantage for businesses operating in that sector.
- 2008: Prize winner in the cc.alps competition organised by CIPRA
- 2009: German Solar Prize

For more information: <http://www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps/competition/wildpoldsried/> (de/en/fr/it/sl), <http://www.cipra.org/de/competition-cc.alps/GemeindeWildpoldsried> (de)