Reducing energy consumption in social housing: 2 European initiatives

CEM - Communication model for energy reduction
October 2009 – September 2012

Helping to significantly reduce energy consumption in social housing, CEM aims to accomplish Europe's emissions reduction targets and ease the pressure on the social housing tenants' living costs (including rent and energy bills). This is motivated by the increasing pressure on the social tenant families' housing budget due to the rising energy costs and the general lack of information on energy awareness available to social tenants.

CEM allows European social housing companies to focus on these challenges while aiming to analyse the social aspect of energy reduction and conduct research on intelligent energy and communication. Data on actual living costs are being collected and mapped through mathematical and regression analysis allowing CEM to develop a clear communication tool that enables social tenants to change their energy consumption behavior.

Comprising Zonnige Kempen (Belgium) and Woonstichting Etten-Leur (Netherlands), the CEM is fully supported by the Interreg Vlaanderen 2007-2013 programme, which encourages a joint contribution from Flanders and the Netherlands to achieve the European energy reduction targets. As the project's result is extremely important to all European social tenants, Zonnige Kempen and Woonstichting Etten-Leur are convinced that a platform for dissemination and communication to other European partners is essential. In this context, a sounding board committee has been established, to which all umbrella organizations and relevant instances are invited.

eSESH - Saving Energy in Social Housing with ICT March 2010 – February 2013

eSESH helps to significantly reduce energy consumption in European social housing to meet overall emission reduction targets. By providing user-friendly ICT-based advanced Energy Awareness Services (EAS) and Energy Management Services (EMS) directly to social housing tenants and staff, eSESH strives to enable sustained reduction of energy consumption.

Social housing staff and energy providers use EMS to control the delivery of locally generated heat and power. While EAS can help social housing tenants track their energy consumption, a comprehensive set EMS will be deployed to automatically avoid peak consumption and optimise the timing of domestic consumption considering supplier requirements and tariffs enabling over 5,000 tenants to lower their overall energy consumption.

eSESH will pilot services on 10 sites across France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy and Belgium. Encompassing 32 partners, eSESH is coordinated by empirica and led by government authorities and social housing providers.

Zonnige Kempen, one of the youngest social housing companies in Flanders (Westerlo, Belgium), leads Belgium's contribution to eSESH through director Luc Stijnen and project manager Katrien Van Uytsel. Zonnige Kempen helps people on low incomes by offering them opportunities to lease or own proper, affordable and comfortable housing consuming less energy. Additionally, Zonnige Kempen aims to reduce domestic energy consumption for its social tenants and create more transparency in energy-related terminology, consumption and reduction measurement. It is constructing an experimental housing environment with individual and collective installations at its pilot site in Heist-op-den-Berg to analyse several energy reducing measures. To monitor the results Zonnige Kempen aims to develop a suitable ICT-based solution to be installed and tested on the site.

CEM - Zonnige Kempen
Grote Markt 39 – 2260 Westerlo - Belgium
Phone: +32 14 54 19 41
Fax: +32 14 54 19 51
Internet: www.zonnigekempen.be
E-Mail: luc.stijnen@zonnigekempen.be

eSESH - c/o empirica GmbH
Oxfordstr. 2 - 53111 Bonn - Germany
Phone: +49 228 98530 0
Fax: +49 228 98530 12
Internet: www.esesh.eu
E-Mail: esesh@empirica.com