

30 Pilot Networks promoting energy efficiency and climate protection in Germany

Doubling energy efficiency in medium-sized enterprises

30 Pilot Networks involving about 400 companies will receive funding for four years covering up to one third of their costs for chaired meetings, advice on getting started and monitoring.

German industry currently emits around 350 million tonnes of CO₂, including the indirect emissions of power generation. There is a huge reduction potential here for a more efficient use of energy and substitution of the energy sources currently used. The average energy efficiency increase in Germany industry over the last ten years was about one percent per year. The aim of this project is to double this “autonomous” energy-saving progress in medium-sized companies via local and regional company networks, which are regarded as a pioneering innovation in industrial self-organization.

How can this be achieved? As observations made in Switzerland since the mid 1980s and in about 15 local energy efficiency networks set up in Germany since 2002 have shown, the *energy efficiency of the 10 to 15 companies participating in such a network increased more than two to three times* as much as the German industrial average (see [Fraunhofer ISI: 30 Pilot-Netzwerke](#)). The secret of this success is a regular, chaired exchange of experiences among the energy managers of the participating companies as well as computer-supported investment calculations for the consultant engineers. This manages to considerably reduce the transaction costs of the companies involved and at the same time increases the effectiveness and productivity of the advice offered.

By the end of the coming decade, 400 to 600 of these networks could be set up, which could lower their CO₂ emissions by about 10 million tonnes in spite of actually upping their production.

The task of this project sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is to diffuse the existing know-how of this innovative climate policy instrument throughout the whole of Germany as quickly as possible. To do so, three partners of the project consortium are supporting interested network initiators (e.g. local chambers of industry and commerce, industrial platforms, energy agencies, energy suppliers) in setting up and operating 30 pilot networks. An existing network management system (® LEEN Local Energy Efficiency Net-

works), which will continue to be developed during the project, guarantees a minimum standard for the networks' structure and operation. Interested moderators and consultant engineers are trained in the professional application of this network management system by the company LEEN GmbH; upon successfully completing their training, they receive a certificate which is a mandatory requirement for working in the 30 sponsored networks.

The performance of these 30 pilot networks will be scientifically monitored between 2009 and 2013; ongoing improvements are made and synergy potentials across networks are exploited (e. g. shared hotline, exchanging successful individual measures). The experiences garnered by the moderators and the consultant engineers then form the basis for a rapid diffusion of the energy efficiency and climate protection networks throughout Germany and thus for a related rapid spread of the relevant investments and experiences with lowering energy costs in medium-sized enterprises in Germany.

In addition to this, three partners of the consortium are working on the development of a large number of electronic aids to calculate energy efficiency investments and investment possibilities in renewable energies. After these aids have been tested and approved in practice, they will be made available to every consultant engineer against payment of a nominal fee.

The work is being conducted by five partners and managed by the [Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research \(ISI\)](#): the Institute for Resource Efficiency and Energy Strategies ([IREES](#); formerly BSR-Sustainability GmbH), Karlsruhe, [Modell Hohenlohe e. V.](#), Waldenburg, [Eproplan Beratende Ingenieure GmbH](#), Stuttgart, and [ÖKOTEC Energiemanagement GmbH](#), Berlin.

More information can be found on the project's homepage:

www.30pilot-netzwerke.de

Project partners:



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