

Workshop results SENTRO, 25 November 2008

Present: Suzanne Joosen, Fieke Geurts (Ecofys Netherlands BV), Onno Kleefkens (SenterNovem), David Grote Beverborg (consultant renewable energy), Ad Wildhagen (manager building projects, municipality of Breda), Patrick Teunissen (Department Environmental advice and permits, Environmental and Building Inspection authorities, Municipality of Amsterdam), Jelle Woudstra (ABD BV Kwaliteit Energie en Milieu), Alex de Bree (team coordinator the Environment, municipality of Nieuwegein)

Absent: (due to bad weather conditions, black ice) E. Verkleij (ING real estate development), R van Huis (municipality of Schiedam), Henriete Stoop (municipality of Breda), M. van Werkhoven (thema project and advies bv), Steven Lobregt (Sparkling Projects)

Cc: Gordon Sutherland (EC)

Agenda:

- Introduction
- Aim of this session
- Context European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, project details of SENTRO
- Related governmental activities (framework for consideration of heat supply options, expertise centre for heat)
- Results of the field test
- Developed approach and supporting tools (checklist and handbook)
- Interactive part / discussion
- Closing

Discussions / Remarks

During the introduction round several basic questions were asked.

Organization and position of participants

3 representatives of municipalities, 2 of the environmental department and 1 of the building project department

3 energy consultants

1 energy agency

Experience with feasibility study of alternative energy concepts

All participants have experience with feasibility studies. Representatives of municipalities as commissioner of this type of studies, consultants as performers of this type of study and the representative of the energy agency as awarding subsidy based on feasibility studies.

General impression: What are the consequences of the carried out feasibility study

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Most participants indicate that the feasibility study lead to a better consideration of the various energy concepts. Nevertheless, often they do not lead to the actual implementation of alternative energy systems.

In the Netherlands there is ambiguous situation: on the one hand government stimulates local authorities to have high ambitions -energy neutral buildings- and on the other hand there is the officially set minimum energy performance of buildings. This puts builders and real estate developers in the position that have a strong counter argument to realize sustainable energy concepts as the investments are often higher and this type of systems are not required to meet the official standards.

In addition, usually extra arrangements considering the organization especially for financing and proper installation of systems are needed for successful use of alternative energy systems. Till now, ad hoc solutions are made; nevertheless, there is a need for more structural solutions.

General impression: Do local installers have sufficient expertise and experience of alternative energy concepts? The opinion of most participants is that in general local installers do not have sufficient expertise and experience of alternative energy concepts. This is not true for energy advisors and/or advising installers/ engineers.

Developed approach

The within the SENTRO-project developed approach is explained and discussed during the session. The main comments and/or recommendations are:

- Raising awareness of sustainable energy concepts should take place from the early beginning of the building process. One of the participants states that before performance of the detailed feasibility there have to be commitment for three aspects of sustainable energy concepts: 1) confidence 2) financial 3) technical. To achieve this support expertise of sustainable energy concepts is required in building team meetings.
- It is clear that number and type of actors change during the building process. For a proper performance of the approach it needs to be clear who is responsible for the coordination of the activities regarding serious consideration and use of sustainable energy concepts. Especially as the realization of utility buildings usually takes a long period (e.g. 7 on the average in the Netherlands). Beside a technical guidance, an organizational driving inspired key actor is needed for successful implementation and operating sustainable energy concepts.
- It is recommended that the performance of feasibility studies is stimulated again by the government.
- It is recommended to look after opportunities how to promote inclusion of the expertise of sustainable energy systems in the building project team.

Checklist

The checklist is explained and discussed during the session by using a practice example of an apartment block in Amsterdam.

Most participants have a positive impression. In particular the fact that it is relative simple to use and it gives an impression of the main decision criteria for various alternative energy systems. The checklist (and handbook) should be regarded as living supporting instruments. This means that it is necessary to look for ways how it can be guaranteed that the instruments are regular updated. At this stage, Ecofys states that it is recommended that instruments are used combined with the expertise of reliable energy specialists during building project meetings.

Follow up activities

- Suzanne send to all participants the proposal for the recast of the EPBD
- The municipalities of Amsterdam and Nieuwegein state they would adopt/use/test the approach and the checklist in their daily practice. Suzanne will provide them with the instruments.