

Step Up - Energy Performance and Urban Planning

In 2009 the City of Gothenburg signed the Covenant of Mayors, launched by the European Commission to support local authorities in the implementation of the EU Climate and Energy Package. Among other things, the covenant signatories undertake to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) within a year, which was done in Gothenburg in 2010. One of the aims of the EU project STEP UP is to improve and take further steps by updating the SEAP.

STEP UP (Strategies Towards Energy Performance and Urban Planning) was an EU funded energy and sustainable city planning project that aimed to assist cities enhance their SEAP and to integrate energy planning into their city planning. The STEP UP project brought together four ambitious, European cities; Ghent, Glasgow, Gothenburg and Riga. In Gothenburg there are three partners in STEP UP, the City of Gothenburg (the City Planning Authority, the Environmental Administration and City Hall), Älvstranden Utveckling AB and SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden. The project started in November 2012 and ended in July 2015.

STEP UP's impact for Gothenburg

- Updated and enhanced version of the Covenant of Mayors SEAP adapted to the new Climate Programme for Gothenburg (see other action)
- New models and tools for increased energy focus within city planning processes. Two different tools have been developed during STEP UP; a model to calculate energy consumption in a city district and a matrix for integrating energy consumption in urban planning.
- Innovative projects with integrated cross sector elements to the edge of implementation, showing that integrated planning achieves better energy outcomes and economics as compared to the traditional approach. In Gothenburg two projects were identified; Smart Urban Logistics and Planning for Sustainable Lifestyles. The Smart Urban Logistics project combines commercial and household waste management with goods deliveries. It is a logistic system for the dense sustainable city consisting of components for delivery, collection and consolidation of goods, waste and reuse materials. The Planning for Sustainable Lifestyles project is about how urban planning can be used to create conditions for sustainable lifestyles with low carbon footprint. The project aims to promote energy and transport efficiency in mixed residential environments in the city centre area. Herein lies the challenges of going from forecast-driven planning to more intention driven planning, especially in the design of transport infrastructure. Both projects will be further developed.

More information:

<http://www.stepupsmartcities.eu>