

Tona purchases RES-E for Town Council building

Background information

To achieve the Local Agenda 21 objective of reducing 2% of the energy consumption, the local authority of Tona (Population: 6,725) undertook three main activities:

- Public lighting audit - the results of the audit showed the need to substitute mercury light bulbs with sodium light bulbs.
- Photovoltaic energy generation for the Town Council building (partially)
- Green electricity (Electra Norte) for the Town Council building

This was possible due to successful awareness raising for green electricity within the local authority and the political interest in purchasing RES-E by the Environmental Councillor. The procurement of RES-E was approved in September 2004, however, it had then taken nine months to switch to the RES-E supplier due to the lengthy administrative process.

Implementation

As Tona is a small local authority, there has been no public tender on the purchase of green electricity. The procurement of green electricity followed simply lines. The municipality asked for an official offer, including the origin of electricity, security of supply and specific information on the supplier, and since Electra Norte's RES-E supply was more convenient in economic terms than the previous one, they accepted and agreed to pay even a higher tariff for additionality.

The RES-E supplier Electry Norte assessed the local energy situation and led the technical and administrative process. This included an analysis of the technical features of the electricity network of the town council building and assistance in the administrative process following the change of the electricity supplier.

In concrete terms, Electra Norte sent a formal letter signed by the Tona Council to the grid operator informing that the client (Tona Council) wants to switch provider.

Results and Impacts

Apart from the environmental benefits, it is noteworthy that due to an optimised tariff system by Electra Norte and in spite of slightly higher prices per kilowatt, the final price remained the same.

Administrative barriers

What was felt as a rather negative aspect was the time needed to change power supplier. In fact, the administrative process to make the power switch possible took the grid provider nine months. The local authority of Tona had to wait almost one year to have green electricity. Nevertheless, they highly recommend the switch to RES-E to other local authorities.

Further activities

The local authority of Tona is planning to hold a press conference on a larger scale in order to promote green electricity procurement and to inform the public about its achievements. Internal dissemination is on the way to communicate the change to green electricity.

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