

3.2.7 Workshop Summary Report



Kakerbeck, Altmark, Germany
20. September 2011

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Gülzow, September 2011

4BIOMASS – Fostering the Sustainable Usage of Renewable Energy Sources in Central Europe - Putting Biomass into Action!



Picture 1 Mr Kipp presents the agenda of the workshop

The project 4Biomass organised a workshop on operating models and financing strategies for bioenergy projects in the bioenergy region Altmark in Sachsen-Anhalt. The topic of the workshop was met with interest and the workshop was visited by approximately 80 participants.

Ms Martikainen welcomed the participants and presented the project 4Biomass.

Landrat (district administrator) Michael Ziche opened the workshop und welcomed the participants.

Karsten Ruth, the mayor of the municipality Kalbe (Milde) described the actual situation in the municipality and the plans to switch to 100% of renewable energies as a municipality.

The region Altmark was qualified as one of the 25 “Bioenergy regions” in a federal competition which seeks to support regions that see bioenergy as an opportunity and funds activities aimed to implement their regional development plan. The project manager of the Bioenergy Region Altmark Henning Kipp presented the targets of the project in Altmark and achieved results. The thematic foci of the project activities in the region are solid biofuels and biogas, presented model projects on these issues were

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e.g. energetic use of roadside and water vegetation or optimisation campagne for agricultural biogas plants.

Mr Ohlbaum presented the business model “Bürgerstiftung” (community foundation). In order to achieve a 100 % share of renewable energies in 30 years, three counties, Miesbach, Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen and Weilheim-Schongau established the foundation “Energiewende Oberland”. The foundation supports renewable energy networks in the area, organizes events and campaigns, scientific workshops and research projects and gives grants for project implementation. The foundation also takes stake in several solar parks and in a car sharing company. Further projects are planned, such as wind or water energy plants or a local heating network.

For potential investors who are interested to establish a cooperative to run a bioenergy plant, the Genossenschaftsverband (Cooperative Federation), represented on the workshop by Hans-Wolfgang Richter, offers advisory services for the concept development and consulting for drafting the business plan. The Federation helps also the write the articles of the cooperative and to organize the inaugural meeting of the cooperative.

Professor Ruwisch presented the Bioenergy Village Jühnde and how the bioenergy network in the village was organized. A cooperative was established as the operating company. The majority (78%) of the village inhabitants voted for this legal form. All heat customers have to join the cooperative with a minimum investment of 1.500 Euro. Non-inhabitants of Jühnde are also allowed to join the cooperative, but in voting the share of the “external” votes is limited to 25% of the total. There are no automatic price adjustments, all increases have to be decided on the cooperative meetings, but the target is to generate profits. In a poll the inhabitants of Jühnde were asked if they are satisfied with their local heat network, 89,3 % were very satisfied and 10,7 % satisfied. Nobody told to be not satisfied.

Die Akademie für Nachhaltige Entwicklung (Academy for Sustainable Development) offers coaching for (Bio)Energy Villages in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with the target, that so many people as possible in villages and small cities would be sensibilised for the sustainable use of the local energy potentials . As an example Bertold Meyer presented the Bioenergy village Bollewick which a biogas plant was built and a second is under construction and a local heat network will be realized. The supply of heat and promotion of bioenergy is organized in a partnership under Civil Code (Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts, GbR) which has a cooperation agreement with the municipality Bollewick. At the moment 6 partners, three agricultural companies and three private persons, have joined the partnership.

The last presentation of the workshop was made by Regina Troschak, who gave advice on the funding instruments of the KfW. KfW is a German government-owned development bank and offers grants and loans for lower rates for investments in renewable energies.

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All in all, an important aspect of all presented cases was the public participation in the region or in the village, where the presented bioenergy project was realised. Different forms of participation of citizens were presented, but all had common that through the participation of local citizens the yield of the bioenergy production will stay in the region. For areas away from big centers without good traffic connections and only few companies, like Mayor Ruth in his speech about Kalbe noticed, the generation of renewable energies offers great potential for the economic development of the region.

In addition to the regional value creation Professor Harwick identified a further benefit of projects with public participation; the reappropriation of possibilities to influence the own direct social environment. The involvement of citizens in decision making is targeted also in Kalbe and should strengthen the identification of residents of Kalbe with their municipality and enhance the spirit of the community.

The evaluation of questionnaires filled in during the workshop shows that the participants were satisfied with the workshop. The question, how their expectations regarding the workshop were met, 19 of 34 (56 %) persons answered with “very well” and 13 with “well” (38%). The most interesting presentations were the community foundation “Energiewende Oberland” by Mr Ohlbaum, the Bioenergy village Jühnde by professor Ruwisch and coaching for bioenergy villages by Mr Meyer. 15 of 34 persons are planning to invest in a bioenergy project; district or local heating was the most often mentioned project type.



Picture 2 Concentrated listening participants during the workshop