

Families change their energy consumption with smart-meters

Sabadell, Spain

Mayor: Manuel Bustos Garrido

Sabadell is a medium-sized city in the north-east of Spain which signed the Covenant of Mayors in October 2008. One year after joining the Covenant the city launched a pilot domestic energy-saving campaign, offering householders the opportunity to borrow a smart-metering device for a period of six months. 52 Households volunteered to participate in this pilot project, a number that is expected to increase to over 100.

"The smart meters help domestic consumers to understand their energy consumption and save up to 15% on their energy bill by monitoring their consumption in real time."

Ricard Estrada, sustainability councillor of Sabadell



The smart-metering device was installed free-of-charge by the municipality, and users have been offered free support via a call centre. The device produces real-time data on energy consumption in kWh, Euros and tonnes of CO₂ so that householders can get a real idea of how much their daily activities impact on the environment and their energy bills. In addition, once the meters are returned to the municipality after the six-month period, they can be used to create user profiles and gain insight into the energy consumption patterns of citizens.

So far, participating families have saved over 10% on their energy consumption, meaning that annual emissions savings of 144.6kg of CO₂ per household are predicted. The same families have become very enthusiastic about the difference they can make to their energy consumption with the help of these smart-meters.

The pilot programme, which was conducted in two districts of the city in 2009, cost €34,000



and was funded by the municipality and the Catalan regional government. After the initial pilot phase of the project, the city will roll out the scheme to all districts up to 2013.

The success of the Covenant of Mayors is based on the fact that it has understood that tackling climate change implies changing people's lifestyles. To bring this change about local authorities' involvement is crucial for their proximity to citizens.

Sabadell - key facts*:

- City population approx. 200,000
- Surface: 36km²
- Date of adhesion to Covenant of Mayors: 7 October 2008
- Overall carbon emissions reduction target: 20%
- Emissions share: domestic (34%), transport (33.4%), industrial (16.6%)
- Total energy consumption per capita / year (2008): 1,41 tep.

*figures taken from <http://www.sabadell.cat/CanviClimatic/d/strategycc.pdf> and http://www.sabadell.cat/Agenda21/p/indicadors_cat.asp

As a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors, the city of Sabadell voluntarily commits itself to reducing its CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

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