

European Energy and Social Projects

Carbery Housing Association has been Partner in three European Projects to date:

RENEASE (Renewable Energy Against Social Exclusion)

This Project ran from May 2002 to March 2003. The aim of the Project was to develop a model for design of sustainable social housing, creating a convergence between social and environmental objectives. This has been achieved. The Pilot Project has clearly demonstrated to a large constituency that added value could be gained from incorporating sustainable energy considerations into social housing development strategies

The following results proposed in the RENEASE Project approved by the Commission have been achieved:

3 potential sites for new social housing settlements have been identified, and were submitted to Cork County Council for Planning Approval.

3 Planning Applications made for a total of 37 homes and a community facility based on bio-climatic design principles and renewable energy use. These incorporated solar orientation, super-insulation, thermal mass use, geo-thermal energy, as well as other aspects of sustainable design.

Detailed house design, in direct consultation with prospective residents and/or their representatives, was developed for the 37 homes and community facility applied for.

Bord Plenala and lost.

The viability of the design concept for social housing has been established on the basis of professional cost estimates that demonstrate that such

construction is possible within the cost limits allowed by the DoEH&LG for social housing.

Download RENEASE final report here.

For RENEASE Sites Investigated for Feasibility for Social Housing click here..

Enhancing Common Strategic Approaches (ECSA) Project.

This Project ran from January 2003 to end of December 2004. The main purpose of this Project to be the transfer of knowledge and best practises among territories in the filed of integration of housing and employment objectives.

1) Transnationally.

CHA participated in all transnational exchanges carried out by ECSA, over a two-year period. Exchange events included officers of the County Council. These discussions and exchanges were reported back on a monthly basis to the Executive Committee of the Association, which was fully involved at every stage in the progress of the Project.

CHA participated actively in the Elaboration Committee charged with responsibility of defining the Criteria for best practise. CHA secured the active participation of Cork County Council, through a delegated executive officer, who contributed this Authority's significant experience of the different items under consideration. In addition to this, CHA representatives carried out research into the Irish housing and employment sector, in order to allow a fuller understanding by all Partners of the Irish experience.

Common indicators were agreed and local strategies and actions in housing and employment were analysed and evaluated in the light of these indicators. On the basis of an analysis of the local situation and a comparative discussion of situations in other regions, CHA (and Cork County Council) participated in discussions and exchanges, which illustrated the various issues under consideration.

CHA also contributed to the development of a common strategy and helped in the identification of best practise in its own regional context, as well as suggesting best practise in the context of other Partners,

2) Locally

The development of Indicators for integrated and sustainable developo

ment of housing and employment were reported to the Executive Committee of CHA as they developed. At an early stage, the Executive Committee of CHA agreed that it would in future apply these indicators to its own social housing development projects, and would seek to integrate the indicators agreed to it.

Download: ECSA Final Technical Report (Year 2)

ECSA Principles and Sustainable Development

SUNRISE (Sustainable Neighbourhood Renewable and Innovative Energy Sources) Project.

Bid to Intelligent Energy for Europe 2007-2010. CHA are local Partners in a Bid to the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme managed by the European Commission. The Bid is lead by Belgian Housing Company De Voorkempen and aims to demonstrate how social housing initiatives can be the spearhead for introducing renewable energy sources into a community. Social housing developed can not only meet local housing needs that cannot be addressed by the market, but also act as a catalyst and have a multiplier effect in promoting the development of sustainable, energy efficient design and of renewable energy sources. The development of energy sources can also act as a source of capacity building for the community, by creating training and employment opportunities and the prospect of sustainable local enterprise. The development themselves can be showcases of sustainability, incorporating good practise in land use, solar design, waste and waste water management and the promotion of bio-diversity, in addition to the rational use of energy and development of renewable energy sources. A vital component of the project however, will also be the comparative examination of other good practise and the dissemination of best practise models established from the different pilot projects, In Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Estonia. Two European Networks have been invited to join the Partnership, one responsible for social housing and the other for local authorities working with social economy

enterprises.

For information contact us, or download a Project Description [here](#).