



# ISLE-PACT Project NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE No. 1 - October 2010

The **ISLE-PACT project** is committed to developing **Local Sustainable Energy Action Plans** with the aim of meeting or exceeding the **EU sustainability objectives** set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20%. The project's duration is 30 months, 1 February 2010 – 31 July 2012.

The project's coordinator is the **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) – The Outer Hebrides of Scotland**. It is co-financed by the **European Commission, Directorate General for Energy**.



Directorate-General  
for Energy

Currently there are 12 participating groups of European Islands (over 50 islands) involved. Cooperation with more islands is welcome as the ISLE-PACT process has been conceived to include all European islands. They will work together with the European Commission, energy experts and financial institutions in order to develop Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans and to identify a pipeline of green bankable projects contributing to the EU 2020 objectives of the Climate and Energy Package.

The **ISLE-PACT partner-island authorities** have expressed their commitment to sign the **Pact of Islands**. **The Pact of Islands is a binding instrument with which island authorities will enter into a political engagement in order to meet the objectives of the project.**

The three-page document is structured in a manner similar to the [Covenant of Mayors](#) and is taking into account the particularities of European island communities. The Pact of Islands signatories make a number of significant commitments, such as:

- to go beyond the objectives set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in their respective territories by at least 20%;
- to submit an Islands Sustainable Energy Action Plan including a Baseline Emission Inventory which outlines how the objectives will be reached;
- to submit an implementation report at least every second year following the submission of the Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes;
- to organise Energy Days, in cooperation with the European Commission and with other stakeholders, allowing citizens to benefit directly from the opportunities and advantages offered by a more intelligent use of energy, and to regularly inform the local media on developments concerning the action plan;
- to attend and contribute to events organised by European Institutions relating to the Pact of Islands and the Covenant of Mayors;
- to mobilise sustainable energy investments in their respective territories.

## Project Objectives

**The main objectives of the ISLE-PACT project are to:**

- Achieve an overall objective of more than 20% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by 2020;
- Demonstrate the political commitment of European islands to EU sustainable energy objectives by signing a binding declaration, the Pact of Islands, undertaking to put programmes, actions and investments in place to help achieve the overall objective of the project;
- Produce a pipeline of priority bankable projects;
- Propose a number of financing tools and mechanisms that will provide the financial resources needed by investors to implement the bankable projects;
- Increase the level of awareness in islands' efforts to contribute in the fight against climate change.

## Expected Benefits

It is expected that the long term effects of the project would influence all European islands that are willing to adopt the methodologies, tools and mechanisms that will be developed during the life of this project.

We expect:

- A steady improvement of local economic conditions in the participating island communities through enhanced economic development, and a positive contribution in new jobs creation in innovative and highly technical sectors, retention of local population and improved investment conditions;
- A tangible contribution in EU sustainable energy and climate change policy targets and objectives and more specifically the achievement of the target of 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020;
- A steady increase in the levels of awareness of island communities of the societal value of sustainable energy plans, green investments with the participation of local citizens and the modalities of supporting and financing sustainable energy projects.

## The Project Partners

- COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR – THE OUTER HEBRIDES OF SCOTLAND (UK)  
(Project Coordinator)
- AREAM - AGENCIA REGIONAL DA ENERGIA E AMBIENTE DA REGIAO AUTONOMA DE MADEIRA (Portugal)
- ARENA - ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OF AZORES (Portugal)
- DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENERGY OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS GOVERNMENT (Spain)
- CYPRUS ENERGY AGENCY
- DAFNI - AEGEAN SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS NETWORK (Greece)
- MUNICIPALITY OF GOTLAND (Sweden)
- ITC - INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE CANARIAS S.A. (Spain)
- PARAGON LIMITED (Malta)
- PEPS - PUNTO ENERGIA PROVINCIA DI SASSARI – MULTISS (Italy)
- REAC - REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY OF CRETE (Greece)
- SAMSØ ENERGY ACADEMY (Denmark)

## Project Kick-off meeting 4 February 2010, Brussels

The project kick-off meeting took place in the premises of DG Energy in Brussels on 4 February 2010 in the presence of all partners and representatives from the European Commission. The project coordination team (Derek McKim, CnES, assisted by ISLENET and EXERGIA S.A.) presented its vision about the project goals and the main objectives of the Work Packages.

The European Commission representatives presented the Commission's expectations to all project partners and drew the attention of the partners to focus on the main objectives of the project, the development of the Islands Sustainable Energy Action Plans and the pipeline of bankable projects that will help achieve the EU 2020 targets.

## ISLE-PACT EUROPEAN EVENT 24 March 2010 Committee of the Regions, Brussels



*Derek McKim CnES  
Alex MacDonald CnES  
Emilie Turunen MEP DENMARK*



*A. Chatzimpiros DAFNI  
Soren Hermansen SAMSO  
Bengt-Olof Grahm GOTLAND*



*Gonzalo Piernavieja Izquierdo  
ITC CANARY ISLANDS  
Adrian Mendoza  
CANARY ISLANDS GOVERNMENT*



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The 24 March 2010 event marked the official presentation of the project in Brussels. It was held within the context of the EU Sustainable Energy Week, 22-26 March 2010 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions. The ISLE-PACT project was presented to island politicians, Commission staff and Members of the European Parliament with the view to attracting the necessary political support and commitment from European island authorities.

The meeting was chaired by Alex MacDonald, Convener (President) of the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – The Council of Outer Hebrides of Scotland and attended by the Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission of the CPMR, Jean Didier Hache, the MEP for Denmark, Emilie Turunen, the Secretary General for the Aegean and for Insular Policy of the Greek Government, Dimitris Halkiotis, the Director General for Energy of the Balearics, Josep Maria Rigo, and the Director General for Energy of the Canary Islands, Adrian Mendoza, as well as representatives of the participating islands and other European islands. The goals and objectives of ISLE-PACT and the Pact of Islands were presented and discussed at length.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Project meeting 28-29 September 2010, Samsø, Denmark



*The Samsø Energy Academy*



*The project team*

The second project meeting of the ISLE-PACT project was hosted by the Samsø Energy Academy in Samsø, Denmark on the 28th and 29th of September 2010. All project partners participated in the meeting, together with representatives from the participating B7 islands Oland, Hiiumaa and Saaremaa.

The two day project meeting reviewed the progress of work and discussed in detail all eight project work packages. The consortium discussed the work to be performed in the next 6 months in preparation for the submission of the Interim Report in April 2011.

In the afternoon of the second day of the project meeting a technical tour was conducted by the Energy Academy. The participants had the opportunity to visit a wind park, which included some of the 11 BONUS 1 MW on-land wind turbines and discussed details of the 23 MW off-shore wind park (10 turbines) located off the southern tip of the island. The participants visited a district heating plant located in Nordby. The plant supplies two settlements with heat, using woodchips as raw material. Solar-thermal panels are also installed and operate within the plant supplementing the heat produced by the incineration of the woodchips. The last site visited was a biomass plant using straw as raw material.



*On-shore wind park*

### **Project Coordinator**

**Derek McKim**

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*The ISLE-PACT project supports the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign*

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