

National Workshop Sweden

Minutes

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Responsible for minutes

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The Swedish POLIS partner invited interested parties to a “Solar Energy in Planning Work” workshop in Malmö town hall on March 3, 2010. Around 25 people took up the invitation, including staff from the city planning office, real estate office, environment department, department of internal services, roads and parks department as well as representatives from other cities.

1. Part one: Introduction seminar

The workshop began with presentations providing inspiration and background information on both solar energy in cities and the POLIS project. Anna Cornander and Elisabeth Kjellsson (the Swedish project representatives) informed about the background and targets with the POLIS project.

The first speaker was Lisa Ossman, who represents a cooperation of 24 cities/municipalities in the West of Sweden determined to increase the use of solar energy. Lisa presented the experiences made from these cities regarding solar energy in the planning work. The main targets within the cooperation, that is called “Sunrise in the West”, are to increase the number of solar installations in the West of Sweden and to stimulate growth and secure the quality of the installation companies in the region. To take part in the cooperation, the municipalities need to have a political will to increase the use of solar energy within the municipality. The municipalities must install at least 50 m² of solar thermal collectors or PV during the period 2006- 2010, take part in the network activities and investigate the possibility of

connection solar heat to the district heating system. So far, one third of the municipalities have fulfilled the demands. Especially the Municipality of Lerum has come far, and they have comprehensive plans containing solar energy. Energy demands on new housing constructions are harder than in the demand in the building regulation when it comes to exploitation and purchase agreements, and solar thermal collectors are recommended for hot water production. In the municipality, the first plus energy multi family home with thermal collectors in Sweden is being built.

Lisa Ossman was also asked to substitute the next speaker, Christer Kilersjö from the city-owned housing company Eksta Bostads AB, who couldn't make it to the workshop. Eksta Bostads AB has incorporated solar thermal collectors when restoring and building new houses since 1978. Lately, PV has also been introduced. The company's new passive houses were presented as well as information about a newly-constructed multi-family dwelling for which 36% of the total heat requirements are supplied by solar heat.

From the neighbouring city of Copenhagen, Denmark, Annette Egetoft from the Department of Technology and Environment shared interesting information about the strategies for solar energy and low energy houses in the city. On the national level in Denmark, energy politics is mainly focusing on biomass and wind power. There are no national subsidies for PV, and a lack of research and demonstration plants. In Copenhagen, the association Solar City Copenhagen was founded in 2004, to increase the interest in solar energy. The city has invested in PV parking meters, PV waste containers and PV lighting within the city environment, and also building integrated PV installations. The city is working with targets to install 1000 m² of PV per year until 2015 on municipal buildings, and to build highly energy efficient buildings in the city. According to the municipal plans 2009, all major developments have to be low energy buildings. The city is also promoting a higher priority for PV within the utilities and a government subsidy for PV. The short term target is a sustainable energy supply consisting of district heating in combination with solar heat, a heat storage, wind power and district cooling. In the long term, the target includes solutions with integrated geothermal heating and electricity from PV.

As a closure to the first part of the workshop, Torsten Persson from the Department of Internal Services in Malmö presented various solar energy installations and plans for Malmö to further boost solar energy. Apart from two thermal collector plants being investigated to supply heat to outdoor municipal swimming pools, there are plans for 5 more PV plants and one Solar Stirling plant in Malmö.

The speakers' presentations are available in Swedish in Attachment 1a-1e.

2. Part two: Group discussions

After a coffee break, the second part of the workshop started. The participants were divided into groups and placed in separate rooms, where they got to discuss questions regarding solar energy and city planning. Each group only discussed one of the questions. See questions in Attachment 2. After the group discussions each group presented their result to the other participants. Many interesting and exciting ideas came out from the discussions.

Campaigns to better visualize solar energy products were suggested, as well as the importance of cities to act as good examples and role models for other inhabitants. Solar energy plants should be visualized by a measurable production, digital information and well designed plants. It should be easy to understand why there are solar energy plants, and that they are effective.

City planning should be changed so that it favours and facilitates the use of solar energy. In this work it is important that the different departments within the city cooperate to get common policies and guidelines regarding solar energy, for example by using the new energy strategy.

The participants were positive to start working with solar energy in the city planning, both when it comes to existing buildings, where the potential is big, and when it comes to new establishments, where it could be easier to introduce solar energy. It is important to enter the solar energy aspects early in the planning process. The participants requested training in solar energy and city planning for architects and city planners. Perhaps officials who approve building permits also can inform about and propose installation of a solar energy plant?

None of the participants suggested introducing requirements to install solar energy in the comprehensive plans. Rather, the comprehensive and local plans should be formulated in a way that they enable solar energy installations. When it comes to exploitation and purchase agreements however, there can be requirements of solar energy installations, for example in special designated areas. In this case, it is also eligible to use the new “Environmental Building Program South” to put higher demands on energy efficiency of the buildings.

At the same time, it is important to take into consideration the cultural preservation values of some buildings and to avoid conflicts with neighbours. Guidelines regarding solar energy plants in this type of sensitive cultural preservation areas should be developed.

A common view throughout all participants in the workshop was the necessity to facilitate connection of solar energy plants to electricity grid and district heating system. The present situation is a legislation that is very complicated and unfavourable for solar energy investment. The low electricity price in Sweden also results in the fact that we need economic “carrots” to encourage property owners to invest in solar energy. In addition to subsidies, new ways should be discovered, like

for example beneficial loans, and the fact that a solar energy plant could increase the value of the property.

During the introducing of the POLIS project, the possibilities to make solar energy potential studies in a city were presented. Many of the participants found this very interesting and took it up in the group discussion. Most of them thought that a potential study should be produced for the whole city and for separate areas, for example new development areas. Potential studies of the city's roofs could also promote training and a dialogue with the property owners. Solar studies, normally conducted before building new houses, to estimate micro climate, daylight etc, could be extended to also include a solar energy potential study.

In summary, the participants of the workshop were satisfied with the program and very active in the group discussions.

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