


Name of project:	Free solar panels for Flobecq's inhabitants	COUNTRY
		BELGIUM
City of project:	Municipality of Flobecq	
Size/ region affected	Local	
Type of project [theoretical / practical]:	Practical	
Targeted technique PV/Solar thermal/Solar Passive/Solar Air conditioning	Solar Photovoltaic	
Period/ starting date	11/2010-01/2012	
Contact institution with Internet links (if available)	Municipality of Flobecq www.flobecq.be	
Photo / drawings / overview		
General Project Description	First European town to give its inhabitants free solar panels. The city council has reached an agreement with Triodos Bank to provide solar panels to its residents for free. They will be encouraged to reinvest the money freed up in insulation. This highly innovative financial scheme relies on the fact that the solar panels produce free, green electricity and, in parallel, green certificates. These are purchased by power utilities in Belgium.y	
Initiator/project idea	Municipality of Flobecq	
Financing Investor	Triodos Bank	
Service Provider	Services are provided by local companies active in the solar sector.	
Other parties involved (eg. departments)	Non-profit organisation "Collines sous Levant", created by the municipality back in 2008 is coordinating and raising awareness of the scheme.	
Partner responsible for Best Practice description	 Climate Alliance <small>Climate Alliance</small>	

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is a very concrete and integrated project; ▪ It combines the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic; ▪ This project is very simple in its principle and modalities;
Weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The financial limits. Indeed, it is necessary to have a very strong funding capacity to carry out this type of large-scale project;
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The objectives set by the EU Member States and Belgium on the decreased production of greenhouse gas emissions; ▪ Triodos Bank is a project partner. The ORES Society (responsible for the electricity distribution network) is also a project partner. It has made free, smart electrical meters available.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project is distributed over a large population, hence the probability of increased difficulty is higher (degradation of solar panels, administrative difficulties); ▪ Changing the system of green certificates generated by the production of green electricity. The Walloon Region (Belgium) wishes to reduce the number of green certificates per unit of green energy produced;
Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The principle could be extended to power generation via biomass systems or third-party investors for building insulation works.