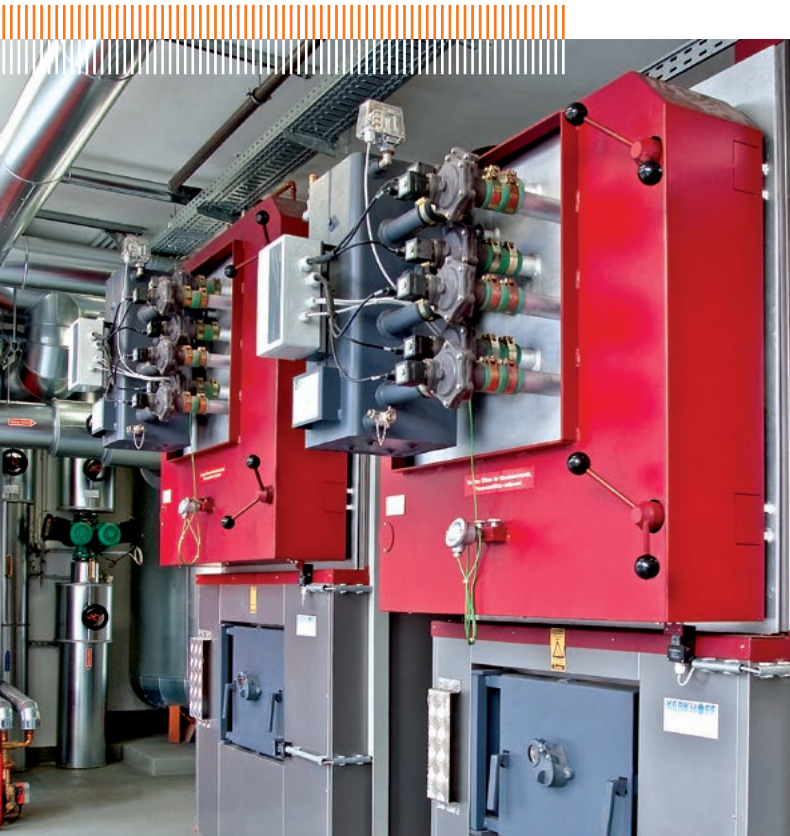




Saerbeck

A NRW community lives the energy turnaround



NRW climate community lives the energy turnaround

Energy turnaround, climate protection and climate adaptation in practice – that’s what the municipality of Saerbeck stands for – and has done so for many years now. This up-and-coming community in the northern Münsterland region (approx. 7,300 inhabitants) has itself created locally the ideal conditions for developing a comprehensive overall strategy by taking numerous single measures (citizens’ solar power plants, European Energy Award, “Solarbundesliga” (solar league table), German Solar Prize, environmental education work). Based on this, the municipality has developed an Integrated Climate Protection and Climate Adaptation Concept (in German IKKK) in the context of a regional competition, and in 2009 it was awarded the title of “NRW Climate Community of the Future”.

Climate-neutral by 2030

By council resolution Saerbeck decided in 2008 to switch the energy supply for the whole municipality to regenerative energies and renewable resources, and hence to make a lasting and comprehensive contribution to climate protection. The declared aim is to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. By that date it is intended that in the municipality as much energy will be generated from the sun, wind, water and biomass as is consumed here (balance autonomy). Saerbeck’s road to becoming a climate-neutral community is described in the IKKK in terms of seven

fields of action and 150 single measures. With the award of the title “NRW Climate Community of the Future” and the funding opportunities this involves the climate-neutral future has already begun in Saerbeck. In the implementation of this strategy three lead projects play a focal role.

Lead Project 1 – “Saerbeck Sunny Side” (Saerbecker Sonnenseite): conversion of existing stock

Saving energy, making efficient use of existing resources and going for renewable energy sources – these constitute the substance of the lead project “Saerbeck Sunny Side”. In collaboration with the local comprehensive school, the solar potentials were determined for the village’s private buildings in order to describe suitable roof areas for the capture of solar energy. The building insulation and the conversion of the primary energy supply to renewable resources were other topics dealt with in “Saerbeck Sunny Side”. The project was accompanied by specific funding and energy consultancy. Numerous members of the public refurbished their buildings energy-wise and set up solar systems. On Saerbeck’s roofs 370 photovoltaic installations with a total output of 6 megawatt peak had been installed by the end of 2011.

Lead Project 2 – “Saerbeck Insights” (Saerbecker Einsichten): future energies made transparent

The “transparent central heating plant” is the heart of Lead Project 2 of the NRW climate community. Under the title: “Saerbeck Insights – future energies made transparent” the topics of energy generation, energy saving and climate protection are rendered transparent and comprehensible for everyone. Behind the central heating plant’s glass façade two large wood-pellet-fired heating boilers operate to supply heat to all municipal buildings in the school and sports centre.

But the transparent central heating plant is more than this: it has become the information platform and communication hub for all questions concerning climate protection, climate adaptation and the use of renewable energies. The “Energy Experience Path” starts at the transparent central heating plant. It passes along the district heating network and it represents the Saerbeck climate education concept, which accompanies the climate community’s activities and calls for the involvement of the generation public. At various points selected themes to do with energy saving and energy efficiency are graphically shown.

Lead Project 3 – “Steinfurt Material Flows” (Steinfurter Stoffströme): the Bio Energy Park

The central element of the third lead project in the climate community is the mobilisation of maximum syn-



ergy effects in the area of regional material flows and value chains. This is represented by the Saerbeck Bio Energy Park, which the community is developing on the site of a former munitions depot of the German armed forces (90 ha). This involves a renewable energies mix with seven wind turbines of the 3-megawatt class, two biogas plants, a bio-waste treatment plant with a digestion stage and a 6.0 megawatt peak photovoltaic park on the former bunker embankments.

The biogas plants (renewable resources and slurry) and a composting plant belonging to the regional district form the basis for regional material flow management. Climate protection and nature conservation are not mutually exclusive but complement one another in a unique fashion, and this is demonstrated by the extensive area of the park (25 ha) which is not freely accessible and is reserved as a recuperation space for nature.

The depot has been acquired by the municipality and will remain in local ownership. The municipality also operates its own wind turbine.

Involving the general public – creating value locally

The participation of the local population is a central component when implementing the IKKK since it is intended that they profit twice over from regenerative energy production locally: both from supply reliability and from financial participation. All plants arise from investments

made by local or nearby project partners. The citizens' cooperative "Energy for Saerbeck" plays a major role in this.

An accompanying, sustainable communication strategy renders the road to a climate-neutral community transparent, ensures a high level of local identification and shows continuously and concretely possibilities for action in climate protection and climate adaptation (informal energy get-togethers, Saerbeck climate discussions, cooperative projects with schools, exhibitions, specialist excursions etc., etc.).

Think globally – act locally:

In Saerbeck a whole village is heading for a climate-friendly future.

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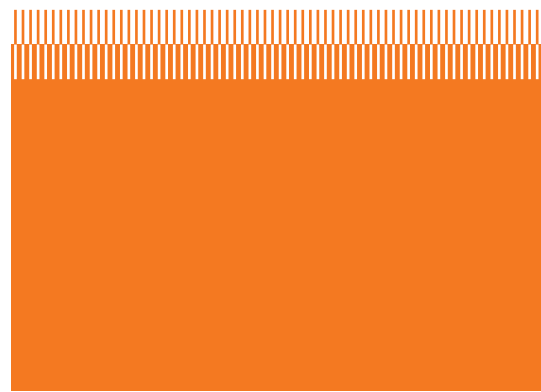
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The EnergyAgency.NRW is a central contact point for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in everything to do with energy and it receives major funding from the Ministry for Climate Protection, the Environment, Agriculture, and Nature and Consumer Protection of the state of NRW.



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