

ENERGY EFFICIENCY NEWS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Emission trading within the European Community

In July 2003 the final wording of the Directive stipulating the framework for trading greenhouse gas emission licences within the European Community from 2005 was approved. What will participation in the system mean for the Czech Republic?

The system of trading emission licences within the European Community can be briefly described as follows: Like all member states, in the beginning the Czech Republic will set an emission cap, i.e. the total quantity of permitted CO₂ emissions from all major domestic sources. Subsequently, this emission volume will be divided in the form of emission licences free of charge among domestic sources. From 2005 on, these important sources will be obliged to deliver one emission licence for each tonne of CO₂ emissions produced, otherwise they will pay a fine. This means that sources emitting a volume of emissions larger than the number of licences allocated must either reduce the production of emissions at their source or buy the licence required. Trade in emission licences will take place among sources within the European Union either directly or by means of intermediaries (brokers) in the emission licence market.

The directive defines the basic elements of the greenhouse gas trading system as follows:

- Trading includes selected energy and industrial sources with significant production of CO₂ emissions (combustion plants with rated heat output exceeding 20 MW, oil refineries,

coking ovens, ironworks and steelworks, cement plants, glassworks, pulp mills and paper mills and producers of building materials). So far, the system only encompasses CO₂ emissions. However, in 2006 the directive will be revised and may also cover other greenhouse gases and sectors.

- The directive stipulates the framework for two periods: the first three-year period (2005 – 2007) and the second five-year period (2008 – 2012). Member states can request an exemption and until 2007 temporarily not include selected sources in the emission trading system.

- For each period, every EU member state will prepare a National Allocation Plan defining the emission cap, i.e. the total quantity of emission licences and the manner of their distribution among individual sources.

- The absolute majority of licences will be allocated free of charge since the volume of licences sold at auction is limited by the directive to 5% in the first period and 10% in the second period. The plan will contain the amount of emission licences allocated to every existing source included in the system, as well as provide information on the manner in which new sources will join emission trading. The plan is drawn on the basis of general criteria defined in the directive (primarily, equal access and transparency) and is subject to approval by the European Commission.

Cont. on page 3

New law supporting electricity generation from renewable energy sources

The Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of the Environment are preparing a joint Bill that should set long-term goals for utilising renewable sources for electricity generation and define the financial aid procedure to achieve this objective. At the present time, the Bill is undergoing the interdepartmental amendment procedure. At the end of September it should, together with the subsequent regulations, be submitted to the Government for approval and by the end of the year be read in Parliament with a view to coming into force on May 1, 2004.

The present status of support for electricity generation from renewable energy is unsustainable. In its Price Ruling No. 1/2003, the Energy Regulatory Office set feed-in tariffs of electric power from renewable sources. They are relatively high but, according to the existing laws and the prevalent legal opinion, the Office is not authorised to set these redemption prices. Investors are offered high feed-in tariffs whose level and very future existence is rather uncertain. Therefore, cautious financial houses do not lend money for new projects based on the present support procedure. The only entities profiting from today's situation are producers of electricity from existing renewable sources, a situation that does not lead to the development of new projects. For this reason and

also owing to the obligatory application of Directive 2001/77/EC of the European Parliament and Council, the Czech Government decided to prepare a brand new Act in support of electric and thermal energy generated from renewable energy sources.

The Bill sets the goal of achieving an 8% share of renewable electricity in gross electric power consumption by 2010. The subject of support is electricity generated from domestic water power plants up to 10 MWe and wind, geothermal, photovoltaic and solar-thermal power plants, as well as plants utilising biomass without limited output. Support for thermal energy generation from renewable sources is yet to be resolved.

Pending full electricity market opening for all customers, the support is mainly based on electricity feed-in tariffs guaranteed by law. After the market is fully opened, a combination of guaranteed feed-in tariffs for sources with an output of up to 0.2 MW and a system of tradable green electricity certificates for larger sources will be introduced.

The problem with the current Bill is that it does not guarantee a sufficiently transparent and non-discriminative type of support that would be predictable over the long term. This applies not only to the system of redemption

What's inside

Emission trading within the European Community1,3

New law supporting electricity generation from renewable energy sources1

Framework agreement on cooperation in implementing greenhouse gas emission abatement projects between the Czech Government and the World Bank2

Updating the energy policy of the Czech Republic2

Energy service supplier tender for Ostrava train station2

EU financial assistance – programmes and tools3

A question for: František Plecháč, Director of the State Energy Inspection of the Czech Republic3

Heat pumps – the renewable energy source with the greatest support?4

South Bohemia Energy Agency launches its activity4, 5

City of Prague Energy Policy5

The new Directive on the energy performance of buildings – Moving closer to Kyoto5

Conferences, exhibitions and presentations September – December 20036

Websites on heat pumps6

The State Energy Inspection does not intend to check energy audits in 2004.

More details on page 3

prices but also, primarily, to the new system based on double regulation - fixing the price and quantity of tradable green electricity certificates. Too many crucial matters have so far been left to ad hoc decisions and their settlement in subsequent regulations or directly in the practical activity of the regulatory office. Unfortunately, this significantly increases the system's opacity and the risk for those investing in renewable energy sources.

At the present time, intensive amendment procedures are under way. In some cases, the Bill is being substantially amended. You can ask for its current wording and send your comments to Mr. Josef Bubenik, Director of the Czech Energy Agency, bubenik@ceacr.cz, and Mr. Martin Kloz, Ministry of the Environment, Martin_Kloz@env.cz.

Jiří Zeman

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Framework agreement on cooperation in implementing greenhouse gas emission abatement projects between the Czech Government and the World Bank

In its decree dated June 30, 2003, the Government of the Czech Republic expressed its consent to concluding the framework agreement on cooperation in implementing greenhouse gas emission abatement projects with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD - World Bank) as the administrator of the Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF).

The Agreement aims to support the implementation of projects contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by means of increased energy efficiency and better use of renewable and secondary energy sources.

The Prototype Carbon Fund was set up by the IBRD in 1999 with the objective of helping to facilitate global abatement of greenhouse gas emissions and verify mechanisms for transferring emission reduction between the countries that agreed upon joint implementation (JI) of projects. In late 1999, the Government of the CR

decided on the necessity of verifying the functioning of the PCF in the conditions of the Czech Republic. The "Energy Efficiency" project proposed by the Czech Energy Agency was selected for this purpose. This was the start of work which ultimately enabled the Czech Republic to join those countries which had concluded agreements with the IBRD as a result of their accession to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

The implementation of the Agreement will be ensured by the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade through the State Environmental Fund and the Czech Energy Agency.

The expected benefit of the Agreement for the Czech public sector and private subjects amounts to between USD 4 and 7 million. Total reduction of emissions resulting from projects in the Czech Republic with the participati-

on of the PCF is estimated to be at the level of 1 – 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2012. Funding will be granted to project owners or operators with whom the Czech Energy Agency, as the mediator for the IBRD, will conclude an agreement aimed at purchasing emission abatements.

Projects in the following areas are sought:

- Central heat supply;
- Energy efficiency in buildings and energy management units;
- Small water power plants;
- Utilisation of landfill gases.

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More information:

<http://www.ceacr.cz/?page=10>

Updating the energy policy of the Czech Republic

In August 2003, the process of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Energy Policy of the Czech Republic took place pursuant to Act No. 244/1992 Coll. What is the time schedule for its further amendments? We asked Ivo Mravinac, the Press Spokesman of the Ministry of Industry and Trade:

"The SEA process commenced on August 1, 2003. Within its framework, a consultancy team was set up, its members being an authorised person carrying out independent assessment, two representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, two representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, one representative of environmental organisations and one representative of the Union of Industry and Transport.

This part of the process was completed on August 31, 2003 and subsequently the energy

policy was published, together with the assessment. Within the next 60 days a public hearing will take place and then the Ministry of the Environment will have 30 days to present its standpoint. Then the material will be internally and externally discussed by individual departments and subsequently submitted to the Government."

Ivo Mravinac, Press Spokesman
Ministry of Industry and Trade

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We also asked Jakub Kašpar, Environment Ministry spokesman, about how the updating of the energy policy was progressing:

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade accepted the proposal of the Ministry of the Environment and has extended the SEA team (in which non-governmental organisations are represented by Eduard Sequens and the Ministry of the Environment by two experts) to include Jaroslav Maroušek, Director of SEVEN. By the end of September, at least three variants will have been assessed - those of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of the Environment and the NGOs. Subsequently, they will be present-

ed for a public debate in a standard legal procedure, which will conclude at the end of the year, and then the Government will decide on the final version of the policy.

Currently, the Ministry of Industry and Trade prefers the so-called "green" variant. However, it will assess all six variants. The variants of the Ministry of the Environment and the NGOs are yet to be completed. All variants agree upon the objective to achieve an 8% share of renewable green energy in energy generation by 2010. The Ministry of the Environment preliminarily counts on higher renewable energy targets by 2030, and does not plan new nuclear power sources or transgression of brown coal mining limits."

Jakub Kašpar, Press Spokesman
Ministry of Environment

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Text of the proposed update
of the energy conception

<http://www.mpo.cz/CZ/Aktualne/>

[Energetka_a_suroviny/default.htm](http://www.mpo.cz/CZ/Aktualne/Energetka_a_suroviny/default.htm)

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Energy service supplier tender for Ostrava train station

At the beginning of November 2002, preparation of a tender for an energy service provider for the Ostrava main railway station complex commenced. A company offering a 20% reduction of direct costs for heat consumption has been selected as the winner.

The tender's name – "Provision of energy services guaranteeing savings on operating costs necessary for satisfying the energy demand of the Czech Railways complex - Ostrava Main Railway Station and Ostrava Rolling Stock Depot" – was chosen so as to highlight the tender's two main goals. The tender inviter did not require the direct provision of energy demands but a provision that would in parallel allow for a decrease in operating costs, with the share of finance necessary for technical modifications of the energy system being considered a part of them.

A two-stage tender was selected since it concerned an extensive and technically demanding order requiring ongoing clarification and possible variant solutions (Article 43 of Act No. 199/1994 Coll., the Public Procurement Act, as amended by later regulations). Besides organisational instructions and instructions for pro-

cessing bids, the tendering documentation contained a description of the energy system within the scope of the analytical section of the energy audit, including the energy balance.

The tendering documentation for participation in the first stage was collected by four companies. On the basis of the documentation and on-the-spot inspections, they prepared draft technical designs. Individual proposals were discussed with the contractor's employees. These discussions resulted in a working paper for drawing up the tendering documentation for the second stage, reflecting the contractor's proposals and requirements. At the same time, the companies were asked to process a tender containing price and contractual data for an order set in this manner.

Due to the special relations of Czech Railways pertaining to electric energy supply, the order was merely focused on heat management. Conversion of the heating system from steam to hot-water with regulation complying with the current technical level was required, provided that the scope of regulated spaces was limited to those actually used by Czech Ra-

ilways. As a by-product of discussions on possible variants, certain possibilities for decreasing the number of heated rooms by means of organisational measures were revealed.

The company whose tender was appraised as the best by the evaluation committee offered an almost 20% contractual reduction of direct costs for heat consumption. The annual heating costs were reaching 18,5 million CZK (= 570 000 EUR) before the reconstruction. They will now decrease to 12,5 million CZK (= 380 000 EUR). Czech Railways will now pay the cost of the reconstruction to the energy services company for ten years, but already now their annual heating bill will be about one million crowns lower.

In parallel with the completion of the tender, an energy audit of the complex was drawn up. The measures proposed by the tenderers and the measures arising from the necessity to comply with Act No. 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management, as well as related regulations, were assessed.

Miroslav Florian

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Emission trading within the European Community

Continued from page 1

- Every year, operators of sources are obliged to deliver a quantity of emission licences corresponding to the volume of emissions produced. For the handing-over of licences, after the calendar year has finished, operators have four months in which they can purchase absent licences. A fine will be levied for not delivering licences in the required quantity, with this fine forming the upper cap for the price of licences – in the first period the penalty is 40 EUR/t CO₂ eq. and in the second period 100 EUR/t CO₂ eq.

- Member states safeguard the operation of a register recording the issuance, ownership, transfer and use of emission licences. Anyone can possess an emission licence, while the directive does not prescribe the terms and manner of trading.

Integration into the pan-European emission trading system is advantageous for the Czech Republic since it will probably be a net seller of emission licences. Hence, it is not expected that the Czech Republic would make significant use of the possibility of exempting selected sources from trading until 2007. The crucial factor for implementation of the directive in the Czech Republic is the total volume of emissions the state will allocate to sources and the method whereby these licences will be distributed among individual sources.

- The total emission volume allocated to sources in the Czech Republic will be derived from the Kyoto Protocol pledge, i.e. the requirement for an 8% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2008 – 2012. The domestic goal was voluntarily defined by the government as a 20% emission reduction by 2005. However, at the present time emissions are approximately 25% below the 1990 level. Hence, the Kyoto Protocol does not exert real pressure on the Czech Republic's abatement of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Ministry of the Environment of the CR, the total amount of emission licen-

ces allocated to sources should not exceed their current emissions. Otherwise, the European Commission could consider it state aid provided for industry.

- The directive does not stipulate the method of distributing the total quantity of emission licences among individual sources, it merely requires equal and transparent access. Preliminary recommendations of the European Commission for the creation of the National Allocation Plan stated that the allocation system can, for example, be derived from historical, contemporary and/or expected emissions from individual sources. The number of emission licences allocated can also be proportionate to material inputs or the production volume from a particular source.

The impact of the system on the economy of individual production categories will depend on the National Allocation Plan to be drawn up by the Ministry of the Environment. An advantage for operators of sources using technologies and fuels producing lower CO₂ emissions is the allocation of emission licences commensurate with the electric and thermal energy generated. If these sources with lower production of emissions per production unit receive a number of emission licences per production unit equal to other sources, they will obtain a subsidy in the form of emission licences that can be sold at the market price. Therefore, approval of such an allocation in 2004 would mean increased motivation for investments in cleaner technologies and fuels even prior to the commencement of emission trading in 2005.

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For details, visit

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/emission.htm>

EU financial assistance – programmes and tools

On July 3, 2003 the Czech Republic and the European Union commenced official negotiations in Prague on the final version of programme documents through which the Czech Republic will be able from next year on to make use of financial aid from the Structural Funds (SF).

The final approval will relate to the basic programme document (the National Development Plan) and related Operating Programmes (OP), stipulating specific areas, so-called measures, for which EU support can be obtained.

Let us remind you that in the period 2004 – 2006 the Czech Republic could thus obtain financial aid from the EU budget totalling EUR 1.5 billion.

Other finance can be obtained from the Cohesion Fund of the European Union. This is focused on large projects (at least EUR 10 million) and in 2004-2006 the Czech Republic could receive annually over EUR 800 million. Half of this sum is earmarked for investment in transport infrastructure, another half for investment in the environmental sector (primarily waste-water purification plants).

Support will only be granted up to a certain share of final recognisable costs whose level will depend on the nature of individual projects

and their submitters (public or private sector). For this recognised support on the part of the EU, it will be necessary to secure a minimum volume of domestic means for co-financing projects. These can come from both public and private sources, while the total average level of financial participation is expected to account for one-third to one-half of the aforementioned framework support.

Although the first projects requesting financial aid could be accepted from the beginning of next year (however, the first half of the year seems to be more realistic), their preparation should start today. The projects submitted will have to be processed in a phase close to implementation, i.e. with detail-design projects and in the case of constructions also issued building permits.

Acceptance, approval, payment of support and monitoring of projects will be carried out by delegated ministries, only in the case of the Common Regional Operating Programme (CROP) will they be accepted and approved at the level of cohesion regions.

Instructions for correct project preparation will make up Programme Appendices issued for each Operating Programme. Hitherto, an ap-

A question for:

František Plecháč, Director of the State Energy Inspection of the Czech Republic:

The end of 2003 is the legal deadline for drawing up energy audits for a wide group of institutions and subjects. It is unlikely that all of them will meet this deadline, but the State Energy Inspection should check its compliance. How does State Energy Inspection view adherence to this condition and what measures will you take against institutions that fail to do so?

"At the present time, the Senate is discussing the proposed amendatory Act on energy management passed by the Chamber of Deputies. Apart from other things, it extends the deadline for fulfilling the energy audit obligation from three to four years for organisational bodies of the state, regions and municipalities, as well as contributory organisations. The State Energy Inspection is aware of the fact that the Act was valid throughout 2001. However, it was not effective in the case of energy auditing. The reason is that, on the one hand, Regulation No. 213/2001 Coll. was not completed at the beginning of the year while, on the other, energy auditors were not registered on the list. Therefore, the State Energy Inspection does not intend to carry out a control action that would assess energy auditing. For 2005 we are preparing during checks to make use of the authorisation stipulated in Act No. 458/2000 Coll., pursuant to which the State Energy Inspection is entitled to require measures for tackling shortcomings, including setting deadlines. In the so-called first round, this authorisation will be applied in the case of subjects that have not carried out energy audits to the full extent for financial or organisational reasons. This provision of the Act will probably not be used for those who have not even started energy auditing by 2005. By law, the penalty for not meeting deadlines in the second round is up to five million Czech crowns. When a fine is imposed in an administrative procedure, the subject's size and economic strength, the extent to which the law has been breached and so forth are taken into consideration, since the penalty should not in this regard serve to put anybody out of business."

František Plecháč,

Director, State Energy Inspection
of the Czech Republic

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www.cr-sei.cz

pendix has only been published for the Common Regional Operating Programme, but within a short time others should be available.

Since the rules for the preparation and implementation of projects supported from the Structural Funds will be rather opaque, especially as regards recognisable costs and their co-financing, we will cover this topic in detail in the next issue of News at SEVEN.

Information
on the National Development Plan:
<http://www.mmr.cz/cz/rdp/>

Programme Appendix to CROP:
<http://www.mmr.cz/cz/regional/srop/srop2003-05-dod.pdf>

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Heat pumps – the renewable energy source with the greatest support?

Heat pumps are a technology which are being increasingly applied to make use of renewable energy sources. They can be found both in family houses and larger buildings. For their operation, they use the temperature of ambient air, water or soil. As in the case of other renewable energy sources, their advantage lies in their low operating costs. On the other hand, heat pumps have high installation costs due to which, until recently, the initial investment payback period outstripped their service life.

As a result of the overall increase in energy prices, the introduction of the inclusive charge for consumers with heat pumps and several subsidy options, their payback period has shortened considerably and the number of heat pumps installed has been rising. The Association for Heat Pump Use estimates that by 2010 the number of installations will increase from the present 2,400 to 80,000.

The main state institutions granting subsidies for installation of heat pumps are the State Environmental Fund and the Czech Energy Agency. The State Environmental Fund can repay as much as one third of an investment, the maximum amount being CZK 100,000 (=3070 EUR). The Czech Energy Agency, for which support for heat pumps comes under the programme for the broader use of renewable and secondary energy sources, can grant subsidies at a maximum level of 15% of total capital cost in 2003, the maximum amount being CZK 3 million. Due to budgetary rules, this programme does not include subsidies to individuals for using heat pumps in family houses. Possible concurrence of subsidies from the State Environmental Fund and the Czech Energy Agency is resolved by means of their mutual combination. For instance, if the Fund "offers" a subsidy of 40% and a soft loan of 40% of the total investment and the Agency "offers" a subsidy of 15% of the total investment, the result may be a 15% subsidy from the former and a 25% subsidy from the latter, i.e. 40% of the investment.

With the aim of improving customers' orientation, it often happens that companies offer-

ring installation of heat pumps also draw up the project documents necessary for the granting of subsidies. Applications for a subsidy must be supplemented by energy audit results.

Commercial companies which financially encourage the use of heat pumps include Pražská energetika (Prague Energy Utility) and Západočeská energetika (West Bohemia Energy Utility). Pražská energetika supports its customers' installation of heat pumps to the tune of CZK 40,000 (=1220 EUR), Západočeská energetika grants CZK 20,000 (=610 EUR). At the same time, Pražská energetika recommends to its customers a specific pump producer providing a discount from the ordinary price list. Severomoravská energetika (North Moravia Energy Utility), a member of the Association for Heat Pump Use, also offers consultancy assistance in the selection of specific heat pumps.

All electricity distributors use the D55 rate specially intended for households heated by heat pumps. To a certain extent, this allows for lower energy prices in comparison with the standard tariff set for electricity heating.

The Association for Heat Pump Use helps to improve customers' orientation when choosing a company supplying heat pumps. At present, it has 26 members and is preparing a European quality certificate whose holders will be allowed to mount heat pumps in all EU countries.

Thus, heat pumps are a renewable energy source which receive some of the most extensive support and which offer opportunities to obtain direct financial aid for their installation. However, it makes sense to discuss their specific benefits for individual buildings with experts in order to avoid disappointment from a high initial investment or a long payback period.

References to individual subjects mentioned above, the list of heat pump manufacturers, the atlas of heat pump installations in the Czech Republic and other information is available on the back page of this issue of News at SEVEN.

Invitation to the workshop on

Emission trading

November 12, 2003,
Movenpick Hotel, Prague

as a part of

TEPKON 2003 Conference

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City of Prague Energy Policy

On the basis of Resolution No. 0329 of the Prague City Council dated February 27, 2001, SEVEN began drawing up the City of Prague Energy Policy in 2002. It has been produced pursuant to Act No. 406/2000 Coll., on Energy Management, and Decree No. 195/2001 Coll. of the Government, and also contains an assessment of the policy's environmental impact in accordance with Act No. 244/1992 Coll., on Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Policies and Programmes (SEA). It also includes a draft of background information for presenting the City of Prague Energy Policy and a communication strategy for gaining the support of the population and interest groups in order to achieve the policy objectives.

Public hearings on the proposed City of Prague Energy Policy and an assessment of its environmental impact will take place on September 25 and October 9, 2003 from 1 p.m. in the Municipal Library, Mariánské náměstí, Prague 1.

The current development of energy management in the territory of Prague is characterised by the following factors:

- Energy demand in the city has been continuously decreasing since the 1990s.
- Fuel consumption in Prague has been falling even more rapidly (as a result of increased conversion efficiency, transition to higher-grade fuels and moving fuel combustors outside the city – by means of using the Mělník power plant for long-distance heat supply).
- Emissions of contaminants from stationary combustion sources in Prague have markedly dropped thanks to more stringent environmental laws, the connection of the long-distance heating network to the Mělník power plant, more efficient supply and reduced losses in energy use. The reduction of emissions from REZZO 1-3 stationary sources is most significant in the case of sulphur dioxide emissions (a decline of more than 90% of original volumes over 10 years) and solid matter emissions (an 87% reduction). Carbon monoxide emissions have dropped by 71% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 64%.
- At the present time, the energy sector no longer represents the most significant source of air pollution in Prague. Now, this dubious honour is held by road traffic.

The draft policy, including an assessment of the present situation, development scenarios, defined goals, priorities and policy tools, the implementation and monitoring procedure, as well as environmental impact assessment, is published at www.svn.cz/UEKPraha/index.html on an ongoing basis.

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Cont. on page 5

	Form of subsidy
State Environmental Fund	Up to 1/3 of investment, max. CZK 100,000
Czech Energy Agency	Up to 15% of investment, max. CZK 3 million
Pražská energetika	Up to CZK 40,000
Západočeská energetika	Up to CZK 20,000

Payments for electricity consumption in the D55 tariff (CZK):

	JČE	JME	PRE	SČE	SME	STE	VČE	ZČE
Sum for 1 kWh / High tariff	3,96	3,60	3,92	3,72	3,45	3,96	3,84	3,96
Sum for 1 kWh / Low tariff (valid 22 hours a day)	1,00	0,91	0,98	0,92	0,98	1,00	0,96	1,00

Source: Energy Regulatory Office, Price Ruling No. 3/2003

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The new Directive on the energy performance of buildings – Moving closer to Kyoto

The Directive on energy performance of buildings (2002/91/EC) was adopted with overwhelming support from the Member States and from the European Parliament on 16th December 2002 and entered into force on 4th January 2003.

The building sector accounts for 40% of the European Union's final energy consumption and therefore this new legislation is an important component of energy efficiency activities of the European Union. It is designed to contribute to meet the Kyoto commitment and responds to issues raised in the recent debate on the Green Paper on energy supply security (COM(2000) 769). Member States must incorporate the Directive into their national legislation within three years, by the 4th of January 2006.

Forecasts show an estimated cost-effective savings potential realisable by 2010 of around 22% within the building sector. Transposition of the Directive by 2006 will allow a portion of this potential to be translated into reduced energy consumption by 2010.

Forecast studies have projected a potential in the buildings sector of 22%, which could be realised for energy used in heating, air-conditioning, hot water and lighting purposes.

Savings Potentials:

- ⇒ **Boilers:** 10 million boilers in EU residential buildings are older than 20 years – their replacement would save 5% of the heating energy
- ⇒ **Lighting:** consumes 14% of the total energy in the tertiary sector – 30–50% savings could be achieved with the use of the most efficient components, control systems, integration of daylighting and other technologies
- ⇒ **Cooling:** Energy use for air-conditioning will double by 2020 – up to 25% could be saved through air-conditioning equipment minimum requirements and other measures

The Directive is a measure that concerns essentially all energy consumers in the European Union and in its future new Members. Many Member States are already now actively working towards meeting the requirements, in anticipation of the deadline for transposition.

The Directive is grouped around four major requirements:

1. General framework for a methodology of calculation of the integrated performance of buildings: Member States will be required to use an agreed general methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings – in this methodology, energy efficiency such as improved thermal insulation, as well as the use of renewables such as solar systems will be included;

2. Setting of minimum standards in new and existing buildings: minimum performance requirements based on this methodology will set and applied by Member States for new buildings and existing buildings over 1000 m² when these are subject to major renovations. These requirements shall set in a flexible way so that designers are able to meet energy efficiency requirements in the most cost-effective way and will be reviewed at regular intervals and updated if necessary;

3. Energy Certification of Buildings: Member States will develop energy performance certification schemes for new and existing buildings, with special obligations for public buildings. The certificates will be made available to the owner, tenant or potential buyer when buildings are constructed, sold or rented out;

4. Inspection and assessment of heating and cooling installations:

The European Commission encourages projects and initiatives and supports them as much as possible in order to enable a smooth transformation of this Directive into national legislative systems. In particular, the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme (2003-2006) will table Information Campaigns and key actions to support works towards the implementation of the Directive

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http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

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European Commission - Directorate General for Energy & Transport

The views expressed by the authors are personal and do not necessarily reflect the view of the European Commission.

South Bohemia Energy Agency launches its activity

On August 1, 2003, the South Bohemia Regional Energy Agency went into operation. It was established in line with the decision of the South Bohemia Region, in compliance with the State Programme Supporting Energy Saving and Use of Renewable Energy Sources drawn up by the Czech Energy Agency (ČEA). The South Bohemia Region and the ČEA jointly came up with the finance for commencement of the agency's activity and assurance of its operation in 2003. According to Táňa Dutkevičová, Deputy Director of the ČEA, it is the fifth regional energy agency set up in the Czech Republic (following those for the Ústí nad Labem, Zlín, Pilsen and Vysočina regions).

The mission of the South Bohemia Regional Energy Agency is to reduce the adverse environmental impact of energy use in the South Bohemia Region in an economically effective manner, thus contributing to meeting the goals arising from air pollution control and environmental protection.

The main activities of the South Bohemia Regional Energy Agency will include:

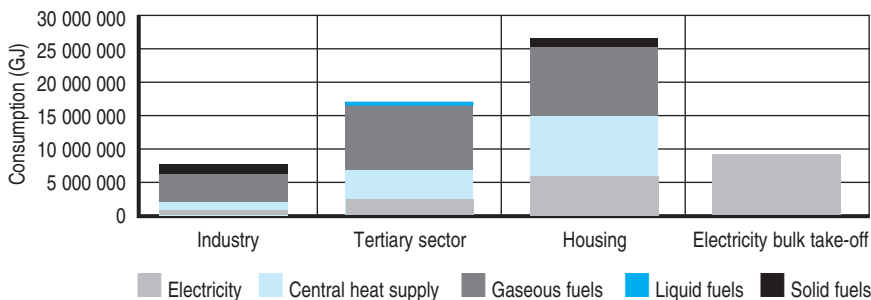
- Service activity pertaining to the energy sector for the South Bohemia Region (provision of the agenda of compulsory energy audits, introduction of a monitoring and energy consumption evaluation system, preparations for drawing up energy passports for buildings etc);
- Assurance of the economical and energy-efficient management of the South Bohemia Region's own property (preparation of energy-saving projects, including seeking finance sources and use of the Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) method for project implementation, preparation of selection procedures for implementation of EPC projects, application of economic effectiveness criteria when purchasing electrical appliances, reconstructing and constructing buildings, and other contractual relations of the region);
- Offering the provision of specialist service activity for towns and municipalities, as well as other entities in the region;
- Dissemination of lessons learned and information on possible energy savings, utilisation of renewable sources and funding of projects in this area;
- Identification of projects resulting in energy consumption reduction and mitigation of adverse environmental impacts, technical assistance in project preparation and securing project co-financing from domestic and foreign sources;
- Supporting partnerships and transmitting experience within the region and the republic, cooperation with foreign partners.

On the basis of a selection procedure, operation of the South Bohemia Regional Energy Agency was entrusted to SEVEN. Its task is to prepare a high-quality short-term and long-term activity plan for the agency that will comply with its mission and main activities, to provide its professional staff and to draw up a feasible financial plan that will secure the agency's long-term multi-source financing of its operation. The objective is to prepare the agency's activity, including financing, in such a manner that over the long term it can develop other activities as an independent non-profit organisation to the benefit of the South Bohemia Region and its inhabitants.

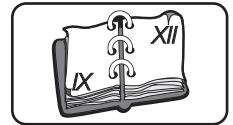
Contact address: Jiří Cvach
South Bohemia Regional Energy Agency
Žižkova 12, České Budějovice,
ph.: -0420- 387 718 204
E mail: jiri.cvach@svn.cz

Continued from page 4

Graph: Balance of annual energy consumption in Prague after conversion (GJ), by consumption sector – base year 2001



Conferences, exhibitions and presentations



September – December 2003

Domov a teplo (Home and Heating)

9th exhibition of household heating, furniture and heaters

4. - 7. 9.

Lysá nad Labem Exhibition Grounds

Contact: Výstaviště Lysá nad Labem, s.r.o.

www.vystaviste-lysa.cz

Intelligent Energy – Europe: Workshop for Energy Agencies

26. 9.

Salerno, Italy

Contact: ManagEnergy

<http://www.managenergy.net/conference/iee0903.html>

MSV 2003

International engineering trade fair

15. - 19. 9.

Brno Exhibition Grounds

Contact: Veletrhy Brno, a.s.,

msv@bv.cz

www.bv.cz/mv

For Arch

14th international civil engineering trade show

23. – 27. 9.

Prague Letňany Exhibition Grounds

Contact: ABF, a.s.,

veletrhy@abf.cz

www.forarch.cz

TZB

11th international building equipment exhibition

22.10. – 26.10.

Incheba Bratislava Exhibition and Congress Centre

Contact: Incheba Bratislava,

moddom@incheba.sk

www.incheba.sk

Eco-energy Olomouc

Exhibition and conference on renewable energy sources

6. – 8.11.

Olomouc, Flora Exhibition Grounds

Contact: Omnis Olomouc, a.s.,

jarova@omnis.cz

www.omnis.cz

Sustainable Energy Expo 2003

21 – 23. 10.

Olympia, London, United Kingdom

Contact: IIR Exhibitions,

jknaggs@iirltd.co.uk

www.sustainable-expo.info

Euro PV Euroconference

Photovoltaic Devices: Photovoltaics and Environment

Granada, Spain

7. – 12. 11.

Contact: Dr Arnulf Jäger-Waldau

arnulf.jaeger-Waldau@cec.eu.int

www.pv-net.net/europv2003.htm

4th European Motor Biofuels Forum

24. – 26. 11.

Alexanderplatz Berlin, Germany

Contact: Europoint b.v.,

ivanwieringen@europoint-bv.com

www.europoint-bv.com/events/biofuels2003

Aqua Therm Praha

10th international trade fair of heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, measurement, regulation, sanitary and ecological technology

25. – 29. 11.

Prague – Exhibition Grounds

Contact: Progres Partners

Advertising, s.r.o.,

Aqua@ppa.cz

www.tzb-info.cz

Websites on heat pumps

WWW

Association for Heat Pump Use

<http://www.avtc.cz/>

Atlas of Heat Pump Use in the CR

<http://calla.ecn.cz/atlas/list.php?type=6>

Directory of companies producing and supplying heat pumps

<http://www.tzb-info.cz/t.py?t=18&i=82>

Heat pumps, South Moravia Energy Utility

http://www.jme.cz/aktuality/lepora/tepelna_cerpadla.asp

Heat pumps and their support from Prague Energy Utility

<http://poradenstvi.pre.cz/static/tema/tc.php>

Heat pumps and their support from West Bohemia Energy Utility

<http://www.novaenergie.cz/srv/www/framer?action=sub&id=27>

North Moravia Energy Utility and its "Heat Pumps" service

<http://www.sme.cz/arts/art.asp?id=422>

Preconditions for allocating the D55 tariff from South Bohemia Energy Utility

http://www.jce.cz/zakaznik/cenik2003/sazby_d_55.html

State Environmental Fund and its promotion of heat pumps

http://www.sfzp.cz/web/kladne.nsf/Cis_zdroje?OpenView&rok=2002

Consultancy on websites of the Energy Consultancy and Information Centre – Czech Energy Agency

http://www.i-ekis.cz/?page=zdroje_cerpadla

Description of pump functions

http://www.energ.cz/uspory/vytop_cerpadlo.html

<http://www.estav.cz/zpravy/tepcer.html>

<http://www.tepelna-cerpadla.cz/obecne.htm>

European Heat Pump Association

<http://www.ehpn.de/>