News at SEVEn

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4 December 2005

ENERGY EFFICIENCY NEWS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Fifteen years of SEVEn

Fifteen years of SEVEn means fifteen years of striving to reduce energy intensity



Energy efficiency is, on the one hand, a visible quantity measurable in practice, but its real existence and value is concealed both within national economies and individual life styles. Although it is possible to order reduction of energy intensity, this does not – as our many years of past experience has shown – bring really effective results. The ways of ensuring low energy intensity are somewhat more complicated.

In December 2005 fifteen years have passed since the establishment of SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center. What changes has the Czech Republic lived through in this period in terms of energy consumption development? Basically, there have been three periods.

1. The beginning of the 1990s saw a decline in

economic performance accompanied by a severe drop in energy consumption, as well as a reduction of energy intensity;

- **2.** Subsequent rapid economic growth was accompanied by a gradual fall in energy intensity;
- **3.** The standstill or slowdown of economic growth also meant ignificant **...** cont. on page 2

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Seven billion crowns to promote energy saving and renewable energy sources

The energy intensity of the Czech economy decreased between 2000 and 2004 by approximately 0.4% a year, while so-called electro-energy intensity (electricity consumption /GDP) in this period annually declined on average by 1%. Although, on the other hand, gross domestic product (meaning economic performance) in this period grew, this reduction fell short of the level required by the State Energy Conception, which presumed a fall in energy intensity up to 2005 by 2.6% a year, 2% in terms of electro-energy intensity.

In response to these and other not entirely optimistic development trends, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, has prepared the "National Programme for Economical Energy Management and Use of Renewable and Secondary Energy Sources". This four-year programme document of the Government of the Czech Republic links up to the results and experience of the National Programme for 2002 – 2005 and develops the requirements and objectives of the State Energy Conception and the State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic for 2004 – 2010.

Among other things, the National Programme highlights the failure in meeting the objectives of the previous programme for 2002 – 2005 as regards renewable energy sources and also the non-existence of legislative support for using renewable energy sources to produce heat.

The Programme presumes a growth in the share of renewable energy sources from almost 3% to 5.6% by 2009, and from 4% to 7.5% by 2009 in the case of electric power. For the subsequent four-year period, the Programme forecasts growth in energy efficiency by at least 2.6% a year and growth in electro-energy efficiency by no less than 2.1% annually.

And which mechanisms does the National Programme have in mind in order to attain the above-mentioned goals? They include, for example: **Processing industry**

energy audits and implementation of measures recommended according to audits,

- introduction of energy (and environmental) management systems,
- support for suitable methods of cogeneration of heat and power,
- developing the use of up-to-date energy-efficient technologies and techniques,
- developing the use of renewable and secondary energy sources in industry.

Households

- information systems for monitoring and evaluating energy consumption,
- efficient replacement of fossil fuels with the use of renewable energy sources,
- thermal insulation of buildings,
- energy-efficient electric appliances, labelling of appliances, energy efficiency standards.

Other measures proposed include the introduction of yield-neutral ecological tax reform. The Programme's main implementation tool remains the annually announced State Programmes for Support of Energy Savings and Use of Renewable and Secondary Energy Sources, including subsidies granted from the state budget and the State Environmental Fund.

For all these measures, the Czech government intends to release between 2006 and 2009 the sum of CZK 6.9 billion from the state budget and presumes the receipt of CZK 1.4 billion from structural and other EU funds and more than CZK 4 billion from individual investors.

-JK-Full wording of the document: www.ceacr.cz/?page=nprg

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Emission allowance trading commences

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Since the middle of October 2005 allowances for carbon dioxide emissions have been allocated to individual polluters in the Czech Republic. The possibility of trading in them applies to 435 companies from the Czech Republic which, following negotiations with the European Commission, have been allotted allowances for 292.8 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions for the period 2005 – 2007.

Trading itself must be preceded by registration of every company via the website www.povolenky.cz ensured by the Electricity Market Operator, which concludes with these firms "contracts on establishing and maintaining an account in the register for trading in assigned amount units (allowances) of greenhouse gas emissions".

The Czech Republic has thereby become the 13th EU country in which the allowances register has been put into commercial operation, although it was only the 23rd to approve the national allocation plan ...cont. on page 5

Fifteen years of SEVEn

retardation of energy intensity reduction.

Energy prices moved inversely over these periods. First a spontaneous rise emerged, then annual growth of prices slowed down until at the beginning of this century, as a result of liberalisation, some prices actually decreased.

A demonstration of the validity of macroeconomic laws? Well, maybe. And maybe also of the increasingly lacklustre effort on the part of the state: in 1990 hardly any politician was unaware of the fact that Czechoslovakia was a country with one of the highest energy intensity rates in the world and that it was necessary to reduce it. In 2005 the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, Mr Mandil, came to inform us that the Czech Republic's energy intensity is still

unnecessarily high, which came as something of a surprise to our politicians. Their argument is simple: "We fulfil all EU requirements."

However, it will not be that simple; no central decision can spare us painstaking work. Energy intensity reduction is a diversified process, savings cannot be attained en masse. It is necessary to implement measures locally, by means of individual and heterogeneous projects.

When we founded SEVEn fifteen years ago, we primarily had in mind energy efficiency over the next few years so as to "join" as quickly as possible the ranks of advanced European countries. Later we comprehended that our task did not have a time frame of a couple of years but at least a decade. But we by no means apprehended that the hardest work in terms of energy intensity abatement would be 15 years down the road: seeking energy savings in a stabilised economy amid a meagre political interest in raising energy efficiency. Jaroslav Maroušek

Lack of interest in drawing subsidies from the operational programme brings about a change in methodology

A total of 33 applications received, and support approved for five projects at the level of 27 million crowns – these are the current statistics of the Energy Savings and Renewable Energy Sources programmes which are part of the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise (OPPP). This relatively low interest in subsidies from structural funds concerning energy has brought about the necessity to change the methodology of approving projects, or their eligible costs.

The mentioned programmes aim to help small and medium-sized enterprises from defined branches of the processing industry to improve energy sources management and facilitate their doing business in the domain of energy generation from renewable sources.

Both sub-programmes provide support in the form of a non-returnable subsidy at the level of 46% of eligible costs up to a maximum of CZK 30 million for one project. Eligible costs include an energy audit of a building, project documentation, purchase, installation and placing into operation of technologies, construction modifications, specialised information systems necessary for a project's operation and costs for a project's promotion. In addition to the confirmation of a project plan's justification by means of an energy audit, the basic precondition for the granting of a subsidy is annual reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of at least 40 tonnes in the case of the energy-saving programme and 60 tonnes as regards the renewable energy sources programme.



Owing to the number of applications submitted being lower than with most other sub-programmes of the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise, the initial methodology of acknowledging eligible costs has been significantly changed and simplified. Whereas the original methodology only acknowledged the category of "additional costs" (for example, the difference in costs for construction of a power plant utilising renewable energy sources in comparison with the costs for a brown-coal power plant), the currently valid methodology already directly acknowledges capital costs for implementation of an actual project.

In order to extend awareness of this change and the overall possibilities of drawing subsidies, in the second half of 2005 the Czech Energy Agency, which participates in their implementation, organised a series of seminars in seven cities throughout the Czech Republic. The seminar on November 1 in České Budějovice was co-organised by SEVEn and the Regional Energy Agency of the South Bohemia Region.

The current status as regards drawing subsidies from the Operational Programme Industry and Enterprise can be found out on the website: www.czechinvest.cz → Online statistics about drawing subsidies from the OPPP programmes.

Complete documentation about the two OPPP programmes, Energy Savings and Renewable Energy Sources, can be found on the website of the Czech Energy Agency www.ceacr.cz.

Information about the use of Structural Funds in the Czech Republic, Central Europe and other EU states is available at www.ruse-europe.org.

Saving energy? Slowly but surely, or surely but slowly.

Thus can be characterised the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic's response to the evaluation report of the International Energy Agency (IEA) of September 2005 assessing the progress and development of the Czech energy sector over the past 15 years.

Besides highlighting laudable progress, the IEA's Executive Director, Claude Mandil, also pointed out the insufficient advances made towards reducing the energy intensity of the Czech economy and recommended consistent fulfilment of the State Energy Policy drawn up by the Government. The IEA also recommended re-evaluating the support ratio between energy savings and renewable energy sources on the basis of economic criteria.

What was the Ministry of Industry and Trade's response to these recommendations? In a press release of September 8, 2005 the Minister of Industry and Trade, Milan Urban, said that although we have identical objectives, "a number of the recommendations cannot be applied immediately, primarily for economic reasons. It is a question of time and priorities."

In response to the fact that the energy intensity of the economy has decreased in the Czech Republic by the smallest percentage of all neighbouring new EU member states, the Ministry of Industry and Trade's counterargument is that investments amounting to CZK 60 billion have already been outlaid on making energy sources environmentally sound and the growth of GDP has meant increased energy consumption.

In compliance with the IEA's recommendations, the Ministry's press release acknowledges the role of energy savings as a more cost-effective alternative to replacement of fossil fuels than, for example, generation of heat and, primarily, electric power from renewable energy sources. Hence, for the future the Ministry of Industry and Trade wants to support raising efficiency during production of heat, giving preference to cogeneration, using secondary energy sources and waste heat in industry, tightening up the system of energy auditors and energy performance of buildings.

The majority of the mentioned new measures, however, issue from the requirements of EU legislation, and a significant part of the finance for their implementation and promotion will come from European Union sources.

-jk

Complete wording of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's response:

www.mpo.cz \rightarrow Information for the public \rightarrow Press releases \rightarrow The IEA evaluates the Czech Republic in the area of energy policy.

15 years of SEVEn

Selected references and SEVEn's activities over the past 15 years

December 2005 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the setting up of SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center. Since that time we have implemented a host of projects pertaining to support for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. SEVEn's forte is a traditional combination of thorough knowledge of technical engineering and financial expertise. This not only allows for designing and evaluating technically sophisticated works resulting in greenhouse gas emission reduction, but also for preparing projects in such a manner that they bring for investors a genuine financial effect and the desired payback. SEVEn has primarily chosen to prepare projects that have a double asset: general environmental benefit and a clear financial benefit for a particular investor. This makes it possible to rely during project implementation not only on subsidies but also to expediently make use of fully commercial sources – including the unorthodox method of financing by a third party with guaranteed savings (EPC). Experience with financial assessment and preparation of specific projects to be implemented, drawing up of feasibility studies of investment plans, assessment of project risks and proposals for strategies of their management, as well as verification of the feasibility of projects for investors, is also used by SEVEn in its conceptual work when preparing strategic materials, air pollution control policies and conceptions at both the national and international level and also in the case of territorial and urban energy plans. In connection with the 15th anniversary of our origination, we take the liberty of presenting several examples of our activities to date.

Preparation and implementation of EPC projects

SEVEn has traditionally been one of the main promoters of the EPC (Energy Performance Contracting) method in the Czech Republic. The EPC method allows for implementation of energy-saving projects which are repaid directly owing to a decreased energy bill and in the case of which the given savings are guaranteed for building owners by energy services companies. Over the long term SEVEn has been engaged in creation of these projects' methodology and the concept's promotion with potential customers, and has directly facilitated organisation of public tenders and their evaluation serving for selection of a particular energy services company for individual projects.

As recognition of its activity in this field, in 2005 SEVEn received the European Energy Service Award bestowed by the Berlin Energy Agency under the patronage of the German Federal Environment Minister and with the support of the EU Commissioner for Energy.

One of the projects worthy of mention was the selection procedure for a provider of EPC services for the main railway station of Czech Railways in Ostrava in 2002 – 2003. This procedure resulted in the selection of an energy services company guaranteeing for the railway station a 20% reduction of annual heat consumption, i.e. a saving of CZK 6 million a year.



SEVEn activities abroad

Since its establishment in 1990 SEVEn has been an active partner to international projects. It has carried out many of its activities outside the Czech Republic, and not only within the Central and Eastern European region.

SEVEn actively participated in the introduction and implementation of the first project drawing upon EPC methodology in Mongolia, as part of a project initiated by the Ulan Bator government. Other activities include expert consultancy concerning the possibilities of implementing energy-saving projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Bulgaria, the Baltic states and elsewhere. In addition, SEVEn has been a regular participant in and manager of projects organised with the support of the European Commission pertaining to renewable energy sources, energy labelling, EPC, energy efficiency in transport, energy audits, and many others.

Among the examples of international activity are the preparation for implementation of projects valued at EUR 20 million in Serbia organised with the support of the European Union, or the research and evaluation of the past and present situation and possible future direction of regional energy agencies in all EU countries. SEVEn, as a member of the consortium of four partner organisations, was in charge of the Central European region. The project was drawn up to the order of the European Commission with the aim to propose measures resulting in improvement of the organisational, financial and professional competence and operation of individual agencies.

Energy market opening, liberalisation and privatisation of the energy sector

SEVEn participated in the preparation for liberalisation of the electricity market in the Czech Republic in accordance with EU directives and drew up analyses and proposals for the model of a competitive Czech electro-energy market and power balancing principles. On the basis of SEVEn's proposals and analyses, the model was generally approved. Subsequently implemented was regulated third-party access to networks, in place of the until then preferred negotiated TPA. The institute of variance responsibility was introduced instead of compulsory pool.

For the Ministry of Finance, SEVEn drew up a proposal and analysis of privatisation scenarios in the electro-energy and gas sectors with a special focus on the situation following implementation of liberalisation in the industry, and evaluated privatisation yields in individual privatisation scenarios.

As regards price regulation, SEVEn carried out assessment of the economic benefits of decentralised sources and environmental benefits of combined heat and power production. On the basis of these analyses, the Energy Regulatory

Office introduced price advantaging for decentralised sources, including cogeneration.

For private investors and energy utilities, SEVEn elaborated strategic analyses of the electric energy, natural gas and long-distance heating markets in the Central European region, at the national level (both domestic and foreign markets), including prognoses of price development, as well as in-depth analyses of the market in individual cities and regions.

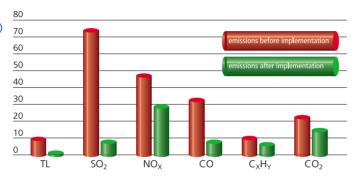
15 years of SEVEn

Reconstruction of district heating in Jindřichův Hradec

Thirty-three per cent lower emissions of contaminants (and up to 89% reductions as regards solid pollutants and sulphur dioxide) have been brought about by reconstruction of the district heating system in Jindřichův Hradec. The rehabilitation also comprised replacement of heavy fuel oil combustion by natural gas and biomass. The project, whose savings will amount to 31,000 GJ a year and which serves for 15,000 heat consumers, was implemented on the basis of the town's energy conception that included the proposal for its financing by SEVEn.



Emissions of basic contaminants (t/year) and CO₂ (thousand t/year) before and after the project's implementation



How to build low-energy apartment houses without increased capital costs

How to save on heating costs but not pay more for a house's construction? This was the task of the Low-energy Low-cost Apartment House project organised with the support of the UNDP/GEF. Its result is not only two apartment houses built and handed over for use to tenants in Sušice and Železný Brod, but also the know-



how attained by builders and architects, as well as new projects and implementations of family houses. Specific measurements of energy consumption of the residential house in Sušice, whose project received the prize Energy Project of 2003 awarded by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Czech Energy Agency, have already proved reduction of consumption of energy for heating by more than half in comparison with standard new buildings, or by more than two-thirds when compared with existing residential houses.

EEBW: Energy Efficiency Business Week international conference

Since 1992 SEVEn has organised EEBW: Energy Efficiency Business Week. This specialist international conference serves as a unique forum for exchange of opinions and experience concerning overall trends and specific energy-efficiency and renewable energy sources projects. Over the period of its existence, the conference has been attended by thousands of specialists, representatives of international organisations, governments of the Czech Republic and other countries, journalists and the general public. The previous nine editions have brought the possibility of exchanging information and experience with practical application of energy savings both in the Czech Republic, the European Union and other countries

Support for economically most effective renewable energy sources

Seeking economically available manners of using renewable energy sources has been one of SEVEn's basic activities throughout its existence. Important projects include, for example, calculation and evaluation of cost curves for particular energy sources for the Ministry of the Environment, assessment of wind power utilisation potential for electric energy production for ČEZ (Czech Energy Utility), creation of implementing regulations linking up to the Act on support for renewable energy sources for the Energy Regulatory Office, or management of the international ForBiom project whose principle was interconnection of supply of and demand for biomass in selected European countries.

Energy labelling of household electrical appliances

One of the areas SEVEn has systematically dealt with since its foundation is energy labelling of household electrical appliances. Back in the first half of the 1990s the company participated in model introduction of labels on selected appliances and later organised numerous activities for consistent ap-

plication of the valid legislation on energy labelling. Among other things, it has managed, and will continue to manage in forthcoming years too, projects supporting energy labelling in Central and Eastern European countries. One of these projects (ELAR). completed in 2004, was selected by the European Commission as a model Good Practice case study worthy of further repeating.

Mass-media campaign promoting energy-efficient lighting

Extensive TV, radio, print and billboard advertising – that is also a way of promoting energy saving. The specific objective of the ELI – Efficient Lighting Initiative project, organised under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment and with financial support from the IFC/GEF, was promotion of high-quality energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps for end customers, namely, in the form of classical advertising and marketing usual in the case of common consumer goods. The project has not only raised the public's awareness of fluorescent lamps' importance, but also their saleability by at least 15%.



United Nations conference on climate change – Montreal 2005

Almost seven years on from the adoption of the annex to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in which advanced countries pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and February's coming of the Kyoto Protocol into force, at the end of November and beginning of December there will be another crucial event in the near-global endeavour for abatement of greenhouse gas emissions produced by humans.



Montreal will host a conference of representatives of the countries that have acceded to the UNFCCC (Conference of Parties), and, at the same time, the first regular meeting of the countries that have concurrently become parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP) will take place.

The fact that it concerns a breakthrough conference is reflected in its programme – participants will officially approve the so-called Marrakech accords, preliminarily agreed in 2001. The item on the agenda will be the rules according to which Kyoto mechanisms are today unofficially implemented, primarily JI and CDM project mechanisms and international emission trading (IET).

Besides procedural matters, the Montreal conference participants will also elect the members of the Supervisory Committee, entrusted with verifying emission reductions that have been, or will be between 2008 and 2012, effected through JI projects. In this connection, it seems a pity that we will probably have no representative on the Committee. Also expected to be heard at the conference are the first specific proposals of individual countries' commitments concerning greenhouse gas emission abatement after 2012.

Alongside an official Czech delegation, SEVEn will also have its representatives at the Montreal conference.

Further information about the conference: http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php

Emission allowance trading commences

extensive discussion between representatives of the European Commission, the Czech Government and industry concerning the final allocation of allowances to individual companies.

Further information: www.povolenky.cz

Saving at least 1% more energy each year – an obligation or recommendation?

In the June 2004 issue of News at SEVEn we published an article describing the European Commission's endeavour to enforce a new Directive on Energy Efficiency and Energy Services whose objective is to achieve between 2006 and 2012 a 6% increase in energy efficiency, or at least 1% a year. The proposal was submitted to the European Parliament, but the MEPs have decided on amendments. Thus, the discussions also concern whether this measure should be imposed upon or recommended to member states.

The proposal for the Directive was spurred by the awareness that energy consumption in EU countries is 20% higher than is economically justifiable. The European Commission estimates this potential to be equivalent to the consumption of 200 million tonnes of crude oil a year. However, a decree on compulsory reduction of energy consumption has aroused ambivalent responses — both as regards its tightening up and loosening.

The draft Directive is at present being discussed by the European Parliament, which suggests prolonging the reference period to nine years with obligatory reduction of energy intensity by 11.5%. The European Commission

is willing to accept a nine-year period with a 9% reduction of energy intensity. And individual member states? According to current reactions, more than half of them are also content with the nine-year period with 9% energy savings, but only as an indicative objective.

How will it turn out ultimately? Until such time as definitive adoption of the Directive's wording, shifts in both directions are possible. We will inform you about the final result.

Proposed wording of the Directive submitted by the European Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/demand/ legislation/end use en.htm

First feed-in tariffs with a 15-year guarantee

On November 18, 2005, new feed-in tariffs of electric power derived from renewable energy sources were announced. These tariffs are the first to guarantee a 15 years payback period, namely, on the basis of the requirement of the Act on renewable energy sources adopted this spring.

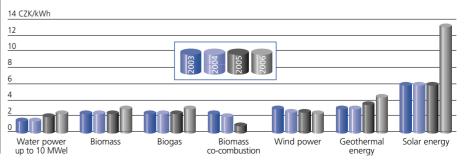
Level of minimum feed-in tariffs of renewable energy sources for plants put into operation after January 1, 2006

| Source / year (CZK / kWh) | Electricity feed-in tariffs (CZK) | Green bonuses (CZK) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Water power (10 MWel.) | 2.34 | 1.43 |
| Biomass (categories O1, O2 and O3) | 2.29–2.93 | 1.32–1.96 |
| Biogas | 2.23-2.98 | 1.26–2.01 |
| Biomass co-combustion | - | 0.54–1.18 |
| Wind power | 2.46 | 2.02 |
| Geothermal energy | 4.5 | 3.64 |
| Solar energy | 13.2 | 12.59 |

The Table shows feed-in tariffs only pertaining to plants placed into operation after January 1, 2006. It does not state the possibility of selecting low and high tariffs in the case of small hydro-electric power stations. The price decision also distinguishes between different categories of biomass and biogas, including biomass co-combustion. At the same time, this decision determines that 2007 feed-in tariffs for plants put into operation after January 1, 2006 cannot, with the exception of

biomass, drop. In the following years prices can drop annually by 5% maximum. For the full wording of the Price Decision of the Energy Regulatory Office of November 2005, visit www.eru.cz - the price decisions section. The full wording of Act No. 180/2005 Coll., on support for use of renewable energy sources, is available in Czech, for example, on the website http://portal.gov.cz (Acts section, search according to the number or name of the Act).

Development of electricity feed-in tarrifs for plants put into operation in the stated year





Conferences, exhibitions and presentations: January - March 2006

3. – 7. 10.

Infotherma 2006

Trade fairs and exhibitions: heating, renewable energy sources, biomass, heat pumps 13th edition of the international exhibition. Environmentally sound and economical heating, energy savings and use of renewable energy sources.

Frýdlant nad Ostravicí – Sports –social complex near the Panorama motel Contact: Agentura INFORPRES s.r.o. e-mail: bujakova@inforpres.cz

16. - 17. 2.

Biofuels Markets

www.biofuelsmarkets.com

Brussels, Belgium Contact: Sarah Ellis, Green Power Conferences, e-mail: sarah.ellis@greenpowerconferences.com

2006 European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition

Athens, Greece

27. 2. – 2. 3

Contact: European Wind Energy Association.

e-mail: info@ewea.org;

www.ewec.info

1. - 3. 3.

World Sustainable Energy Days 2006 Wels, Austria

Contact:http://www.energiesparverband.com /esv/index.php?id=228&L=1

10. - 12. 3.

"erneuerbare energien 2006" and "Passiv-Haus 2006"

CCB Böblingen, Germany

Contact: ereuerbare energien, Kommuni-

kations- und Informationsservice GmbH e-mail: redaktion@energie-server.de

www.energy-server.com www.erneuerbareenergien.co

13. - 16. 3.

European Fuels Week

Paris, France

Contact: World Refining Association e-mail: marketing@theenergyexchange.co.uk http://www.wraconferences.com/

wra107overview.html

23. - 26. 3

New Energy Husum

Husum, Germany

Contact: www.new-energy-husum.de

News at SEVEn is produced in English and Czech quarterly by SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center. SEVEn strives to promote energy efficiency in order to support economic development and protect the environment. The newsletter informs about current energy efficiency events and developments in the Czech Republic and welcomes outside submissions.

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