

# Working towards sustainable energy communities throughout Europe



**sunflower**  
energy | innovation | development

The Sunflower Project (September 2008 – February 2011) was set up to encourage renewable energy developments within Europe. Sharing experience and best-practice of real-life examples from eight European partners. The project set out to raise awareness of the different and innovative technologies available, overcome any perceived barriers and help create new enterprises and public/private sector partnerships and stimulate investment. Stakeholder involvement and education initiatives are a key part of the Project.



Achievements include:

- significant investment and over 60MW of electricity generation from a variety of renewable sources ranging from the largest solar photo-voltaic plant in Europe to small community ventures
- the involvement of political decision makers from all levels of government and society
- international and national conferences held and knowledge about renewable energy markets shared
- investment in Science and Technology Parks
- clear guidance on creating small and medium renewable energy businesses produced
- initiatives carried out in schools and study tours and training events arranged for young graduates leading to the creation of renewable energy businesses
- stakeholder involvement
- communities forming and implementing their own renewable energy plans and projects
- dissemination via national networks in seven European countries



Further information on the project, can be found at [www.sunflowerproject.eu](http://www.sunflowerproject.eu) including advice on renewable energy developments, leaflets, newsletters, presentations, links, and the following downloadable guides:

### **A Guide to Renewable Energy Business Startup**

This Guide addresses one of the main barriers to the successful development of the renewable energy industry across Europe; the availability of trained and skilled people. The Guide details how to start a renewable energy business at a European level from initial idea to the developed project. There are sections dealing with trading, financial and legal aspects and several case studies of best practice. Job profiles and market trends are also analysed.

### **Renewable Energy Sources Training Guide**

An overview of the energy market with detailed information on biomass technologies, small hydropower, wind, solar (thermal and pv) and support schemes including the Feed in Tariff. The Guide also contains an economic analysis of renewable energy sources and a large section on the potential of hydrogen as a fuel.

### **Guide to Overcoming Barriers to Setting up Science, Technological and Business Parks in Deprived Regions**

This Guide sets out how to develop a Science and Technology Park in regions which have a high potential for renewable energy generation but where it is difficult to achieve because there is not enough business development. Based on an analysis of how similar regions have fostered regional development and added value by clustering projects/companies around Business or Science and Technology Parks and public-private investment partnerships.

### **North York Moors National Park Community Renewable Energy Project Final Report**

Working with five communities over six years this Project helped assess their eco foot print, increase community capacity and awareness of renewable energy technologies and assist in the development and implementation of community renewable energy plans. Though the Project has now ended, communities continue to implement their plans and the Final Report contains a number of case studies and lessons learnt.

### **Moura Technology Park**



As part of the Sunflower Project Moura Municipality has developed a Technological Park (PTM). The Park will contain a mix of industrial activity in the field of sustainability such as: renewable energies laboratories, research, technology development, demonstration units, sustainable construction, new sources of energy and environmental industries. In addition to industry, the Park has an extensive green area providing a public space attractive to visitors yet integrated with the urban fabric of the town. The Park will also add value to the industries by promoting international cooperation, networking, demonstrations of best practice and results, education and training and support for entrepreneurship.

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