

SAPAREVA BANYA BULGARIA

Information about the municipality

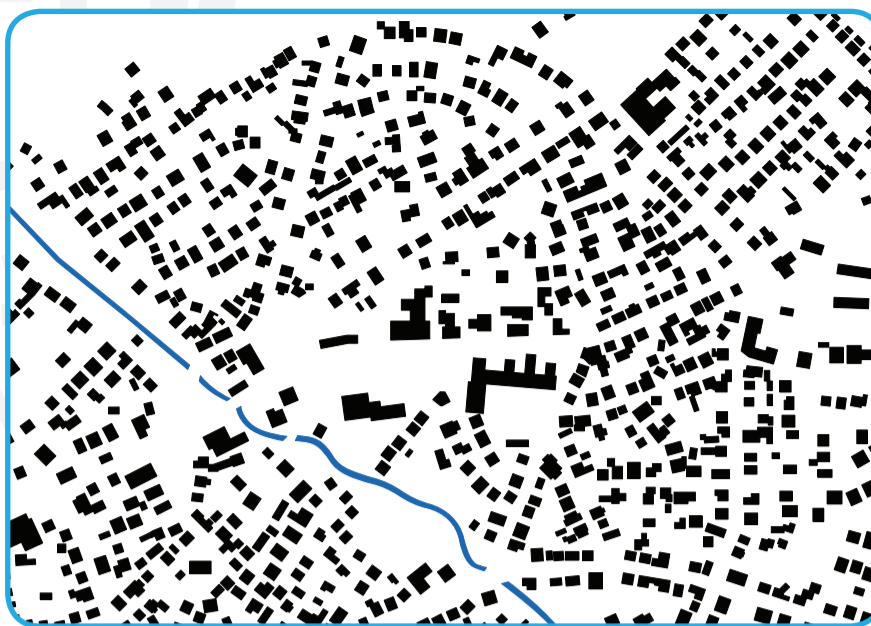
Location: Southwest Bulgaria, part of Kyustendil Region. Located at the north foot of the Rila mountain, 15 km east of Dupnitsa

Altitude: 600-2600 m

Inhabitants: 7,942

Expected development of the municipality:

Municipal policy aims at establishment of favorable conditions for investments and economical development. Also, development of tourism and increasing of the professional qualification of the population are among the priorities.



Miniproject title

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, MUNICIPAL PLAN FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY (EE) AND PROGRAMME FOR THE PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES (RES)

SHORT DESCRIPTION

1. Project background & goal

Sapareva Banya is famous for its geothermal mineral springs. This special condition is most relevant for the urban development of the municipality. First of all, tourism is the main motor for development. Significant building types are the big resorts.

The option to use geothermal sources not only for spa but for energy supply is one driving force for the projects activities.

Therefore priorities according to the Municipal Development Plan 2007-2013 include tourism development, establishment of favorable conditions for investments and economical development, improvement and construction of technical and social infrastructure and increasing of the professional qualification of the population.

One direct outcome of the project activities was the decision to extend the district heating network utilizing geothermal energy by connecting also private buildings and households. This step can not be done without manifold promotion and communication. Technical preconditions would be to save energy in public buildings and use the free capacities of the geothermal plant.

One other main activity was to have special attention to the big resorts as typical local buildings and to investigate options to save energy in these complexes and to use the big roofs for solar applications.

2. Main project aspect/topic

- > Overview of the current status of RES and RUE (rational use of energy) in the municipality;
- > Identification of the needs and prospects of RES and RUE stimulations;
- > Viable and socially matured RES and RUE project opportunities' identification;
- > Promotion of RES and RUE measures and awareness raising
- > Feasibility studies for new projects, financial possibilities
- > Target settings, indicators and monitoring

3. Main Energy Efficiency aspects

- > Renewable energy sources for energy supply of public and residential buildings
- > Energy efficiency in the residential building stock, industry and in buildings in tourism sector

4. Miniproject activities

- > Identifying the stakeholders;
- > Establishing management team;
- > Developing a communication strategy;
- > Establishing a vision;
- > Undertaking preliminary energy inventory of the community;
- > Quantifying mission – setting specific objectives and targets;
- > Collecting detailed information and data;
- > Investigation about the potentials of energy saving and use of RES for the typical buildings in the tourism sector.
- > Developing the Strategy ;
- > Organizing monitoring and assessment of the Strategy.

5. Main challenges

- > Difficulty in gathering information on energy consumption within the municipality
- > Little interest from nearby communities to participate in information day, and help to get a clear vision on energy efficiency and RES in the municipality;

6. Key actors and their role

Energy companies, financial institutions, construction and public transport companies, environmental associations, local administrations, agricultural associations, technical and trade associations, certifica-

tion & standardisation institutions, mass media, educational community and groups of citizens – stakeholder groups consulted in the process of Strategy development and data collection; subsequently their role is/will be to promote and apply the RES (geothermal, solar, biomass, small hydro) and energy efficiency in the building stock and industry.

Responsibility for implementation: Sapareva Banya Municipality & SOFENA

7. Main steering instrument(s) used by municipality

- > Municipal Development Plan 2007-2013

8. Concrete miniproject results

Retrofitting of the public buildings and use of the released capacity to supply 30-40 private houses.

- > Strengthened dialogue between municipal and external experts, investors and inhabitants.
- > Promotion of municipal energy policy and creation of an important strategic document
- > Starting with campaigns for climate protection at the local level
- > Capacity building of municipal employees.

9. Added values/lessons for transfer and dissemination:

- > Strategical thinking how to convince private to join the RES and RUE activities.
- > Public participation experience - consulting various local stakeholders during development of the strategies
- > Tehnical solution - heating of hotels and private houses with modern automatic biomass boilers and extension of the geothermal heating plant
- > exemplary solutions or how to increase the use of these equipment?

AFTER INTENSE

10. Financing plan

The implementation of the Strategy will be financially covered by the European and national funds, third part financing and municipal budget.

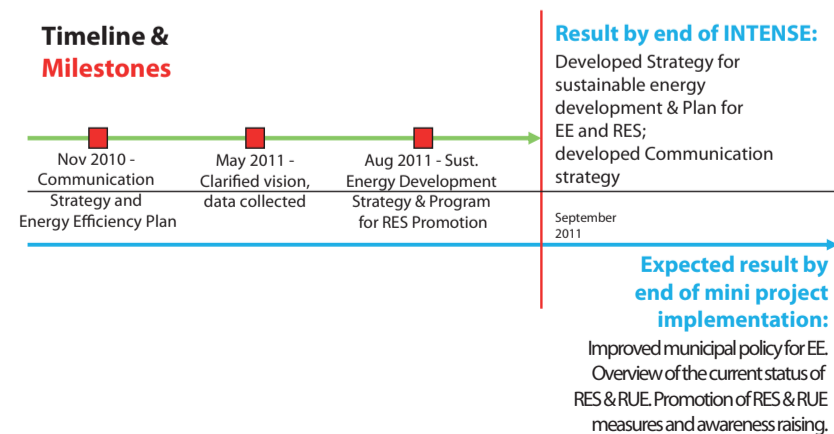
11. Expected result by end of the total project

Connection of private residential buidlings to geothermal heating plant

- > Developed legislative requirements – Program for EE and RES, leading to the reduction of energy costs;
- > Establishing good investment climate for EE&RES projects: creation of new local business opportunities, increase of agricultural and eco-tourism and of the local income;
- > Transfer of technological know-how to local manufacturers, promotion of best practices and BAT.

12. CO₂ reduction potential of the project:

The replacement of fossil fuels with RES and more effective utilization of geothermal and biomass resources will lead to reduction of CO₂ emissions with at least 15% by 2020



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