

New sustainable energy guide for local authorities

- A new guide has been published for local authorities to help local authorities work better together on their sustainable energy initiatives.
- The guide culminates the work of the three-year Intelligent Energy Europe-funded Coopenergy project which sought to test and share the best models of 'cooperation' between regional and local authorities.
- Through the project seven sustainable energy regions tested different mechanisms for working better across local authority partners on joint energy plans and energy schemes. These partners have now selected the best models and mechanisms they tested to showcase in the guide.
- The guide includes:
 - A step-by-step methodology for setting up a collaborative, partnership-led, energy process.
 - Good practice case studies of energy initiatives from across Europe, from a database of over 60 available on the Coopenergy website.
 - Links to further resources, guidance and funding.
- The new guide is available at: <http://www.coopenergy.eu/mlg>

Samantha Simmons, Environmental Projects Officer at Kent County Council, said: "The Coopenergy project has really helped us to identify the best methods for working collaboratively with our local partners on energy work. Over the past few months we have been working with partners to refresh our Kent Environment Strategy: a strategy for environment, health and economy, to ensure the next iteration of the strategy delivers on our joint outcomes, maximises resources across partners, and limits duplication of effort. This way, we can deliver more effectively to the benefit of our customers, residents and the wider Kent economy. The guide is a culmination of this work and aims to support other local authorities looking to improve how they work collaboratively across their districts and counties on sustainable energy initiatives"

Notes to editors

- The guide was produced by seven sustainable energy regions through the COOPENERGY project.
- COOPENERGY is a three year project developing resources to support local authorities to take a collaborative, partnership approach to delivering sustainable energy initiatives. The project is co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme of the European Union
- More information on the Coopenergy project: <http://www.coopenergy.eu>
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