

MORE ENERGY TO SCHOOLS - MORE ENERGY TO THE CITY

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"More Energy to schools - more Energy to the city" is a campaign of the Energy Management Bureau of the Municipality of Modena aimed to reduce Energy consumption (and expenses) in schools, promote in students an higher awareness and commitment on Energy usage both in school and in everyday life through a mechanism of savings sharing between School and Municipality in order to provide economical resources for teachers, students and school administrators.

Actually, the critical point in many Energy Saving in Building ventures comes from the fact that people in charge (or merely involved) of a complex are not the same people in charge of paying the bills of it. Worse of it, no saving which can be achieved in the building management is allowed to return as fresh resources to the people who gained it. Therefore no active partnership is won and no appreciable results may be billed.

The core of the campaign is a Voluntary Pact subscribed by the Principal (or Headmaster) of the school, the Energy Manager of the Municipality and the Manager of the Energy & Sustainable Development Agency whose main issues are:

- Raise the profile of Energy in student's curriculum;
- Promote awareness of Energy usage and associated environmental issues;
- Drive people (students, teachers, parents) to make behavioural changes with regard to Energy usage;
- Reduce Energy consumption in the schools premises and within the wider community.

Schools will be monitored either by the students themselves (i.e. Energy patrols) and the E.M. Bureau in order to achieve an overall better Energy-efficiency.

Energy standards (minimum up to 5 years) are fixed in order to draw a reference value to be compared with actual year's consumption net of seasonal temperature fluctuation, budgets will thus be reviewed annually and utilities tariffs evaluated at a fixed date: any saving recorded will be halved, part to the school to buy educational gear part to Municipality itself. It is important to remark that the school may tie a kind of binding on the former thus easing the people involved "to act locally but think globally".

Schools which are involved in the campaign will be offered support and encouragement by the Municipality and the Agency through information on other school's results (to get reference standards), ideas and didactic paths exchange, publicity of achievements, technical information, measuring equipment besides, obviously, Energy Audits and historical data on Energy usage.

Up to now only 4 schools (primary) are involved in the campaign (started in February) because of a strong passive resistance of the bulk of the Headmasters which expressed their thoughts by saying the bother it's not worthwhile and that, after all, to save Energy and get the money needed is some other's task, not a teacher's one. On the other hand it's interesting to remark that all the schools involved show a peculiar interest in environmental issue i.e. they agree to an Agenda XXI program and so on.

Energy Audits have been made on each building and historical data on Energy usage have been recorded (see annex).

A list of question on Energy has been issued but results are not yet systemised.