



COGEN Europe
The European Association for the Promotion of
Cogeneration

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COGENERATION ON THE RISE!

COGEN Challenge Achieves an Important Milestone – 500 Cogeneration Units from 19 European Countries Registered

As the 500th cogeneration unit is registered in the on-line database, the COGEN Challenge project team claims that cogeneration in Europe is more reliable and widely applied than previously assumed. The use of small-scale cogeneration in homes, swimming pools and hotels is better accepted than people may think. Policy-makers should therefore be more confident in the promotion of cogeneration and include it as a central part of their energy planning.

COGEN Challenge is the European information campaign on small-scale cogeneration. The project, which is financed by the Intelligent Energy Programme of the European Union, aims to have a database of 1,000 existing small-scale cogeneration units (<1MWe) by the end of 2007. In addition, the project partners offer guidance with the development of small-scale cogeneration projects through a complete set of tools and support materials.

The 500th installation to register with COGEN Challenge is a new small-scale cogeneration plant in Liège (Belgium). Verlac, the host company, needs both the electricity and the heat from the 50kWe for the production of plastic covers for brochures and magazines. The installation runs on rapeseed oil and receives a bonus of 150 Euros for each MWh of electricity, based on the green certificates mechanism in place in Wallonia – instead of about 30 Euros for a cogeneration system running on natural gas. In addition the micro-cogeneration saves 156,000 kilograms of CO₂ emissions per year.

“Cogeneration is a very efficient way to produce energy”, COGEN Challenge project manager Stefan Craenen points out. “If you generate electricity and heat together the primary energy is used to the fullest. In the current move towards energy efficiency and CO₂ reduction, cogeneration is a mature technology which can contribute significantly to EU aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 percent until 2020. On the basis of the findings of COGEN Challenge the EU should be more assertive in promoting and accelerating its pro-cogeneration policy.”

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The COGEN Challenge project is supported by the Intelligent Energy Programme of the Directorate-General Energy of the European Union. The project aims to expand the use of cogeneration, focussing on small units up to 1 MWe. The project is coordinated by COGEN Europe. Project partners are the European city networks Climate Alliance and Energie-Cités as well as Jozef Stefan Institute (Slovenia), Institut de Conseil et d'Etudes en Développement Durable (Belgium), Rhônealpeénergie-Environnement (France), Fundación Asturiana de la Energía (Spain), city of Frankfurt am Main (Germany) and Grazer Energieagentur (Austria).

CHP, Combined Heat and Power, or cogeneration is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. This proven technology produces around 10% of Europe's electricity and heat requirements and has a significant growth potential, which will lead to an improved environment and greater economic competitiveness. It is a highly efficient energy solution that delivers substantial reductions in greenhouse gases and other pollutants and is the single largest solution to meeting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change for Europe.

COGEN Europe is Europe's umbrella organisation representing the interests of the cogeneration industry, users of the technology and promoting its benefits in the EU and the wider Europe. The association is backed by the key players in the industry including gas and electricity companies, ESCOs, equipment suppliers, consultancies, national promotion organisations, financial and other service companies