

# KOŠICE'S NEW ENERGY DEPARTMENT INTRODUCES RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND OTHER ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES

CITY OF KOŠICE  
(Slovakia)

## Summary

The city's energy department was created in January 2009. Its principal task is to manage the city's energy agenda, analyse its energy consumption, propose energy saving measures and increase the capacity of municipal employees to deal with energy issues and relevant national legislation. The energy advisory centre which was set up within the municipal office in cooperation with the [Energy Centre Bratislava](#), provides the consultancy services for citizens free of charge. The city of **Košice** has implemented several measures to cut its energy consumption:

- Integration of new heating technologies (cogeneration, heat pumps),
- Retrofitting of buildings,
- Switch to a natural gas fuel for public transport buses,
- Investment in a municipal boiler house with integrated cogeneration unit fuelled by biomass.



# Short presentation of Košice

**City of Košice**, the second largest city of Slovakia, is located in Eastern Slovakia, about 20 kilometres from the Hungarian, 80 kilometres from the Ukrainian and 90 kilometres from the Polish borders. Košice is the most important economic agglomeration and still crossroad of transportation routes with rail connection and international airport.

The municipal heating company -Tepláreň Košice - ensures a significant part of the heat supply through a cogeneration unit using natural gas and black coal. A 104 km long warm water piping system and 23 km long steam thermal networks are supplying more than 75 000 households and other buildings of public and private sector. In addition to the main boiler house, several smaller boiler houses on the basis of natural gas are mainly located in the individual housing area. A project to switch the cogeneration unit to biomass use is in progress.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kellycain/2572946088/>

## Sustainable energy development approach

### How Košice started

The city administration carried out an analysis of the overall energy consumption. The results served as a basis for the identification of efficient measures, setting up the priorities and implementation of individual action plans and specific projects reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

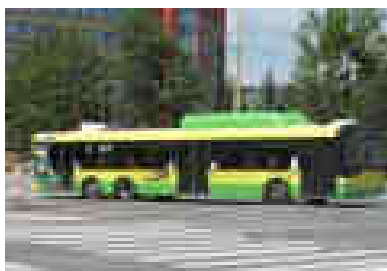
In 2007, the city adopted a municipal energy strategy. Its objectives are to ensure the efficient use of heat energy and continuous economic development. In order to contribute to the achievement of its objectives, the city decided to modernise its heat production.

Since 2008 the city of Košice is a member of the Interest Association of Sustainable Energy Municipalities - CITENERGO. The city energy department was created in January 2009.

In cooperation with the NGOs and energy consultancy company - Energy Centre Bratislava and En-Efekt, s.r.o. - the city performs energy audits in private and public buildings.

### Current situation of Košice

To modernise the heat production, the city converts the fuel use from gas and coal into biomass and geothermal energy. As the city is not the owner of the district heating system it could not intervene directly and take decision. However, it sufficiently motivated local private actors such as the district heating company, the state owned forest management company and others to commit to the achievement of local energy objectives through creation of favourable conditions and their active involvement in development and implementation of local energy strategy.



Košice's Transportation Company switched some of the buses to natural gas. The recently created energy department has ambitions to inform the broad public about energy saving and the implementation of modern energy technologies.

In order to reduce the energy consumption in the building sector, a thermal insulation of residential buildings takes place in the city. Most of them are realised by the associations of home owners and financed from their own financial sources as the city has not allocated any municipal budget for

such projects.

The city also plans to modernise the lighting devices in the buildings and streets and to use energy efficient light bulbs.

The energy advisory centre which was set up within the municipal office in cooperation with the [Energy Centre Bratislava](#) provides the consultancy services for citizens free of charge.

## Main achievements

- Integration of new heating technologies (cogeneration, heat pumps)
- Retrofitting of buildings
- Switch to a natural gas fuel for public transport buses
- Investment in municipal boiler house with integrated cogeneration unit fuelled by biomass
- Advisory services for citizens and their awareness raising
- Cooperation with private companies and local actors on the development and the implementation of a city energy strategy

Electricity consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased and will continue to decrease thanks to further measures taken in public buildings. The new cogeneration unit (Raden company) and a heat pump were installed in several city's retirement houses. This installation is very interesting in ecological and economical terms.



## Suggestions for other municipalities

The municipality achieved better results when it set up clear priorities (heat energy savings, refurbishment of public buildings, use of local renewable energy sources etc.) and focused more intensively on the energy saving issues.

The cooperation with experts from the Energy Centre Bratislava helped to realise an extensive information campaign for citizens in the area of energy savings.

The city membership in the Association of Sustainable Energy Municipalities - CITENERGO facilitated the exchange of experiences and cooperation with other Slovak cities active in the energy field.

## MODEL Partner responsible for this case study: Energie-Cités

Energie-Cités is the association of European local authorities for the promotion of local sustainable energy policies. This network represents more than 1000 towns and cities in 26 countries. Energie-Cités builds European projects for helping its different members. Its main objectives are:

- to develop initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know-how and the organisation of joint projects,
- to allow partners to benefit from shared expertise in local energy strategies,
- to strengthen its partners' role and skills in the sphere of energy efficiency, in the promotion of renewable and decentralized energy sources and in protection of the environment,



- to influence the policies and proposals made by the European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy.

Please visit the web page [www.energie-cites.eu](http://www.energie-cites.eu) for more information

## Observer MODEL Partner: CITENERGO Association

CITENERGO Association was created following an initiative of the Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (the UTCS) and Energy Centre Bratislava in the framework of pan European BISE Process.

The Declaration of Association's establishment was signed on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the Municipal Office in Trenčín at the Union of Towns and Cities Presidium meeting.

CITENERGO's main objectives include:

- Preparation of energy policies
- Ensuring energy efficiency and the use of local renewable energy resources
- Providing information on supporting financial mechanisms
- Mediation of financial and investment counselling in preparation and implementation of specific projects

Please visit the web page [www.unia-miest.sk](http://www.unia-miest.sk) for more information



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