



ENERGY AND BIOMASS

Content

- 72 schools, kindergartens, and community centres will be equipped with biomass-based heating systems in 2012
- Villages from Soldanesti, Rezina, Orhei, Ungheni and Anenii Noi districts get involved in the selection of institutions to be heated with biomass energy
- A study to estimate the potential for biomass briquetting has been launched
- Agricultural entrepreneurs from the northern region learn how to convert agricultural wastes into fuel
- Students of the university "Alec Russo" from Balti learned a great deal about the biomass energy
- The Energy and Biomass project participated at Moldenergy 2012 and at the Moldovan-German symposium
- Energel is the mascot of the educational initiative promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency

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Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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PROJECT NEWS



72 SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS, AND COMMUNITY CENTRES WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH BIOMASS-BASED HEATING SYSTEMS IN 2012

As presented at the Project National Council meeting held on April 25, 2012, led by Deputy Prime Minister Valeriu Lazăr Minister of Economy, and Chairman of the National Council of the Energy and Biomass Project, one of the priorities of the Energy and Biomass Project in Moldova is its participation in 13 new Rayons.

Valeriu Lazăr stated in the meeting, *"Along with the development of the demand for biomass fuel we shall ensure the supply side as well, having encouraged the development of this industry to collect and process agricultural waste on a competitive basis amongst private operators"*.

The Minister believes that the Agency for Energy Efficiency (AEE) will become the core entity that coordinates field-related activities, while the actions taken by other public authorities should have a bridging effect with the AEE efforts. Additionally, Deputy Prime Minister Valeriu Lazăr requested the expediting of the performance evaluation process of the biomass processing equipment to establish specific technical standards that local producers may follow. In a different approach, the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out the need to improve the statistics system in the area of renewable energy sources usage, biomass inclusive.

This year, the Energy and Biomass Project will undertake actions to install alternative, biomass-based, heating systems in rural municipal institutions already selected through open competition in Glodeni, Donduseni, Soroca, Riscani, Floresti, Anenii Noi, Orhei, Rezina, Soldanesti, Ungheni, Basarabeasca, Cimislia, and Cahul Rayons. The Energy and Biomass Project will cover the expenses associated with the

installation of the alternative heating systems and procurement of boilers, while the selected villages will contribute a minimum of 15% of the total investment value. It is worth mentioning that the Project involved nine new Rayons during the course of 2011. Thanks to the new energy source, 72 rural schools, kindergartens, and community centres will be heated with biomass fuel during the next heating season. Overall, more than 15,000 people will directly benefit from the new energy source. By 2014, the Energy and Biomass Project will be active in all Rayons, and more than 130 Villages will have reliable and sustainable systems for supplying biomass-based energy, with the potential spread across the country.

The information on the training sessions was also presented at the Project National Council meeting. This information was presented for all who will potentially be involved with the project, including the local government representatives, managers of the institutions connected to the biomass-based heating systems, boiler operators, and biomass fuel producers and suppliers who have already worked within the framework of the project, as well as those who will be involved in 2012.

The Moldova Energy and Biomass Project is a four-year project implemented during 2011-2014. The project total budgeted amount is 14.56 Million EUR, provided by the European Union (14 Million EUR) and by UNDP Moldova (560,000 EUR). The Energy and Biomass Project Council comprises representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, representatives of the Agency for Energy Efficiency, Local Public Authorities Congress, civil society, the EU Delegation, and UNDP Moldova.



VILLAGES FROM SOLDANESTI, REZINA, ORHEI, UNGHENI AND ANENII NOI DISTRICTS GET INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF INSTITUTIONS TO BE HEATED WITH BIOMASS ENERGY

Villages from Soldanesti, Rezina, Orhei, Ungheni and Anenii Noi districts will now get involved in the selection of institutions to be heated with biomass fuel. From April 5-20, 62 rural communities have submitted letters of interest stating their willingness to install biomass based heating systems in schools, kindergartens, community centres, and in other rural public buildings.

The winning communities will be selected based on predefined criteria through a competitive and transparent process involving multiple stages. For the selection stage the participant villages shall submit the following:

1. evidence of reliable source of biomass fuel supply and of funds for fuel purchasing,
2. availability of appropriate municipal buildings to be connected to the new heating system,
3. storages in place to store the biomass fuel,
4. community commitment and motivation to switch to alternative heating sources.

"Switching to alternative energy sources and increasing energy efficiency – these are relatively new terms for Moldova, though extremely important. We import 95% of energy resources without employing our own energy sources, although the benefits, in particular, the economic ones, are obvious", Alexandru Relitchi, Chairman of Soldanesti District stated at the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project launching event on April 3, 2012 in the town of Soldanesti.

"When the prices of imported natural gas go up we need a beneficial and reliable alternative. Biomass is the most relevant heat supply alternative for rural communities. We highly appreciate the financial support provided by the European Union and UNDP Moldova aimed at connecting the rural municipal institutions to alternative heating systems, which is an extremely valuable investment for us", Elena Graur, Chairperson of Rezina District pointed out.

During the period of May 2011 through March 2012, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project covered 12 districts in which 58 villages were selected to connect their rural public buildings to biomass-based heating systems. Overall, 41 schools, 25 kindergartens, three community centres, two Mayor's Offices and one dormitory will be heated with biomass fuel during the next heating season. Most of the costs related to alternative heating system installation is covered by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, and the village contribution amounts for up to 15% of the total value of the investment.

51 villages from Soldanesti, Rezina, Orhei, Ungheni, and Anenii Noi rayons have passed the first selection stage

On April 27, 2012 the members of the Selection Committee reviewed 59 applications for connecting the municipal institutions to the biomass heating systems. Applications were received from Soldanesti, Rezina, Orhei, Ungheni, and Anenii Noi Rayons, and the Selection Panel approved 51 Villages for the next stage.

A STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL FOR BIOMASS BRIQUETTING HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

The Energy and Biomass Project has launched a National Study on the Potential for Biomass Briquetting. The Study will focus on, but not be limited to, the identification of volumes of biomass for briquet-



ting and on its grouping by categories like agricultural or timber waste. Likewise, the Study's objective is to identify the manufacturers of briquetting machines and the producers of briquettes and pellets in Moldova, to identify the household preferences in terms of using the biomass for energy purposes, and the willingness of the Local Public Authorities (LPAs) to create public-private partnerships aiming at biomass exploitation and enhancement of local energy safety.

Due to this study, four biomass briquetting enterprises will be piloted. As a result, one LPA from each region (North, Centre, South, and ATU GagauzYeri) of the country would benefit from non-repayable money to purchase such type of machinery. To this end, a national contest will be launched to select the municipalities. It is envisaged to install the four briquette production lines by 2013.



AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE NORTHERN REGION LEARN HOW TO CONVERT AGRICULTURAL WASTES INTO FUEL

More than 30 agricultural entrepreneurs from Falesti, Telenesti, and Sangerei districts have learned how to produce fuel from agricultural residues. The present and future producers of biomass fuel have attended a training course, organized on March 21st in Balti, where they acquired knowledge about the modern production processes, storage and marketing of baled straw for energy purposes, and technologies and equipment for the production of briquettes and pellets out of agricultural wastes.

The training was provided by the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project as a response to the multiple requests expressed by agricultural entrepreneurs to acquire knowledge and information on the technologies and the production of biofuels from agricultural wastes. A similar training session was conducted in Comrat on April 3rd for districts from

ATUGagauzYeri. The agricultural entrepreneurs from Donduseni, Soroca, Riscani, and Glodeni districts – the first districts where the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has launched its activities in 2012, will attend such training sessions during April to June.

"We would like to launch the production of briquettes from straw this year. The briquetting market started developing rather recently; therefore, we have access to limited information on how to turn the agricultural wastes into briquettes and pellets. This is why the information received at the training session is useful and of great need, especially the ones on the types of biomass compacting, the equipment used for the respective process, as well as the information on the briquetting technologies and required equipment", said Valentina Salnic, an agricultural entrepreneur from Alexandreni Village, Sangerei district.

Thanks to this training, the agricultural entrepreneurs – potential suppliers of biomass fuel, do not consider straw as waste for disposal anymore, rather they see it as a commodity that can be sold on the market. The farmers who participated in this event also benefited from the specialized training on the advantages of straw as an energy source, the baling process, types of straw bales and baling equipment available on the market, appropriate storage of straw bundles, potential of straw as bio-energy material, and the process of converting straw into fuel in the form of briquettes and pellets.



STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY "ALECU RUSSO" FROM BALTI LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE BIOMASS ENERGY

Upon the invitation of the UN Documentation Centre, the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project held a public presentation for a group of students and lecturers of the State University "Alec Russo" from Balti on May 3rd, 2012.

Approximately 50 students and lecturers from different University departments received information on the project activity on the biomass energy benefits and energy efficiency from the first source. The participants were willing to find out what energy efficiency measures they could undertake to increase the thermal comfort within the University blocks and to cut down the expenses incurred for heating and electric power and to minimize environmental pollution.

"Sometimes in winter it is unbearably cold, especially in the library. Lecturers and students asked questions and made comments such as: How could we turn the University premises into energy efficient ones? Shall we install biomass heating systems or is there a more appropriate renewable energy source?";

"This winter my parents used briquettes instead of coal and wood. They were satisfied with that: the briquettes burn as good as coal does, however, they are less expensive. Also, the briquette ash can be used as organic fertilizer";

"Where can we acquire more knowledge about the biomass energy from? I am eager to pursue studies in the area of renewable energy".

The Energy and Biomass Project presentation was held at the University in Balti in the Environmental Bi-monthly framework.

THE ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT PARTICIPATED AT MOLDENERGY 2012 AND AT THE MOLDOVAN-GERMAN SYMPOSIUM

The Energy and Biomass Project participated at the MOLDENERGY 2012 Exhibition in Chisinau from March 14-17, 2012. MOLDENERGY is an international specialized exhibition, that promotes the use of renewable energy sources and conservation of energy, enhancement of energy efficiency, demonstrates the latest achievements in this area, and contributes to their implementation in the energy sector of the country.

At the exhibition, the Energy and Biomass Project conducted a seminar to introduce the project. This was attended by more than 50 people, mainly entrepreneurs, and representatives of the local government, academic environment, and civil society. The Project Team showed an active involvement at the presentation and answered the questions of visitors who were interested to learn more. More than 70 companies from Moldova, Belarus, France, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine participated at this exhibition.

The Energy and Biomass Project held a presentation at the Moldovan-German Symposium on Water Supply, Sanitation and Energy Efficiency, conducted



on March 20th, 2012 in Chisinau. The event was attended by more than 50 representatives of the business environment from the Republic of Moldova and by 26 Businessmen from Germany. The line Ministries, institutions, and organizations working and rendering services in the energy sector each gave presentations at the event. The local and foreign experts tackled the energy efficiency development trends in the Republic of Moldova, Germany, and the EU. The event was organized by the Chamber of Trade and Industry with financial support from the Eastern Committee of German Economy.

ENERGEL IS THE MASCOT OF THE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The educational initiative aimed at promoting the renewable energy has got a Mascot – ENERGEL. It is children's and teenager's friend and leads them through the book dedicated to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"Hello! My name is Energel and I will guide you through all these pages to discover together that all the things surrounding us contain energy: the Sun, the wind, and the plants. I will be your friend and guide during this travel, which would be both interesting and useful for life" – this is the greeting message of Energel addressed to the youth.

The educational initiative is aimed at promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency and was launched this Spring within the framework of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. It currently comprises 38 schools from villages which would connect their municipal institutions to biomass heating systems during the course of 2012 with the support provided by the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. The initiative will include communities from

Stefan Voda, Leova, Falesti, ATU GagauzYeri, Cantemir, Sangerei, Hincesti, and Telenesti Rayons.

Over the course of March-May 2012, more than 2,600 students in the 7th and 8th grades are involved in a variety of educational activities dedicated to renewable energy and energy

efficiency. These activities included debates, discussion clubs, excursions, on-line classes/lessons, watching and discussing films on alternative energy sources, exhibitions, contests of topic-related projects, etc. The most interested children will participate at a summer camp dedicated to renewable energy and energy efficiency.



To find systematized information about biomass heating systems installed in rural public institutions within Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, follow this link: <http://www.undp.md/projects/Biomass/Heating%20systems%20installed%20in%20public%20rural%20institutions.pdf>

EVENTS CALENDAR:

3–20 may	Community awareness and needs assessment meetings in the selected rural communities of Glodeni, Donduseni, Rascani, and Soroca districts.
10 may–13 june	Trainings for municipal leaders and boiler operators from Glodeni, Donduseni, Rascani, and Soroca districts.
12 may	Chisinau: Moldova Energy and Biomass Project participation at Europe Day.
15 may	Braviceni, Orhei: Project participation at the National Forum on Rural Development
18 may	Soroca: Training for biomass fuel suppliers from Donduseni and Soroca districts.
19 may	Moldova Energy and Biomass Project participation at Europe Day, Comrat
19 may	Launch of biomass heating system in Community Center and Kindergarten from Carbalia village (Comrat)
1 june	Rascani: Training for biomass fuel suppliers from Glodeni and Rascani districts.
7–17 june	Dumbrava, StefanVoda: Bioenergy summer camp for the most active students in the framework of the Educational Initiative promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.
may	Chisinau: Workshop "Identification of Legal Constraints in Biomass Fuel Production"

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.