

Impacts of Our Expert
Policy Assistance

Europe

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Section 1: Country-Specific Impacts:

Albania

1. Guiding Residential Energy Efficiency Retrofits

The Clean Energy Solutions Center responded to a request from the Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development Albania, which promotes a new model of governance by coordinating different types of organizations in equal partnerships to foster sustainable regional development. RCE Albania works with local governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academia, focusing on sustainable architecture and green building, capacity building, and other areas related to sustainable development.



The Solutions Center produced a residential energy efficiency retrofit guide for RCE Albania, which included two case studies of whole-building retrofits in Europe for single and multi-family homes to demonstrate what could be achieved through energy efficiency retrofit projects throughout Albania.

Impact of Assistance

The assistance provided to Albania by the Clean Energy Solutions Center will help the country become more energy efficient, particularly in the residential sector. Energy efficiency is considered to be the most cost-effective strategy for emissions reductions. Albania's current National Energy Efficiency Action Plan has established a target of a 9% reduction in energy use by 2018. This is well below the European Union's mandated 20% reduction in energy use by 2020 for its member states, which Albania considers important because it has applied for EU member status.

Albania has taken important steps toward achieving these reductions by requiring energy efficiency standards for new construction. Law No. 8937 defined minimal thermal efficiency standards for new construction, and Law No. 10113 mandates compliance with energy efficiency standards. Albania is working towards the development and passage of an

updated Law on Energy Efficiency, which will build a framework for enforcement and implementation of national energy efficiency priorities that have previously remained unenforced.

However, substantial opportunities for achieving energy reductions and cost savings still remain for existing buildings, particularly in the residential sector. To achieve national targets, a 22% reduction in residential energy use will be required by 2018. Data from Albania's National Energy Efficiency Plan show that residential usage is driven by electricity, which is being increasingly used for heating in urban areas. According the International Energy Agency, the residential sector represented the highest energy consumption for electricity and heat in Albania in 2011.

The Solutions Center produced a guide for residential energy efficiency retrofits that supports Albania's Energy Chapter of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) strategy, which recognizes education as an important tool for achieving sustainable development.

The Residential Energy Efficiency Guide was presented at a roundtable forum 26 June 2014 in Albania. Discussions at the meeting included legal aspects and framework, architecture and design, certification and auditing, country-specific conditions, pilot projects in the field, and consumer perspectives. The results of this meeting will be part of the energy chapter of Albania's "Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development for Albania."

2. Supporting Residential Energy Efficiency Programs

Through its Ask an Expert assistance program, the Clean Energy Solutions Center has responded to two requests for assistance from the Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Middle Albania (RCE Middle Albania).



The Albania Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and the National Agency of Natural Resources are working towards the development and passage of an updated Law on Energy Efficiency that is designed to build a framework for enforcement and implementation of national energy efficiency priorities. To achieve Albania's energy goals,

governmental and business stakeholders identified two key action areas: residential energy efficiency and vocational energy efficiency training.

In response, RCE Middle Albania contacted the Solutions Center for assistance. RCE Middle Albania's [first request](#) was to support residential energy efficiency in Albania.

Demonstrating what energy efficiency retrofit projects could achieve, Solutions Center experts developed a guide that included case studies of whole-building retrofits in Europe for single and multi-family homes.

RCE Middle Albania submitted a second request for Solutions Center assistance in response to the second key action area—vocational energy efficiency training. This training is important because Albania's national energy efficiency priorities include a requirement for licensing energy auditors through the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy. Audit requirements and energy savings performance contracting models will require a workforce of trained local professionals to provide efficiency services and support meeting energy efficiency goals.

RCE Middle Albania, particularly interested in the link between investment in energy efficiency and job creation, wanted to review best practices in energy efficiency education from the United States and Europe. The Solutions Center responded by researching and providing case studies that offer examples of larger-scale educational certification efforts and training programs.

Impact of Assistance

The resulting report will provide guidance and potential program models as Albania moves forward with a stronger legislative framework for energy efficiency.

The two guides produced by the Clean Energy Solutions Center for RCE Middle Albania have been extremely helpful in reaching our residential energy efficiency and energy efficiency training goals. Because I think this information could be useful for other regions, I recently shared the guides with other RCEs, who were very interested in them. —Kalterina Shulla, RCE Albania

Section 2: Additional Assistance Provided

- The Solutions Center provided **Austria** with biofuels policy and program information.
- The Solutions Center provided **Denmark** information about wind incentives that are in place in other countries.
- The Clean Energy Solutions Center provided information on the potential for in-pipe hydropower development as part of **Georgia**'s low emission development strategy and clean energy strategy.
- The Solutions Center provided **Greece** information to support its clean energy and sustainable development initiative.
- The Solutions Center provided **Israel** information on mechanisms that have proven successful in financing clean energy projects.
- The Solutions Center provided consultation to **Poland** on different renewable energy support systems, including how the United States structures its renewable energy support and taxation schemes at both federal and state levels.
- The Solutions Center provided resources to **Switzerland** on establishing systems for tracking and analyzing sources of market data to inform clean energy policy making.