

Joint SEAPS in Austria and Germany

Shaping successful collaboration



A Covenant of Mayors Success Story

Spark climate action and intermunicipal cooperation through a joint Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) within the Covenant of Mayors.

Waldviertlerkernland (Austria) and Aller-Leine-Valley (Germany) decided to join the renowned Covenant of Mayors as a group of local authorities in 2013, giving their actions more visibility in their region and abroad. Because of the politically binding character of the Covenant and the commitment to a biannual monitoring, the initiative helps to ensure the continuity of their climate actions. Not to mention regional potentials which can be taken advantage of: Aller-Leine-Valley is now evaluating possibilities of geothermal heat and heat generation from running water in the region, while Waldviertlerkernland points out the advantages of organising information events and energy days at regional level.

Define a coordinator and elaborate structures for cooperation

Institutionalised structures dedicated to stake-

- Save human resources!
 - Tap into regional potentials!
- Benefit from synergies!
- Save financial resources!

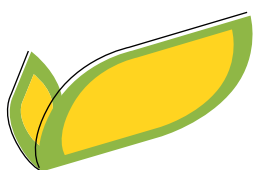


holder inclusion as well as a coordinator following-up the process are vital for successful cooperation. Yet, it is not always necessary to reinvent the wheel! The local authorities of Waldviertlerkernland and Aller-Leine-Valley have a long history of cooperation and built upon already existing structures. The Waldviertlerkernland decided to appoint the climate manager of their climate and energy model region – a programme of the Austrian government – as their coordinator. In the Aller-Leine-Valley the contents of the SEAP were discussed in a steering group on energy, which was set up in 2012 in the framework of the EU LEADER project.

Involve multiple stakeholders in your group

In both groups involving stakeholders proved to be a good strategy to increase knowledge, find partners and overcome the challenge of limited human resources. On top of representatives of the municipalities, the steering group on energy of the Aller-Leine-Valley includes planners, deENet (a regional network around decentralised energy and energy efficient technologies), and academia. The Waldviertlerkernland involved their regional energy agency in the Joint SEAP elaboration. Having multiple actors at the table made it furthermore easier to tackle financial bottlenecks.

Take advantage of the Covenant of Mayors to spark climate action and intermunicipal cooperation in your region!



A joint SEAP

- refers to a plan that is carried out collectively by a group of neighbouring local authorities.
- includes a common vision, preparing an emission inventory and defining a set of actions to be implemented both individually and jointly in the concerned territory.
- aims at fostering institutional cooperation and joint approaches among local authorities operating in the same territorial area.

More information:
www.covenantofmayors.eu