

Sector: RES

Country: Germany

Location: Lüchow-Dannenberg

# LÜCHOW - DANNENBERG

Planning the changeover to RES  
within 10 to 15 years

## Background

Lüchow-Dannenberg is situated in a very remote area of Lower Saxony (Northern Germany). Three quarters of the district-border were also border of the former Eastern Germany.

The district has 52,000 inhabitants spread over 1,200 km<sup>2</sup>, which means a very low population density (42 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>). Most of the land is under agricultural or forestry use. With this low population density the district is well suited to cover its energy requirements with renewable energy, especially from biomass and wind.

The Lüchow-Dannenberg district plays a key role in German energy policy, because of the planned final disposal of nuclear waste in Gorleben which is a small village in the eastern part of the district. Therefore the population is very sensitive to topics concerning energy and highly motivated to take part in energy saving actions.

For an underdeveloped region with a high percentage of unemployment such a mobilisation of its own resources symbolises great added value and, at the same time, a stimulation of the employment market as well as a protection of insecure jobs in the agricultural area and forestry.

### Promoter

District Luechow – Dannenberg

### Parties Involved

Niedersächsische Energieagentur

ReEnergie Wendland

AVACON AG

Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts- und Beschäftigungsförderung

University of Lüneburg

Fachverband Bio-gas e.V.



Rural Energy Consultants visiting a Biogas Unit

## Objectives

The aim of the district concept is to change the complete energy supply to climate-friendly renewable energy sources. This aim could be reached within 10 to 15 years. The first rough estimation shows that approx. 55% of the primary energy requirement of the district may be covered by biomass, approx. 15% by wind energy and approx. 20% by savings and efficiency gains.

The aim is to prove that the various energy sources as wind, sun and biomass can be linked in such a way as to guarantee a reliable and tailor-made energy supply.

Therefore, the main objective is to produce 60 MW of wind power; 20 MW with bio-gas block heating systems (BHKW) and 30 MW with wood and biomass BHKW.

The idea to change the energy supply to RES was created by an Agenda 21 Group, who worked for about two years in a round table for "Energy and Climate Protection". This idea was accepted by the district administration and the local politicians. The district assembly passed a resolution to support these plans.

## Actions

- Changeover of power supply in Lüchow – Dannenberg to renewable energy sources (RES) within 10 years.
- The bio-gas and potatoe amniotic fluid concept.
- Construction of 50 bio-gas power stations.
- A company serves as a central office for the control and monitoring of all decentralised plants for a demand orientated power supply.
- Complete changeover of the power supply to RES on a long term basis.
- Energy saving campaign and increase of energy efficiency in all sectors.

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#### Financing

The estimated investment costs are about 240,000,000 Euro

**Private investments:** 70 - 80 %

**Government of Lower Saxony:** 5 -10% from structure and energy funds

**Federal Government:** 15 -20% from the new "Marktanreizprogramm"  
(market promotion programme for renewable energy)

Financial support for the first steps is given by the ALTENER-Programme.

Within 18 months the following work programme will be finished.

- Phase 1: Situation audit and determination of potential.
- Phase 2: Motivation of the population to active participation by target group specific information campaigns.
- Phase 3: Planning of a 100% supply by renewable energy sources.
- Phase 4: Evaluation of the results and deduction of medium-range targets.
- Phase 5: Announcement of the model, results and medium-range targets.

#### Management

District Lüchow-Dannenberg

#### Monitoring

District Lüchow – Dannenberg

Niedersächsische Energieagentur

#### Contact

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