



Sustainable
Energy
Communities



Tool No: 2.6.3 Guidelines / Catalogue / Web help desk

SEC-TOOLBOX

Tool Category no. 2.6 Development Options

Overview	
ID-number	2.6.4
Name	ESC Guide
Date	2004
Type	Guidelines, help desk, debate forum
Language	English
Developer	European Renewable Energy Council
Contact Data	www.esc-forum.net

Description

A **guide** was developed within the project "Sustainable Communities" (Contract No. NN5/2002/54) of the European Commission, which brings different aspects of sustainable communities together, thus creating a platform of information exchange. It summarises the findings of the key-actor discussion groups of the Sustainable Communities project and aims at disseminating information about Energy Sustainable Communities (ESC) and information about the way how to become an ESC. It thus generates a comprehensive overview of key-success factors of ESC, it demonstrates the benefits of becoming an ESC and it introduces some relevant indicators of ESC. There is also a scientific overview of the technological, socio-economic, political and administrative issues crucial for the implementation of the ESC concept within the guide. The guide provides an overview of the concept of Sustainable Development and links the evolution of the concept of sustainability (from the Rio Conference, to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg to today) with the ESC approach.

The chapter Technical Aspects of ESC gives an overview of the Renewable Energy Sources technologies (RES technologies) capable of meeting energy demand in a large variety of end-use activities and in power generation. It provides specific information on Photovoltaics, Geothermal, Biomass, Solar Thermal, Small Hydropower and Wind, and in particular on their respective development potential, the costs involved in their utilisation and the environmental impacts. Definitions of the technologies can be found here, too, in case these were not integrated in earlier chapters already. It also reflects upon the main technical aspects to be considered in establishing a path to 100% RES supply, which can be classified into two broad categories: site-specific characteristics and resources- and technology-specific characteristics (e.g. intermittence, energy storage and energy management, hybrid systems, etc.).