

Northrhine-Westphalia equips local authorities and administrative regions for the energy turnaround



"50 years ago, Willy Brandt developed the vision of blue skies above the Ruhr. We have remained true to this vision until today, which is why we equip our local authorities with the best instruments to turn the energy turnaround into reality. ECOSPEED Region helps us to collate and evaluate the relevant data on all administrative levels and to derive the corresponding measures."

Jochem Pferdehirt, head of European Energy Award Northrhine-Westphalia, EnergieAgentur.NRW, Wuppertal

With its approximately 18 million inhabitants, Northrhine-Westphalia (NRW) is the largest federal state in Germany. It comprises 396 local authorities, 31 administrative districts, and 5 administrative regions, whereby almost 90% of the municipalities have more than 10,000 inhabitants. Approximately one third of all German energy is produced in NRW; at the same time, around 40% of German industrial power is consumed. This makes NRW the largest energy state in Germany and means it bears special responsibility for the achievement of German and European climate protection targets.

This responsibility is taken seriously: the EnergieAgentur.NRW works on behalf of the state government of Northrhine-Westphalia as an operational platform with broad authority in the field of energy for implementation of the energy turnaround. To monitor the municipal greenhouse gas emissions, they use the proven software ECOSPEED Region, which they make available to all local authorities free of charge. The climate balances can be consolidated and represented on district, administrative region, and federal state level. In addition, the EnergieAgentur.NRW offers the local authorities a support service that is unique worldwide and assumes with their dedicated and ambitious climate protection policy a pioneering role in climate protection.

Initial situation: climate protection legislation & climate protection plan NRW

With the passing of climate protection legislation in the year 2013, it is legally stipulated that the greenhouse gas emissions in Northrhine-Westphalia are to be reduced by at least 25% by the year 2020 and by at least 80% by the year 2050 (each in comparison with the base year 1990).

The present draft of the NRW climate protection plan of the state government specifies the strategies and measures with which these targets can be achieved. It has been compiled with the comprehensive involvement of all groups in society and top municipal associations and is now to be passed by the state parliament.

Of particular significance in the climate protection plan and for achievement of the climate protection targets are energy efficiency, energy savings, and the expansion of renewable energies.

The challenge: monitoring energy and CO₂ for 396 local authorities

The local authorities are in the focus of the climate protection efforts: they are to implement specific climate protection measures and check their effects. So that the local authorities can assume their important role in climate protection, however, they need the corresponding instruments that enable them to calculate and report the municipal energy consumption levels and CO₂ emissions every year. Of central significance here is that the municipal balances are comparable, updatable, and of high quality. In addition, it is to be possible to collate and evaluate them on all administrative levels.

Solution with ECOSPEED Region

The state has purchased the web-based software ECOSPEED Region for all 396 local authorities, 31 districts, and 5 administrative regions and makes it available free of charge to all local authorities for the preparation of balances.

In addition, the EnergieAgentur.NRW supports the local authorities in the complicated data collection and centrally provides them with a wide range of data material, templates for data surveys, and sample reports. A hotline has been set up for questions related to content and the local authorities profit from an attractive range of education and training services. A service as comprehensive as this is has never been provided before.

The harmonized data acquisition in ECOSPEED Region as well as the all-round support by the EnergieAgentur.NRW means that today the balances are comparable and have a high level of quality. The balances can be consolidated and represented on all levels (with the consent of the local authorities or anonymously), i.e. district, administrative region, all the way to federal state NRW level. This means that those involved on all administrative levels receive information and figures that are relevant to them at the push of a button.

Summary

The implementation of the central platform ECOSPEED Region has enabled the state of Northrhine-Westphalia to provide its local authorities, districts, and administrative regions with a comprehensive service for the creation and evaluation of energy and CO₂ balances. At the same time, the comparability and data quality have been ensured and continuation guaranteed for subsequent years.

With this, the state of Northrhine-Westphalia has enabled all local authorities to create their own climate protection plans as well as to derive effective measures. Districts and administrative regions, however, also receive the possibility to provide the local authorities with specific support on the path towards the energy turnaround. With a unique service, NRW is assuming a pioneering role and setting new standards in climate protection. It would appear that the energy turnaround is becoming a tangible reality.

ECOSPEED Region for updatable energy and CO₂ balances in regions

With our versatile software solutions, we help you make your climate auditing even simpler and more efficient. More solutions can be found on our website at <http://www.ecospeed.ch/region/en/>