

EVENT NOTICE

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International Energy Agency Announces Winners of Global District Energy Climate Award

The International Energy Agency (IEA) today announced the winners of the first global *District Energy Climate Award* at the 'District Energy Summit' in Copenhagen. Speaking at the event, IEA Deputy Executive Director Richard Jones said "These communities are showing the world the path forward on climate change: low-carbon, energy efficient district energy systems are win/win/win solutions for the environment, energy security and local economic growth. We hope that other cities look to these models as examples."

There were 27 applicants from 11 different countries around the world, representing both very large metropolitan areas as well as small communities. The IEA and its partners recognised all applicants with a *Certificate of Merit*. The *District Energy Climate Award* winners are:

University of Texas at Austin, United States

The UT Austin is a large university campus serving 70,000 students. 200 campus buildings are connected by a district energy system with several high-efficiency features, including cogeneration. As a result of the system, the campus' CO₂ emissions have remained flat in spite of increasing campus energy demands.

Boras, Sweden

55% of Boras' 64,000 residents rely on the town's innovative district heating system, which receives its energy from a cogeneration plant using a mixture of biomass, waste and landfill gas. Boras uses biodegradable household waste in production of biogas for bus transport and the production of fertilizer.

Copenhagen, Denmark

The district energy system in Copenhagen covers 98 % of the city's heat demand. The system is part of a wide-ranging network covering the city center and 15 suburban districts. The system is pioneering the large-scale use of renewable resources via the integration of cogeneration, biomass and solar energy.

Dunkerque, France

This district heating system recycles surplus energy from France's largest steel mill. The city has added three cogeneration units and a second surplus heat capture unit at the steel plant and increased the share of recovered energy in the network to 90%, significantly lowering overall CO₂ emissions.

Jiamusi, China

This pioneering system includes a vision for growth to 2020, when the network will supply 14.5 million m² of area, representing 75% of the city's current heating surface. The current plant has already reduced CO₂ emissions significantly through the replacement of over 60 coal-fired boilers.

Krakow, Poland

Social and economic transformation has strongly influenced local heat distributors so that the heat market has grown in size and competitiveness. Krakow's system demonstrates a modern, efficient system that is providing energy and economic savings while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. through the closure of 392 coal-fired boiler units over the period 1990-2008.

District energy, or district heating and cooling technologies, offer substantial energy supply efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction benefits. They also offer local governments and communities the opportunity to maximise the use of clean, local and renewable energy resources, including biomass, geothermal energy and combined heat and power (CHP) plants that recycle waste heat. The IEA has joined forces with the Danish District Energy Association, Euroheat & Power, the Danish Board of District Heating, and the International District Energy Association to develop the *District Energy Climate Award* to increase awareness of these benefits by recognising world-class systems.

The summit itself provided an opportunity to demonstrate the principles and benefits of district energy. It brought together government representatives, policy leaders and environmentalists, including Doug Parr of Greenpeace UK, Seiichi Kondo, Japanese Ambassador to Denmark, and former Swedish Environment Minister Lena Sommestad, and invited them to experience first-hand how *district energy* can deliver higher efficiency, greater fuel flexibility and more sustainability.

More information about the award applicants and award winners, including details on each district energy system, can be found at <http://www.copenhagenenergysummit.org>. Further explanation of IEA efforts to analyse the benefits of district energy and CHP can be found at <http://www.iea.org/G8/CHP/profiles/us.pdf>.

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