

## Covenant Signatories and Supporting Structures begin sharing their best practices via the 'Benchmarks of Excellence catalogue'



*Budapest's Benchmark of Excellence, the 'Schools' Illumination Programme'.*

Signatories and Supporting Structures to the Covenant of Mayors can now showcase their best practices in a newly created online 'Benchmarks of Excellence catalogue'. In addition to pledging to reduce carbon emissions by more than 20% by the year 2020, Covenant signatories and Supporting Structures have also committed to exchange their experiences with other participants in the Covenant of Mayors.

The catalogue, which was launched two weeks ago, provides a platform for promoting best Mayors signatory and Supporting Structure can promote up to three energy efficiency and renewable energy practices they have

realised in their territories and feel particularly proud of. By publishing these benchmarks, the signatories and Supporting Structures endorse them as useful actions for other local authorities to replicate. The exchange of best practices, Benchmarks of Excellence, is crucial to the successful implementation of the cities' Sustainable Energy Action Plans.

European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said: "Thanks to this new feature Covenant signatories and Supporting Structures can share the tools that are helping them implement their Sustainable Energy Action Plans. By exchanging their experiences with their peers, those participating in the Covenant of Mayors can help one another to achieve their common aim of reducing CO2 emissions through greater energy efficiency and cleaner energy production."

Currently 14 actions realised by signatories are displayed in the catalogue, covering virtually all sectors touched by the Covenant. So far 6 signatory cities - Göteborg, Verona, Budapest, Dunkerque Grand Littoral, Motril and Middlesbrough - and 3 Supporting Structures - the Province of Granada, Stuttgart Region and Energie-Cités - have published their Benchmarks of Excellence.

The city of Göteborg has outlined how they have started to treat biogas, produced at the water sewage system, not as waste, but as transport fuel. After the biogas is cleaned and injected into the natural gas grid, it is sold as fuel for cars and buses in the Göteborg area.

Cooperation between the city and private companies involved in the value chain has made the setting up of filling stations for vehicles possible.

The Southern Spanish municipality of Motril has shown how they, in partnership with a private company, have reduced the energy use of their public lighting system by replacing heavy energy consuming lights with modern energy saving bulbs. This has resulted in energy savings of 45% in some parts of the city.

As Covenant signatories begin to submit their Sustainable Energy Action Plans, more and more energy efficient actions are being implemented. This in turn increases the potential for a steadily expanding and ultimately rich catalogue of Benchmarks of Excellence to develop over time.

For more information: <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

To view the 'Benchmarks of Excellence catalogue', please visit:  
[www.eumayors.eu/benchmarks\\_of\\_excellence/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eumayors.eu/benchmarks_of_excellence/index_en.htm)

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