



Example of energy accessibility towards carbon neutrality

Previous history

The city of Godoy Cruz, located in southern Argentina, has committed to sustainable growth and continues to develop environmentally friendly practices. The municipality has been part of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, funded by the European Union, since 2016.

In May 2020, the Covenant recognized Godoy Cruz's actions as part of a historic and powerful response by the world's cities to address the climate crisis. The department received the latest Medal of Compliance, awarded to localities that have complied with all the procedures determined by the Covenant to collaborate in the fight against climate change.

Project Description

Clean Energy practices consist of a set of policies and actions aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. They are detailed as follows:

- Installation of 340 solar panels;
- Replacement of LED household light bulbs with energy efficient or incandescent bulbs;
- Installation of three solar towers that use the sun's energy as an environmentally friendly way of providing services;
- Implementation of the "solmáforo", which indicates the level of solar radiation;
- Intelligent System 3.0: charging of vehicles and electric bicycles from Environment and Energy, and Health mobilities in pandemic.

Relevant Data

- **Population:** 204.500
- **GCoM Member since:** 2016
- **Project Name:** Godoy Cruz Lights Up Program
- **Project Category:** Mitigation
- **Year of Implementation:** desde 2015
- **Financing:** Federal, Banking and Municipal



SOLUTIONS

Implementation and financing

Three of the initiatives undertaken by the municipality are highlighted:

Household light bulbs

The city council is replacing LED household light bulbs with energy-saving or incandescent bulbs. The aim is not only to save electricity, but also to contribute to environmental care. Municipal employees, together with volunteers, go around the city's neighborhoods to carry out the sustainable exchanges. There are already more than 26,000 bulbs delivered since 2019, in 13,000 households.

Smart Solar System 3.0

It is used to charge Civil Protection vehicles used to transport people in emergency situations, as well as cars passing through different areas. The kit consists of 30 photovoltaic panels of 275 W, plus an inverter system, 20 batteries and connection accessories capable of generating and accumulating energy. Thanks to its implementation, 74% of the energy used in the Solar Shed, located in the Environmental Pole, and in the electric vehicle chargers is of solar origin.

Solmáforo

Imitating a traffic light, the device has a UV ray sensor that, depending on the level of solar radiation, changes to one of five colors, which can be green, yellow, orange, red and violet. The colors go from the lowest to the highest degree of danger. In this way, you can see what kind of measures you need to take to take care of your health. Some of them can also be used as a safety mechanism, as they allow you to press an emergency button that calls 911. This instrument is intended to serve the community and help raise awareness of the importance of using this clean energy source.

Funding

Solar panels and replacement of public lighting to LED through municipal funds, where a large part of the purchase was made through the Trust Fund of the Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change (RAMCC) to make spending more efficient in joint purchases with other municipalities.



"The only way to defeat climate change is for many more people, organizations, institutions and businesses to join the fight against climate change"

Mayor Tadeo García Zalazar

RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Main results

- In terms of generating greater energy efficiency in public lighting, we have completed 100% of the replacement of lighting fixtures with LED systems, which generates savings of 247,010 kwh per year and therefore reduces 91,394 kg of CO₂e;
- Increased awareness of the use of clean energy for the community;
- Satisfaction of daily needs in a sustainable manner

Lessons learned

There has been a great short-term expansion of the application of solar energy and the confidence of the inhabitants with the implementation of this policy. Future changes are oriented towards the technological improvement of vehicles, a better adaptation of the mechanical system of the solar towers and the expansion of awareness campaigns to reduce vandalism in some of the implemented equipment.



"We wanted to be more ambitious than the global targets that have been set: to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. We believe this is possible and not only in Godoy Cruz. Many municipalities in Argentina and Latin America can work to achieve it" (Mayor Tadeo García Zalazar).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Municipality of Godoy Cruz for sharing this case study.

The GCoM encourages signatory local governments to share their climate action. If you have a successful case study or project, please contact us by email or other channels.

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