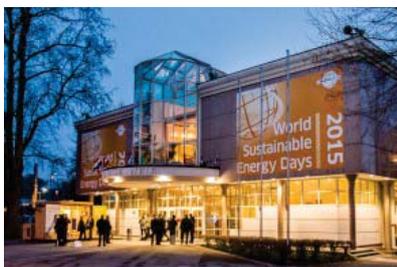


These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2015

Conference Review

The World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED), one of Europe's largest annual conferences in this field, offered a unique combination of events on sustainable energy. The 2015 conference, which was held from 25 - 27 February in Wels/Austria, attracted more than 750 participants from 64 countries.



The conference programme

Following the motto "6 + 3 = 1", the conference programme offered the following events:

6 conferences:

- European Pellet Conference
- European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference
- European Energy Efficiency Watch Conference
- Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Conference
- European Smart Windows Conference
- Young Researchers' Conference: Energy Efficiency & Biomass

3 hands-on events:

- tradeshow "Energiesparmesse"
- B2B-Meetings on energy efficiency in buildings and biomass
- Site Visits on "pellets & wood chips" and on "nearly zero energy buildings"





2015

World Sustainable Energy Days 25 - 27 February 2015

European Pellet Conference

Pellets are a clean, CO₂ neutral and convenient fuel with growing market shares worldwide. The European Pellet Conference 2015 in Wels/Austria was once again the meeting place for the global pellet community. It presented the latest technology trends, updates on policies, legislation and standardisation, news from research and innovation as well as an outlook on the developments of European and global markets. It offered inspirational examples and case studies and permitted experts to exchange experience and develop new business contacts. With more than 600 participants every year, the European Pellet Conference in Wels is the largest annual pellet event in the world.

The European Pellet Conference 2015 offered a range of interesting sessions and events. It started with a plenary session on "Changing market structures for pellets", followed by a round-table discussion on "How to make pellets more competitive".

In the afternoon of the first day, a session on "Getting the message across - marketing & branding" presented successful marketing initiatives. The "World Pellet Business & Technology Forum" covered a range of product and service innovations.

The European Pellet Conference then continued on Thursday with 2 parallel events. In the session "Pellet market news worldwide", representatives from Austria, the UK, Germany, Sweden, Russia, China and the Baltic States presented current developments in their countries. The session "Pellet Technology Update" and several workshops showcased biomass research and innovation projects.

In addition to the conference sessions, participants had the opportunity to find new business partners and start co-operations in the biomass sector thanks to the "Pellet Networking Platform" and pre-organised "B2B-Meetings".





2015

World Sustainable Energy Days 25 - 27 February 2015

Site Visits "Pellets & Wood Chips"

The full-day field-trip "Pellets & Wood Chips" on Tuesday offered the opportunity to visit a pellet production, a biomass boiler manufacturer, a pellet container solution for homes (operated by an ESCO) and a wood chips heating system for an industrial company. The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first-hand information and to discuss specific questions on-site with the project operators.



Young Researchers' Conference: Energy Efficiency & Biomass

Based on a call for papers, more than 100 papers were submitted by young researchers from over 40 countries in the fields of energy efficiency and biomass. A scientific committee selected papers for oral and poster presentations. The papers were presented in two sessions - one on biomass and one on energy efficiency.



Part of the Young Researchers' Conference were the Young Researchers' Awards. The prize was awarded to two very deserving young researchers:

- Best Young Researcher: Biomass: Dr. Agorasti Toka for the paper "A policy-making tool for the domestic use of biomass technologies" and
- Best Young Researchers: Energy Efficiency: Pascal Brinks for the paper "Improvements for current energy balance calculation methods for industrial buildings".



2015

World Sustainable Energy Days 25 - 27 February 2015

European Energy Efficiency Watch Conference

The European Energy Efficiency Watch Conference offered an update on EU energy efficiency policies and discussed how they can drive innovation and employment. The current status of the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive and European experiences with energy efficiency obligations were presented and experts' views on energy efficiency policies were obtained.



The Energy Efficiency Watch Conference was organised as part of the IEE-project "Energy Efficiency Watch 3" (www.energy-efficiency-watch.org).



European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference

A "nearly zero energy building" (NZEB) is a building that has a very high energy performance and the very low amount of energy required is covered to a very significant extent by renewable energy sources. Member States must draw up national plans, covering both new construction and renovation, for increasing the number of NZEBs.

The conference started with a session on policy & market update, where for example Paula Rey Garcia from the European Commission, presented an update on European building policies. This was followed by a session on NZEB refurbishment & financing including best practice examples.

On Friday, a workshop on "Policy Implementation in Member States & Regions" offered the opportunity for discussion among European building experts.



The European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings conference was organised as part of the IEE-project "SUSTAINCO" (www.sustainco.info).



2015

World Sustainable Energy Days 25 - 27 February 2015

Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Conference

The conference "Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings" informed about high efficiency non-domestic buildings supplied by renewable energy. The first session gave a market overview on energy efficiency in commercial buildings.

The second part of the conference was dedicated to "technical innovations & examples". Among others, presentations on optimisation of daylighting, LED solutions and on renewables in NZEB office and school buildings were given.



Site Visit "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings"

The conference came to an end on Friday afternoon with a half-day excursion to two NZEB buildings in the surrounding area: an office NZEB building with biomass heating and cooling and a kindergarten in passive building standard, with PV, district heating and ventilation with heat recovery were visited.



European Smart Windows Conference

The European Smart Windows Conference gave an insight into new research results on smart window technologies and offered plenary sessions and workshops on:

- intelligent glass and adaptive façade systems for shading and light guidance
- innovations in the area of building integrated energy harvesting with solar thermal collectors and photovoltaics
- super energy-efficient window solutions with optimised thermal properties
- new developments in weight and cost reduction
- functional materials
- best practice examples

The conference was organised in cooperation with Profactor.



Further programme elements of the World Sustainable Energy Days 2015

Poster presentation

During the WSED, the poster presentation offered companies and organisations the opportunity to display successful energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives and projects before a professional audience. Over 80 companies and organisations participated. A section of the poster presentation was also dedicated to peer-reviewed posters from the Young Researchers' Conference participants.



Voting

An interactive element, "the voting", was made an integrated part of the conference procedure. During the sessions, the audience was invited to answer questions regarding their behaviours and opinions towards various conference topics. The results of the voting can be found on the conference website www.wsed.at

Energie-Star 2015

The 11th edition of the award ceremony "Energie-Star 2015" – the Upper Austrian award for successful sustainable energy projects – took place within the context of the WSED. An overview of the winning projects (in German) is available at: www.energiestar.at



B2B Meetings

The B2B Meetings offered companies and research organisations the opportunity to meet potential co-operation and business partners from all over the world in individually planned meetings. This year, also B2B Expo Visits were organised, where innovative companies from Upper Austria were visited at their stands in the tradeshow. The B2B Meetings were organised in cooperation with Business Upper Austria.

Energiesparmesse - Tradeshow on energy efficiency and renewable energy

The "Energiesparmesse", a leading tradeshow on energy efficiency and renewable energy with nearly 100,000 visitors and 1,600 exhibitors, took place from Wednesday to Sunday. The OÖ Energiesparverband presented its services at a large exhibition stand in Hall 20 where more than 100 energy advisers were available for any information on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. In addition, in cooperation with Messe Wels, 3 special exhibitions were presented:

- **LED-exhibition – innovative lighting solutions:** Latest LED technologies were displayed and visitors could learn about LED application possibilities.
- **"How to heat with wood stoves" ("Richtig einheizen mit Holz"):** A special exhibition was dedicated to heating with wood stoves. It was accompanied by a lottery and practical demonstrations on the stand of how to best light the fire in a wood stove.
- **Special exhibition on energy labels:** This new exhibition informed about energy labels for household appliances and products.

