



2013

World Sustainable Energy Days 27. Februar - 1. März 2013

These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2013!

Conference Review

The World Sustainable Energy Days, one of the largest annual conferences in this field in Europe, offered a unique combination of events on sustainable energy. The 2013 event, which was held from 27 February to 1 March in Wels/Austria, attracted more than 800 participants from 61 countries.



The conference programme

The conference programme 2013 covered two main topics: biomass and energy efficiency.

In the biomass field, the following conferences and events were offered:

- European Pellet Conference including the Pellet Networking Platform
- WSEDnext Biomass (a conference for young researchers)
- Site-visit: Pellets & Wood Chips

The topic of energy efficiency was covered in the following conferences and events:

- Energy Efficiency Watch Conference
- Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference
- WSEDnext Energy Efficiency (a conference for young researchers) including the R&D Networking Platform
- Site-visit: Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

European Pellet Conference

Pellets are a clean, CO₂ neutral and convenient fuel with growing market shares worldwide. The European Pellet Conference 2013 in Wels/Austria was once again the meeting place for the global pellet community, presenting the latest technology trends, updates on policy, legislation and standardisation, news from research and innovation as well as an outlook on the developments on European and global markets. It offered inspirational case studies and examples as well as an exchange of experience among experts and new business opportunities. With more than 600 participants every year, the European Pellet Conferences held in Wels have become the largest annual pellet event in the world.

The European Pellet Conference 2013 offered a range of interesting sessions and events and started with a plenary session on recent developments in field of EU policy for bioenergy, the new IEA Technology Roadmap and cost developments of fossil fuels. In the following session, market trends for pellets and main opportunities and challenges for the wood pellet sector were presented.

The "World Pellet Business & Technology Forum" – a market place for product and service innovation, business models and finance - met with high interest. In the first part experts presented biomass CHP (small to middle scale), the second part informed about business models and product innovation.

Market updates and outlooks on European and global pellet markets completed the programme of the European Pellet Conference. Representatives of Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, USA and Australia presented current developments in their countries.



A new element in 2013 was the "Pellet Networking Platform". Participants had the opportunity to start new co-operations in the pellet sector. The platform took place in the format of a "speed-dating" and met with high interest.



Site-visit "Pellets & Wood Chips"

The full-day trip "Pellets & Wood Chips" offered the opportunity to visit a pellet logistic centre, a car dealership with a cascade system of pellet boilers, a family-owned farm business with a solar drying of wood chips, a manufacturer of biomass boilers (pellet, wood chip and log wood) and a company where the heating and cooling for the site is supplied by two wood chip boilers. The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first-hand information and to discuss specific questions and concerns with project responsables on site.



WSED next – a conference for young researchers

For the second time, a conference for young researchers was organised. Based on a call for papers, young researchers from all over the world submitted papers in the field of the two main conference topics (energy efficiency and biomass). A scientific committee consisting of 40 scientists and members of the sustainable energy community selected around 80 young researchers from more than 30 countries and 5 continents. The innovative projects presented by the young researchers met with high interest from the conference participants.



A new element at the WSEDnext conference 2013 was the "R&D Networking Platform". The participants had the possibility to discuss relevant topics which covered most of the issues presented at the WSEDnext conference. The participants used the opportunity of an informal meeting and discussed co-operation ideas.



Energy Efficiency Watch Conference

The Energy Efficiency Watch Conference was organised as a part of the IEE-project "Energy Efficiency Watch 2" (www.energy-efficiency-watch.org) which aims at facilitating the implementation of the "EU-Energy Services Directive". The conference gave an update on the implementation of the EU energy efficiency policies. Conference topics included energy efficiency policies in the EU and the progress in energy efficiency policies in the EU Member States.



European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference

The coming years will see a sharp increase in the market uptake of highly efficient buildings throughout Europe: according to the European Buildings Directive by 2020, all new buildings must be "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings" (public buildings already by 2018). 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 energy from renewable sources. Member States must draw up national plans for increasing the number of Nearly Zero Energy Buildings, covering both new construction and renovation.

Due to this policy framework, a conference on Nearly Zero Energy Buildings was included in the conference programme of the WSED. It discussed how to achieve NZEBs in new constructions and renovations. Presentations included topics like technologies, policies, financial instruments, definitions, best practice examples, cost optimality of energy efficiency and renewable energy in buildings.

The conference started on Thursday with the sessions "What is a Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB)?" and "Selected NZEB technologies". The second conference day focused on the local and regional implementation of NZEBs as well as on examples and methodologies of NZEBs. It was organised in cooperation with the Assembly of European Regions and Fedarene.



Site-visit Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

The conference programme was complemented by a site-visit to NZEBs. It included visits to a refurbished industrial quarter where also a new NZEB building was constructed. Also, a school centre with biomass heating, which was refurbished to NZEB standard, was visited. The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first-hand information and to discuss specific questions and concerns.



Further programme elements of the World Sustainable Energy Days 2013

Poster presentation

During the World Sustainable Energy Days, the poster presentation offered companies and organisations the opportunity to display before a professional audience successful initiatives and projects on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. About 100 companies and organisations participated. One part of the poster presentation has dedicated to the WSEDnext posters (peer-reviewed).



Voting

An interactive element, "the voting", was included in the conference procedure. During the sessions the audience was invited to answer questions on their opinions about the energy future. The results of the voting can be found on the conference website www.wsed.at



Energie-Star 2013

The "Energie-Star 2013" – the Upper Austrian award for successful sustainable energy projects – was awarded within the frame of the World Sustainable Energy Days for the ninth time. An overview of the winning projects (in German) is available at: www.energiestar.at



Energiesparmesse

In parallel to the World Sustainable Energy Days, the Energiesparmesse, an exhibition and trade show dedicated to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, was held from 27 February to 3 March. It attracted around 100,000 visitors and about 1,600 exhibiting companies. The OÖ Energiesparverband presented its services at a large exhibition stand where more than 100 energy advisers were available for any information on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

A special attraction on the exhibition stand of the OÖ Energiesparverband was an LED stand. The visitors had the possibility to see latest technologies around LEDs and to learn about the new possibilities to use LEDs.

Furthermore, the OÖ Energiesparverband organised in cooperation with Messe Wels a special exhibition on very high efficiency household appliances, TVs, PCs & Co. The visitors used the possibility to get informed about high efficiency fridges, freezers, washing machines, dryers, dish washers, TVs, PCs and office equipment.

