



2014

# World Sustainable Energy Days 26 - 28 February 2014

## These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2014!

### 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 2014 conference, which was held from 26 - 28 February in Wels/Austria, attracted more than 750 participants from 59 countries.



### The conference programme

The 2014 conference programme covered two main topics: biomass and energy efficiency.

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

- European Pellet Conference
- WSED next Biomass - a conference for young researchers
- site-visits on pellets & wood chips
- B2B meetings on biomass

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

- European Energy Efficiency Policies Conference
- European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference
- Innovative Building Technologies Conference
- WSED next Energy Efficiency - a conference for young researchers
- site-visits on nearly zero energy buildings
- B2B meetings on energy efficiency in buildings



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## European Pellet Conference

Pellets are a clean, CO<sub>2</sub> neutral and convenient fuel with growing market shares worldwide. The European Pellet Conference 2014 in Wels/Austria was once again a 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 2014 offered a range of interesting sessions and events. It started with a plenary session on recent developments in the fields of EU bioenergy policy and markets, followed by a session on certification schemes and sustainability. In the following session, several examples for financing and operation models of pellets projects were presented.

The "World Pellet Business & Technology Forum" covered a range of product and service innovations, including pellet production, logistics and ecodesign requirements for pellet boilers.

The European Pellet Conference then continued with market updates and outlooks on European and global pellet markets. Representatives from Sweden, Italy, Germany, the UK, Russia, the USA, Australia and Ukraine presented current developments in their countries.

A technical session on "high efficiency - low emissions", co-organised with Bios Bioenergiesysteme, completed the programme of the European Pellet Conference. This session presented technologies and results achieved by the EU project "UltraLowDust".





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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".



## Site-visits "Pellets & Wood Chips"

The full-day field-trip "Pellets & Wood Chips" offered the opportunity to visit a solar-drying installation for wood chips, a company that produces flue-gas cleaning and heat recovery solutions, a pellet boiler manufacturer that also heats its production plant with a container solution and a pellet boiler container solution for a fuel logistics and delivery business. The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first hand information and to discuss specific questions on-site with the project operators.



## WSED next – a conference for young researchers

Based on a call for papers, young researchers from all over the world submitted their work in the fields of energy efficiency and biomass – the conference's two main topics. A scientific committee consisting of over 40 experts selected around 60 papers submitted by young researchers from more than 30 countries for oral and poster presentations. The papers were presented in two sessions - one on biomass and one on energy efficiency.



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A new element at the WSED next 2014 conference was the Young Researchers Award. The prize was awarded to two very deserving young researchers – one in each of the main fields: biomass (Satu Lantiainen, University of Missouri) and energy efficiency (Theresa Wohlmuth, Alpine Energie).



## European Energy Efficiency Policies Conference

The European Energy Efficiency Policies 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, European projects supporting EU energy policies and good practice examples for national energy efficiency policies and implementation were presented.





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## 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, all new buildings must be "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings" by 2020 (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 renewable energy sources. Member States must draw up national plans, covering both new construction and renovation, for increasing the number of NZEBs.

Due to this policy framework, the European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Conference was included in the conference programme of the WSED. This conference highlighted energy efficient buildings supplied with renewable energy through 3 sessions: "NZEB policies & market overview", "NZEB market transition – how to make it happen?" and "NZEB strategies and technologies". Key speakers were NZEB experts from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank, BPIE and CEN. A working group, chaired by MEP Fiona Hall, with intense discussion on key factors for successful NZEB policies - including presentations by Ecofys, the Danish Building Research Institute, REHVA as well as others - also took place on the final day of the conference.



## Innovative Building Technologies Conference

The "Innovative Building Technologies Conference" was dedicated to the latest developments in technological solutions for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (new construction and renovation). The conference highlighted building technologies for today and the future. Building technology experts from, among others, Fraunhofer Institut and ZAE Bayern presented key NZEB technologies.



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## Site-visits "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings"

The conference came to an end with a half-day excursion to two NZEB buildings. The first was an apartment building retrofitted to NZEB standards with a biomass heating system and solar thermal installation. The second was a large, new logistic centre that in timber construction that meets passive building standards. The site-visits complemented very well the topics discussed throughout the WSED.



## Further programme elements of the World Sustainable Energy Days 2014

### 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 WSED next conference participants.



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## 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](http://www.wsed.at)



A new interactive feature permitted conference participants to share their opinions on different energy topics. Participants were asked questions during the conference sessions and were invited to send their "message to the energy world", through text messaging, to the conference team. The numerous interesting submitted messages were then displayed on a screen in the main venue lobby.

## Energie-Star 2014

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the award ceremony "Energie-Star 2014" – 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](http://www.energiestar.at)



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## Energiesparmesse

In parallel with the WSED, the Energiesparmesse – a leading trade show dedicated to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency – was held from 26 February to 2 March. The 2014 edition attracted over 90,000 visitors and 1,600 exhibiting companies. The OÖ Energiesparverband presented its services at a large exhibition stand where more than 90 energy advisers were available to answer all questions and offer information about energy efficiency and renewable energies.

For this year's Energiesparmesse, three special exhibitions were organised and presented by the OÖ Energiesparverband. Firstly, at the "Innovative LED-lighting" exhibition, visitors had the possibility to see the latest LED technologies and to learn about innovative lighting solutions. Secondly, a special exhibition on "High energy efficient household & home office appliances" was co-organised with the Messe Wels. Visitors used this opportunity to inform themselves about highly energy-efficient fridges, freezers, washing machines, dryers, dish washers, TVs, PCs and office equipment. Finally, the "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings of Upper Austria" exhibition presented 20 NZEB buildings with photos and technical information. This exhibition permitted visitors to realise the large diversity in styles and numerous possibilities for the construction of NZEB buildings.

