



2016

World Sustainable Energy Days 24 - 26 February 2016

These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2016! 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 2016 conference, which was held from 24 - 26 February in Wels/Austria, attracted around 700 participants from 57 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 Efficiency Services Conference
- Smart Facade Materials Conference
- Young Researchers Conference: Energy Efficiency & Biomass

3 hands-on events:

- tradeshow "Energiesparmesse"
- cooperation platforms on pellets and energy efficiency in buildings
- site visits on "pellets & wood chips" and on "nearly zero energy buildings"





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European Pellet Conference

Pellets are a clean, CO₂ neutral and convenient fuel with growing market shares worldwide. The European Pellet Conference 2016 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 development of European and global markets. It offered inspirational examples and case studies and permitted experts to share experience and develop new business contacts. With more than 500 participants every year, the European Pellet Conference in Wels is the largest annual pellet event worldwide.

The European Pellet Conference 2016 offered a range of interesting sessions and events. It started with plenary sessions on "Pellet policies and markets" and "The role of bioenergy in the bioeconomy", followed by a panel discussion on "Pellets - facts vs. fiction".

On Wednesday afternoon a session dealing with successful business models took place. It was followed by the "World Pellet Technology Forum" covering product and technology innovations.

The European Pellet Conference then continued on Thursday with 2 parallel events. In the session "Pellet Market News Worldwide", representatives from Canada, the USA, India, Germany, the UK, Spain and Namibia presented current developments in their countries. The session "Pellet Technology Outlook - a research update" showcased pellets research and innovation projects.





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Site Visits "Pellets & Wood Chips"

The full-day field-trip "Pellets & Wood Chips" on Tuesday offered the opportunity to visit a pellet production plant, a biomass boiler manufacturer, a biomass heating installation for a production hall operated by an ESCO and a sports hall in passive building standard with a central pellet heating system. 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, nearly 100 papers were submitted by young researchers from 42 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.



A highlight of the Young Researchers Conference were the Best Young Researcher Awards. The prizes were awarded to two very deserving young researchers:

- Best Young Researcher Biomass: Sari Tuomikoski for the paper "Removing impurities with chemically activated carbon from biomass gasification" and
- Best Young Researcher Energy Efficiency: Delia D'Agostino for the paper "Modelling optimal paths to reach NZEB standards for new construction in Europe".



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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 news on NZEBs presented by Gordon Sutherland from the European Commission. The following session "Smart NZEBs in a decentralised energy market" highlighted the role of buildings in transforming the energy market and dealt with the user as the central point of building automation and energy efficiency. Smart buildings as well as smart cities and smart grids were covered. Afterwards international experts discussed which measures would work best to accelerate building renovation.



Energy Efficiency Services Conference

Energy efficiency services are key for the transition of the building sector. New financing approaches and operation models support not only sustainable buildings and technology innovation but also create jobs throughout Europe.

The Energy Efficiency Services Conference was held on 25 - 26 February 2016. The focus of the first conference day was on business models for sustainable buildings and examples for successful energy efficiency services in the building sector.

The second part of the conference was the workshop: "How to dynamise energy performance contracting (EPC) markets?".

This conference was organised as part of the IEE-project "Streetlight-EPC": www.streetlight-epc.eu



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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, European experiences with energy efficiency obligations and good practice examples for national energy efficiency policies and implementation were presented.



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



Cooperation Platforms

Two cooperation platforms offered companies and research organisations the opportunity to meet potential co-operation and business partners from all over the world.





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Smart Facade Materials Conference

The Smart Facade Materials Conference gave an insight into new research results on building facades and offered plenary sessions, workshops and an exhibition on:

- New research results on building facades
- Novel insulation materials
- Smart windows
- Active facades and energy harvesting
- Embodied energy of facade materials



The conference was organised in cooperation with Amanac.



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. The Red Cross office in Wels, refurbished to NZEB standard with EPC, and a new recycling centre built in 2013 with NZEB standard were visited.

The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first-hand information and to discuss specific questions and concerns.





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Further programme elements of the World Sustainable Energy Days 2016

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 in front of a professional audience. Over 80 companies and organisations participated. A section of the poster presentation was also dedicated to posters from the Young Researchers Conference participants.



E-car delegation from the Netherlands

For the first time, a delegation from the Netherlands drove to the World Sustainable Energy Days with electric, hybrid and biogas-powered cars in order to promote sustainable technology. The delegation, which was organised by Hansa Green Tour, arrived in Wels after having driven around 1,000 km in a single day.



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 opinions towards various conference topics. The results of the voting can be found on the conference website www.wsed.at.



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Energiesparmesse - Tradeshow on energy efficiency and renewable energy

The "Energiesparmesse", a leading annual 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 the 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. Practical demonstrations of how to best light a fire in a wood stove took place right at the stand.
- Special exhibition on energy labels: This exhibition informed about energy labels for household appliances and products.

