

## **O.Ö. Energiesparverband – the energy agency of Upper Austria**

The O.Ö. Energiesparverband is the energy agency of Upper Austria founded by the regional government with the aim of promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and innovative energy technologies. It is the central institution for energy information in Upper Austria and one of Europe's largest energy advice and information providers.

### **Target groups and partners:**

- Private households
- Local, regional and national authorities
- Businesses
- Professional organisations
- The European Commission

### **Services**

- Energy information and public awareness
- Energy advice for private households, public bodies and businesses
- Sustainable buildings programmes
- Training
- Green energy business network "OEC"
- Regional energy R&D programme
- Third Party Financing programme
- Local energy strategies
- European projects, international cooperation

### **The energy strategy of Upper Austria**

Upper Austria is a highly industrialised region in the Northern part of Austria bordering Bavaria and Czech Republic with 1.4 mio. inhabitants. It is a highly industrialised region and a leading technology and export region in Austria. The main economic sectors include metal and chemical industries, the tertiary sector and tourism with around 6.5 Mio overnight stays annually. The gross energy consumption is ~ 300 PJ of which 84.4 PJ are covered by renewable energy sources. The unemployment rate is one of the lowest in Austria. A number of RES companies cooperate in the network of green energy businesses (Ökoenergie-Cluster).

The regional government of Upper Austria committed itself to sustainable energy production and use by developing a comprehensive and concrete energy policy framework:

- the "Energy Action Plan", 1994-2000, set very concrete targets in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. It led, among others, to an increase of the share of renewable energy sources from 25 to 30 % (half biomass, half hydro).
- the "Energy 21" programme, 2000-2010, continues the regional energy strategy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and aims - among others - to double the biomass and solar energy use.
- the "Energy Efficiency Programme", 2004-2010, aims at achieving a 1 % annual energy saving in the region and at increasing energy efficiency for public buildings by 1.5 % every year.

Numerous programmes and projects are implemented to meet these energy policy targets, including information, financial and legal measures, and an annual report monitors the progress that is being made.