
ENERGY SAVING SERVICE FOR LOW INCOME HOMES- CARITEAM ENERGIESPARSERVICE FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Background

Started in 2006, this project was first developed in Frankfurt am Main to support low-income households that were unable to pay for rising energy costs. Rather than subsidising domestic energy-usage, the city of Frankfurt decided to train unemployed people as energy advisors to deliver a home-energy check to help low-income households reduce their energy costs and become more energy-efficient.

What are the overall goals and specific objectives of the project?

The broad aim of this project is three-fold: to providing professional training for the unemployed, reduce energy costs for low-income households and reduce carbon emissions through energy-efficient appliances.

The main target group of this project are low income households (unemployed or on social benefits). There are around 100,000 persons on low income (per 670,000 inhabitants) in Frankfurt. The City and Caritas can reach about 400-500 homes (1,000 persons) year.

Who is responsible for the project's implementation?

The department of Environment and Health at the City Council, Energierreferat (the municipal energy agency) and Caritasverband Frankfurt are responsible for the delivery and management of the project.



How does the project work?

Unemployed people are trained as energy advisors by employees of the local energy company. This training enables them to do a home energy check for low-income households which includes the installation of energy-efficient appliances (including fluorescent lamps, water aerators, electrical switches).

What are the results of the project (so far)?

To date, more than 800 home-checks and services have been carried out. Feedback from a questionnaire showed that 78% of homes would recommend the service to their neighbours. Nine out of ten respondents said that without the service, they could not afford such energy - efficient products.

Was the project evaluated and were there any follow-up activities?

An [evaluation](#) was carried out by the Ifeu.Institute-Heidelberg which showed that the homes saved more than €100 as a result of the service (the package itself costs €50).

Approximately two tons of CO₂ are saved over lifetime of the appliances installed by the energy advisors.

What lessons did you learn?

All households should be encouraged (not just low-income ones) to install energy-efficient appliances (fridges, washing machines etc). The next step is to find ways (e.g. micro-credit) to finance this.

How is the project funded and what resources (financial and human) are dedicated to its delivery?

The service-delivery team is made up of three managers and 10-15 energy advisors. The project is financed by the municipality, the local employment agency (state) and the local energy company.

The budget is €130,000 per year.

Who is the contact officer for the strategy/project?

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