

NOMINATED TO NORDIC ENERGY MUNICIPALITY 2011

Municipality of Porvoo



Skaftkärr – an Energy-efficient Residential Area

The Municipality of Porvoo was nominated as a finalist for the Nordic Energy Municipality 2011 with the project Skaftkärr – an energy-efficient residential area. The Skaftkärr cooperation and experimentation project (2008–2012) was launched by the City of Porvoo, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, the municipal energy company Porvoon Energia Oy Borgå Energi Ab and the regional business development company Posintra Oy to promote energy-efficient construction and to integrate it in the planning of the area. The aim is to develop an energy-efficient residential area, to integrate the aspect of energy efficiency in all phases of spatial planning, to create new solutions and new ways of working, and to steer and monitor the use of energy. The findings of this pilot project are intended to be applied on a larger scale elsewhere in Finland.

- The project's three main tasks are:
- to improve the ability of the spatial planning process to account for energy efficiency;
 - to create steering systems for the use of energy (the Living Lab sub-project);
 - to develop future business activities for the municipal energy company.

The Skaftkärr project has already produced completely new information about how municipalities, through spatial planning, can influence the energy efficiency of their areas. The project has also presented new means and calculation models to be used for improving the decision-making process and energy awareness in spatial planning. In view of the research done in the project, calculation of emissions and analysis of the total energy should be included in the impact assessment of all spatial plans in Nordic countries.

NORDIC ENERGY MUNICIPALITY 2011

The Nordic Energy Municipality 2011 Project highlights sustainable energy, green growth and energy-related climate efforts in the Nordic countries. The initiative particularly recognises municipalities who have introduced special efforts to undertake innovative energy projects.

The initiative is based on cooperation between the Danish and Finnish Presidencies of the Nordic Council of Ministers for Energy. In total, 44 Nordic municipalities have forwarded an application to the Nordic Energy Municipality 2011 competition each describing a cutting-edge energy project. Of these 44 applicants, 14 municipalities have been nominated as finalists.

<http://www.nordicenergymunicipality.org/>



QUOTE



Deputy Mayor
Fredrick von
Schoultz, City of
Porvoo
“With the
Skaftkärr project,

Porvoo will be the top place in Finland for energy-efficient living. The project inspired the City of Porvoo to launch a versatile action programme that will take the city systematically towards carbon-free housing. Energy efficiency is a key priority in the city’s new strategy. Good news for both residents and municipality is that smaller carbon footprints can give lower costs of living. One of the project’s prime success factors is its scope of involvement and cooperation. The project has involved local actors, inhabitants and businesses from its very start. Authorities, energy producers, construction clients, equipment manufacturers, other enterprises and future residents will continue to cooperate in planning and innovating the area in the future, too.”



In Skaftkärr, choices have been made to reduce energy consumption and emissions. Consumption of primary energy is cut by 38 % and the CO₂ emissions by 30 % in comparison with old planning principles. Emissions could be further reduced if the planned solar district heating plant is built. Local actors, inhabitants and businesses are actively involved in the project. The planning and innovation of the Skaftkärr area is done in broad cooperation between the municipality, other authorities, energy producers, construction clients, equipment manufacturers and other enterprises, as well as future inhabitants.

NORDIC VISION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND GREEN GROWTH

The Nordic Energy Municipality 2011 project provides practical and concrete examples of how the Nordic vision of sustainable energy and green growth may be realised and how it can show the way forward.

Ever since the Nordic Council of Ministers adopted the first sustainable-development strategy in 2000, the Nordic countries have been working together towards sustainable Nordic societies. The joint Nordic vision is to prepare for future independence from fossil fuels or CO₂ neutrality. The main issue for the Finnish Presidency in 2011 is to address climate change at all levels.

GREEN GROWTH AS AN INTERNATIONAL TREND

The Nordic vision is constantly being challenged by increases in the demand for energy and volatile oil and energy prices. However, these global challenges are fuelling an international trend for green growth which offers great economic opportunities: new markets are being created within energy efficiency, renewables, low carbon transportation and new technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS). The Nordic Countries are well prepared to benefit from the current trend in green growth, as they constitute an innovative and sustainable region, both at the political level and with regard to the development of new technologies. Many of the practices and instruments currently being introduced in other countries have been in place for decades in the Nordic region, e.g. high energy and CO₂ taxes. Also, the Nordic countries have many leading technology companies in relevant fields as well as environmentally conscious consumers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

Contact Maija-Riitta Kontio, Municipality of Porvoo
telephone +358 19 5202717, e-mail maijariitta.kontio@porvoo.fi,
web site www.skaftkarr.fi



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