MOVE IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

move

About the Basque Country

The Basque Country is the largest industrial and financial concentration at the southern end of Europe's Atlantic Arc. Due to the high population density and geomorphologic characteristics of the region, the Basque territory has few natural energy resources to meet its high demand.

One of the consequences of large-scale energy-intensive industry in the region (48% of the final energy consumption corresponds to the Industry Sector) is that per capita energy consumption is higher then elsewhere in the area, despite major progress made in terms of improved efficiency, which is reflected in a reduction in industrial energy consumption (in 1985, the Industry Sector was responsible of 65% of the final energy consumption). The transport sector, however, continues to be more closely tied to petroleum derivatives.

The essential guidelines underpinning Basque energy policy for 2001-2010 are the criteria established by the Basque Parliament, the European Union's directives on energy and sustainable development, and the economic, social and territorial conditioning factors of the Basque Country.

The Basque Country is currently emitting 24 per cent more CO2 than in 1990. Following the completion in autumn 2007 of the Basque Plan to Combat Climate Change, the goal is to bring that figure down to 14 per cent, one point below the limit set by Kyoto for 2012. The sectors in which most effort will be required are energy and transport, which account for 65 per cent of emissions, with emissions increasing by 199 per cent and 101 per cent respectively since 1990.

Keywords for the regional project

EVE works mainly with two activities on the local and regional level in the framwork of the MOVE-project namely the Transport and Mobility Unit and a demonstration mobility project for companies.

Transport and Mobility Unit

Energy consumption for the Basque transport sector totalled 1.8 Mtoe in 2005, 31% of final energy consumption, whereas in 1995 it accounted for only 21%. The growth has occurred mainly in the area of road transport of passengers and goods.

There are two determining factors in energy saving; the first involves habits in transport and mobility, i.e. over-use of the private car, insufficient provision of collective transport, deficiencies in vehicle maintenance, excessive use for short trips and the fact that freight is primarily transported by road; the second factor involves an improvement in efficiency and an increase in the diversification of the drive systems used, as well as improvements in infrastructures, affecting both passenger and freight traffic. The rationalisation of urban transport represents an important challenge, given that city transport contributes to CO2 emissions, which are responsible for climate change, as well as emissions of other pollutants (NOx, CO, etc.) that are harmful to public health.

The purpose of creating a Mobility and Transport Unit is to provide EVE with the structure and trained personnel it needs to effectively reduce the impact made by the energy consumed in transport in the Basque region, within EVE's spheres of influence.

Basque Energy Policy

	2000 SITUATION	2010 TARGETS
ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Energy saving comp. to 2000 (toe per year)	-	975,000
Level of energy saving comp. to 2000 (%)	-	15%
Improvement in energy intensity comp. to 2000 (%)	-	16%
Power supply with CHP (%)	10%	14%
USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY		
Use of renewable resources (toe per year)	264,000	978,000
Energy contribution of renewables (%)	4%	12%
Power supply from renewables (%)	2%	15%
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTION		
Greenhouse Gas Index in Energy comp. to 1990	+24%	+11%

The basic functions of the transport unit are:

- To conduct or coordinate actions of different kinds initiated by EVE in the field of mobility and general transport.
- To act as a knowledge and reference centre on transport and energy.
- To encourage energy efficiency in transport through changes in attitude and behaviour.
- To set up the ecomovil programme to encourage greater use of biofuels on the market.
- To participate at local and international forums debate groups, committees, etc., involved with transport and mobility and give an energy-related perspective of the impact the different alternatives being analysed would involve.

Mobility Plan for Plaza Bizkaia building

EVE local project consists of designing and applying a Sustainable Mobility Plan for the public companies in the new Plaza Bizkaia Building in Bilbao.

The companies are: Grupo SPRI, IHOBE, BASQUETOUR, OSATEK and Grupo EVE. This means a total of 300 employees. The plan is oriented to the reduction of the impact derived from the mobility of the employees to and from their work and the activities of the companies.

The mobility plan will provide information and awareness raising, sustainable transport promotion (public transport, car sharing, bicycles), alternatives to professional travels (video-conference, in-company training), improvement in management (parking management, management of supplies) and rational car use (sustainable vehicles, eco-driving).

The Mobility Plan will consist of six phases. First phase will consist on gather information related to the employees' travel behaviour (questionnaire), company resources (audit of travels, parking, fleets of vehicles, etc.), spatial analysis (accessibility, availability of public transport, etc.)

and diagnosis of the collected information. In a second phase the potential measures will be identified. The third phase will evaluate and contrast the measures in terms of availability, feasibility and cost/benefit relation of the proposed measures. Fourth phase will consist on a detailed document for the implementation of the plan followed by an implementation phase. Finally, a methodology for updating, monitoring and evaluating the plan will be designed.

From the implementation of the mobility plan, the following results are expected:

- Energy saving: decrease of environmental impact
- Cost reduction for both, employees and companies
- Reducing parking pressure
- Improving the access for the employees, freights and visitors
- Improving health and security
- Improving the company image

Partners:
Department of Transport of the Basque Government, Government of the province of Bizkaia, Government of the province of Gipuzkoa, Government of the province of Araba, Bilbao municipal council, Vitoria municipal council and San Sebastian municipal council.

The Basque Energy Board

The Basque Energy Board (Ente Vasco de la Energía-EVE) was created by the Basque Government in 1982. Its mission was to create the conditions necessary to implement a coherent energy policy, geared towards ensuring availability of energy under the best conditions of supply security, cost and environmental impact, with a view to steering the Basque Country towards a position of sustainable development. Since its creation, EVE is the company responsible for the planning, coordination and control of energy related activities in the public sector of the Basque Country.
EVE's basic purpose is to achieve, through its own initiative, influence, and through co-operation with others, in consonant harmony with the plans and directives of the Basque Government and on the basis of criteria of sustainable development, the continuous improvement of the energy system of the Basque Country in satisfying its energy requirements in such a way that it will better contribute to:

- The development and enhancement of the country's competitiveness.
- Improvement of the quality of life of its citizens.
- Conservation and enhancement of the environment.
- Reducing vulnerability to events, crises and other contingencies lying outside its control.

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