

Berlin Develops JI Project

Recently, the local government of Berlin has commissioned the development of a program for the Land Berlin, called "Cost-effective Climate Change Mitigation by Joint Implementation Projects."

The Land Berlin has committed itself voluntarily to a CO₂ reduction of 50% by 2010 as compared to the level of 1990. Berlin is investigating the potential of achieving this target partially through AIJ/JI. The voluntary 50% emission reduction target was formulated in the framework of the "Climate Alliance," which is a group of 700 European cities and communities.

Reunification

Between 1990 and 1995, CO₂ emissions in Berlin were reduced by 10%. Although this emission reduction looks impressive, it is unlikely that this rate will continue as the decline between 1990 and 1995 was mainly due to the reunification of Berlin and its consequent restructuring of the industrial and household sector. It is even doubtful whether the target of 25% CO₂ emission reduction formulated in the official energy strategy for Berlin can be achieved by 2010. This target was formulated separately from the 50% voluntary reduction commitment mentioned above.

Berlin is investigating the opportunities for JI, because it has come to the conclusion that the potential for cost-effective emission reduction investments at home is limited. For instance, more than 60% of the industrially prefabricated tenement buildings in Eastern Berlin have been modernised since the reunification of Germany in

1990. The remaining buildings will probably need more cost-intensive refurbishment.

Twin cities

In order to investigate the potential for AIJ/JI the Berlin Department of Urban Development, Environmental Protection and Technology has commissioned the German JI broker UMB to develop the program "Cost-effective Climate Change Mitigation by Joint Implementation Projects." The program consist of two parts – the first part dealing with project development and the second part with actual implementation.

In the first phase of the program a number of potential projects will be investigated. The program developers aim to select up to ten proposals for AIJ/JI projects in Central and Eastern Europe. With respect to this, Berlin's priority is to select three of its twin cities as potential locations for projects: Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw. Consultations have already started with representatives of these cities. After having selected the most attractive projects, private sector parties will be contacted and invited to (partly) participate in the project funding.

The first phase of the program is expected to be completed by the end of 1998. Subsequently, the actual implementation stage will begin. Its

success, however, will, among others, depend on the readiness of the private sector parties to provide funding for the projects. The latter is still uncertain since Berlin has no plans to provide a direct reward to them in terms of compensation for local duties or direct grants.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Jurgen Hacker
UMB UmweltManagementBeratung
Hacker GmbH (Environmental Management Consultancy)

Selchowstraße 1
D-14199 Berlin
Germany
tel: +49 30 897 77 20
fax: +49 30 823 45 97
e-mail: umb-hacker@t-online.de

