



ASSISTANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY)

As globalization advances, companies are faced with the challenges of sustainable development. Energy and its costs can be an important element of this, particularly when energy market prices are on the rise. Environmental costs may also represent major challenges, to companies and to society as a whole. There may not be much we can do about the price of oil, gas or electricity, but we can nevertheless get to grips with our energy consumption or choose to invest in alternative energies. There is no doubt that most companies, and industrial companies in particular, still have the potential to make major energy savings.

The average potential energy saving, according to calculations based on a representative selection of Wallonia companies, is of the order of **15 to 20%**. What is more, the investment required to achieve this could well pay for itself in less than four years.

Financial aid is also granted by the Wallonia Region to companies that invest with a view to promoting environmental protection and sustainable energy use .

The Wallonia Region has reached agreements with several industrial sectors over a number of years to make such investment painless in financial terms. To facilitate such initiatives it has implemented a specific training course for energy managers. Taught by specialists in energy management, this course is supported by a network of experienced facilitators who provide support – free of charge – for industrial players that commit to one specific technological route or another. Regional assistance applies to energy audits, the use of renewable energy sources, the installation of combined heat and power generation units, etc. Similar initiatives have been taken with regard to respect for the environment.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are many types of grant and assistance pertaining to the environment and energy in the Wallonia Region. What is more, some of them may specifically relate to your sector of activity.

By way of an example, grants and assistance for saving energy may relate to heating, water, solar power, lighting, insulation and ventilation – and they cover audits, accounting, studies (of renewable energy sources, for example), industrial processes or research and development.

- For environmental matters, please contact the Department of the Director General of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Wallonia Region

<http://environnement.wallonie.be>

- For questions on the efficient use of energy, please contact the Energy Division of the Wallonia Region

<http://energie.wallonie.be>

ASSISTANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Grants for investing in environmental protection

Companies that undertake to implement an environmental-protection initiative are eligible for grant for the following types of investment:

	SMEs	Large enterprises
Investment allowing community standards to be exceeded	20% 25% if ISO 14001 30% if EMAS*	15% 17.5% if ISO 14001 20% if EMAS
Investment achieving compliance with a new community standard that was adopted less than 3 years ago	15%	/
Campaigns to recycle or reduce waste in the production process	15%	15%

*Echo-Management and Audit Scheme

Grants for efficient energy use

If companies undertake to implement an initiative for efficient energy use, they are eligible for grants for the following types of investment:

	SMEs	Large enterprises
Investment aimed at reducing energy consumption in the production process	40%	20%
Development of energy from renewable sources	40%	20%
Development of high-quality combined heat and power generation installations	40%	20%

Only the additional costs of achieving environmental-protection objectives are eligible for these grants, i.e.. after deducting the benefits gained from any increase in capacity, cost savings generated during the first five years of the life of the investment and additional production during this same period.

In the area of sustainable energy use, any investment allowed is limited to the additional costs borne by the company:

1. in the case of a company reducing the consumption of energy in the production process, compared with an investment in a traditional installation of the same nature
2. in the case of a company that generates energy from renewable energy sources or high-quality combined heat and power generation installations (within the meaning of the decree of 12 April 2001 regarding the organization of the regional electricity market), compared with a traditional energy generation installation of the same capacity in terms of actual energy generation.

The following items are then deducted from the sums obtained from these comparisons:

- the benefits obtained from any increase in capacity
- the cost savings generated during the first five years of the life of the investment
- additional production during this same five-year period.

Grants for transportation by inland waterway

The Wallonia Region in fact incentivizes alternatives to road transport, specifically transport by inland waterway.

Among the measures figuring in the "Wallonia plan for transportation by inland waterway, 2004-2007" are:

1. a subsidy granted to businesses making investments leading to the development of transportation by inland waterway. The rate is 21% for SMEs, 20% for large companies, up to a maximum of €200,000 per company per year in each case, who undertake to implement and maintain new or additional river-transport links. The subsidy is intended for fixed or mobile superstructure equipment required for transferring goods that are or will be conveyed by waterways, excluding lorries.
2. a subsidy for the development of regular container-transportation services by inland waterway in the Wallonia Region.

The subsidy is as follows:

€12 per 20-foot container, €18 per 30-foot container, €24 per 40-foot container, €27 per 45-foot container.

The new Wallonia Region plan for assistance to transportation by inland waterway 2008-2013 includes a number of improvements and changes. For more detailed information about it, please contact the Office for the Promotion of Inland Waterways (Ministry of Equipment and Transportation, office of the Director-General for Waterways).

www.opvn.be

WALLONIA EXPORT & INVESTMENT OFI - Office for Foreign Investors

Av. Materne, 115
B - 5100 Namur
Belgium
Phone: +32 81 332 850
Fax: +32 81 332 869
welcome@investinwallonia.be

San Francisco (USA): +1 415 391 31 11
Chicago (USA): +1 312 357 63 49
Tokyo (Japan): +81 3 3556 1061
Shanghai (China): +86 21 6437 9489

And over 40 offices throughout the world