

transport schemes, renewable district heating systems and low carbon waste-, water- and sewerage plans are all tools to reduce CO2 emissions.

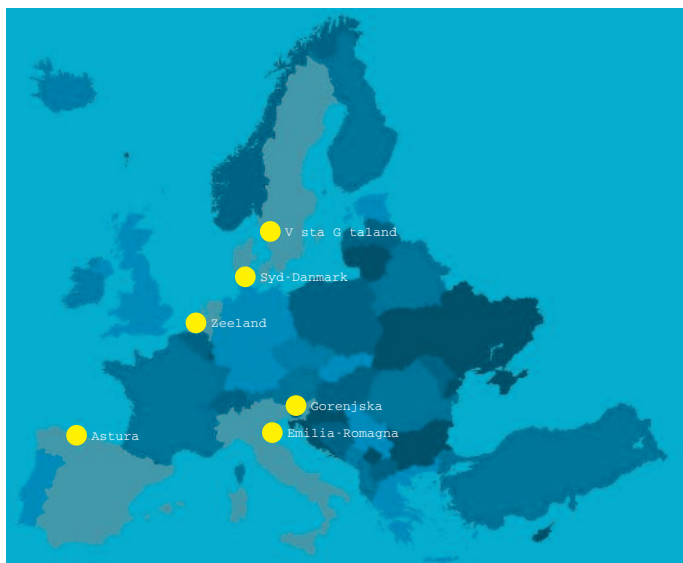
5. Empowerment; Public as a driver for Low Carbon Economy

Citizens and enterprises can, by influencing political and market demands, function as agents of change for a Low Carbon Economy.

The LoCaRe Sub-projects

LoCaRe has selected six Sub-projects. The participants in the Sub-projects are local and regional actors, municipalities, universities etc. who are joining into new partnerships to work across Europe on renewable energy, carbon sinks and carbon capture and storage, low carbon territorial planning and empowerment of citizens and enterprises.

The co-operation between these organisations and the regions is a learning process based on reviews of approaches and developments to identify best practices, success factors and barriers for Low Carbon Economy Regions. The outcome ranges from inventories, guidelines and feasibility studies to dissemination of knowledge. Implementation of best practice is foreseen in the regions.



→ **BIOMAP:** Biomass Market Place. Partners are Agroväst Livsmedel AB (SE), the Association of Municipalities in Skarborg (SE), N.V. Economische Impuls Zeeland (NL) and Centre for Economic Innovation and Development / Agency of the Forli Cesena Chamber of Commerce (IT)

→ **CARBON CARE:** Improvement of Carbon Sequestration Practices in the Agricultural and Forestry Sector towards Low-Carbon Regional Energy Patterns. Partners are LT Terra&Acqua Tech/ University of Ferrara (IT), CETEMAS Centro Tecnológico Forestal de la Madera (ES) and Centre for Sustainable Rural Development Kranj (SI).

→ **ESA:** European Sustainability Ambassadors. Partners are the Municipality of Sønderborg (DK), Energy Agency of Modena (IT), Technical School Centre Kranj (SI), Asturian Foundation of Energy (ES)

→ **LOCAL COMMITMENT:** for Low Carbon Planning and Empowerment in Small Communities. Partners are the Municipality of Vejle (DK), Zeeland NGO for Environment and Nature (NL), the Municipality of Ulricehamn (SE), Development Agency Sora (SI) and Comunità Montana Valmarecchia - Province of Rimini (IT).

→ **VACO2R:** Voluntary Agreements for CO2 Reductions: Oviedo Chamber of Commerce (ES), Asturian Foundation of Energy (ES), Province of Bologna (IT), Municipality of Odense (DK), Environmental Forum Fyn (DK), SP Energy Technology Research Institute (SE) and Municipality of Ulricehamn (SE).

→ **ZEROTRADE:** A Public Private Governance Model for a Zero Carbon Trade Sector. Partners are Municipality of Cesena (IT), Municipality of Odense (DK), Association of Municipality Services of Valle de Nalón (ES) and University of Maribor, Faculty of Organisational Sciences (SI).

Low Carbon Economy Regions in Europe

Six European regions have joined forces in a common initiative to reduce CO2 emissions locally and regionally. The objective is to benchmark, develop and implement low carbon solutions for sustainable growth.

The six partner regions are: Region Syddanmark (Denmark), Region Västra Götaland (Sweden), Principado de Asturias (Spain), Regione Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Gorenjska (Slovenia) and Province of Zeeland (the Netherlands).



Objectives and strategy

The project Low Carbon Economy Regions – LoCaRe – is a mini-programme running in the framework of EU INTERREG IV C. The objective is to develop low carbon solutions at regional and local level and contribute to economic growth at the same time.

The project addresses the EU sustainable development strategy set up in the Gothenburg Agenda, making environmental considerations and climate change an integral part in achieving the overall goals of the EU 2020 Strategy.

The LoCaRe project focuses on developing low carbon solutions at local and regional level. As a mini-programme, a large part of the LoCaRe budget is devoted to Sub-projects to bring about new initiatives and exchanges of experiences in new partnerships.

In line with the high ambition for co-operation and action, the LoCaRe work scheme is intense. The activities include interregional networking and exchange of activities in conferences, workshops, site visits and research activities. The 6 Sub-projects have an important role to play.

At the end of 2013 a policy document, “Green New Deal in Low-Carbon Economy Regions”, will be put forward. It will be based on research and on four years of interregional development activities.



Focus on “New Climate”, “New Energy” and “New Leadership”

Three themes provide the framework for all activities in the project:

1. New Climate

Moving towards low carbon economies does not mean moving towards a less prosperous society. The resource challenge must be tackled in a way that strengthens regions’ competitiveness. Market and business potential, efficiency and effectiveness are necessary ingredients in a transition to a Low Carbon Economy.

2. New Energy

Low-carbon energy systems rely on renewable energy. They may also rely on moving from centralised to decentralised energy production, distribution and use or energy efficiency. Buildings as well as mobility of goods, service and persons today make up a large percentage of carbon emissions and are therefore important areas of action.

3 New Leadership

Longer term thinking is needed to realise sustainable societies. Public and political commitment must increase and be transformed into long term action. More coherent knowledge is needed to support decision making.

Areas of Action: the Sub-themes

LoCaRe works with 5 areas of action for best practice:

1. Development and use of renewables in local energy systems

There is a strong potential in developing Local Energy System based on renewable energy. Sustainable solutions in this area can today be found at the local and regional level all over the EU. The exchange of best practice must improve, adaptation and implementation speed up.

2. Carbon Capture and Carbon Sinks

Soils, forest, regenerative agriculture and oceans are natural carbon sinks. The natural capturing that takes place in these reservoirs can be improved by artificial means or naturally. Business potential, planning and leadership challenges are obvious.

3. Sustainable Procurement Practices

Sustainable procurement is about purchasing products and services with good environmental performance and with positive social and economic impact. Local and regional authorities in Europe spend 1 000 billion Euros a year on goods and services. The possibilities to influence, move and change markets are substantial and can be better used.

4. Low Carbon Territorial Planning

Compact city planning and sprawl prevention minimise the need of private, motorised transport. Efficient cities including new public

