



Representatives of the Municipality of Ollersdorf with Mayor Bernd Strobl (2nd from right) and Franz Schausberger (r.)

IRE member Ollersdorf: Model community in renewable energy and black-out precaution

Eight years ago, the small Burgenland community of Ollersdorf with around 1000 inhabitants began to convert to renewable energy, explained Mayor Bernd Strobl (ÖVP) to the chairman of the Institute for the Regions of Europe (IRE), Franz Schausberger. Schausberger visited the community, which has recently also become a member of the IRE, on October 29, 2021 and congratulated the mayor and the community representatives present on this great initiative, which has now aroused great interest far beyond Austria.

Four project phases have now been implemented, the fifth is currently being implemented.

- ▶ The first project stage (2014) included the supply of the municipal office, the fire station and the elementary school with solar energy.
- ▶ The second project stage (2015) brought photovoltaic systems to twenty private houses and businesses as well as to the kindergarten.
- ▶ The 3rd project stage (2018) comprised ten photovoltaic systems, including for the pilgrimage church, which is one of the first churches with such a system.
- ▶ The 4th project stage brought 15 new photovoltaic systems.

The comprehensive involvement of the population from the start was crucial for the successful implementation of these projects. Currently, 20 percent of the entire population are actively involved in the project.

The 5th project stage has been running since January 2021 with ten new systems and the establishment of a center for ecology and an energy park with charging stations for e-cars. With the construction of the “solar.two” energy pavilion, e-mobility and renewable energy can be experienced.

„This project offers all interested parties the opportunity to get information, try out e-mobility and thus make a valuable contribution to climate and environmental protection as well as to maintaining our quality of life“, explained project operator Andreas Schneemann from Energie Kompass GmbH.

The project is supported by the EU, the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Province of Burgenland.

For these exemplary initiatives, Ollersdorf was honored with the world-renowned Energy Globe Award in 2020. As early as 2019, Mayor Strobl was invited to present his community’s exemplary environmental initiatives to an international audience at an energy congress in Espoo (Finland). “Ollersdorf’s activities are of great interest to many municipalities. The mayor and the project operator will certainly have the opportunity to provide information at IRE conferences,” said IRE Chairman Franz Schausberger.

Black-out precaution

The Corona crisis has brought the question of precaution in the event of a blackout into the center of public interest. Here too, Ollersdorf has made provisions in good time. The installation of salt water storage tanks in the fire station or community center guarantees emergency power supply for a maximum of 36 hours in the event of a blackout.

A new type of street lighting is shown on a demonstration route in front of the municipal office, which generates light even in the event of a complete power failure.

Energy compass

Franz Schausberger also visited the innovative company Energie Kompass GmbH in Stegersbach. Its aim is primarily to link regional alternative energy systems, especially solar energy, but also biomass and wind energy. A competence center, innovation laboratories, an event hall and a cafe are housed in an architecturally impressive, modern building. The managed energy community currently comprises ten Burgenland municipalities. The target group goes far beyond Burgenland. „We want to create smart regions as an alternative to smart cities,“ explained company founder Andreas Schneemann.

Information about the municipality: www.ollersdorf.at