

# Resolution of the General Assembly of the Climate Alliance on environmentally sound local authority procurement in the energy sector

Adopted of the General Assembly of the Climate Alliance on 17 June 2003 in Berlin



CLIMATE ALLIANCE  
KLIMA-BÜNDNIS  
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA e.V.

## Text of the Resolution

The General Assembly of the Climate Alliance of European Cities, held on 17 June 2003 in Berlin, Germany, recommends to its members the following measures for implementation of environmentally sound local authority procurement in the energy sector:

1. Member municipalities will seek, within the scope of their statutory and contractual options, to use a high proportion of **green electricity** in the activities over which they have control. This proportion shall be increased at every available opportunity (when contracts are extended etc.).
2. Member municipalities will seek, within the scope of their statutory and contractual options, to use **no nuclear power** in the activities over which they have control (as a specification in calls for tenders).
3. Member municipalities will seek, within the scope of their statutory and contractual options, to use above all **renewable energy sources or heat from CHP (combined heat and power) facilities** for space heat in activities over which they have control.
4. Member municipalities will seek, within the scope of their statutory and contractual options, to reduce emissions in activities over which they have control, by means of **innovative energy services** based on renewable energy sources or CHP and by means of procuring energy-efficient equipment and applications.

## Arguments

The resolution taken on 25.10.2001 accords local authority procurement a key role in efforts to attain sustainable development. Due to the liberalization of the energy sector, it is now possible to apply this approach to energy procurement, an area of key relevance for the Climate Alliance. Moreover, the European Court of Justice ruled in late 2002 that local authorities are free to tie the award of contracts to environmental criteria (C-513/99).

To cut emissions and safeguard sustainable development in the electricity sector, it is essential to increase the proportion of green electricity, while at the same time expelling nuclear power from Climate Alliance municipalities. If the entire process chain (mining, transportation, processing, final storage etc.) is taken into consideration, nuclear power is by no means CO<sub>2</sub> neutral – nor is it compatible with sustainable development in any other respect.

**Resolution on environmentally sound local authority procurement in the energy sector**

**June 2003**

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In the heating sector, the choice of energy source influences CO2 emissions over many years because of the associated investments. It is therefore essential that no decision (e.g. on the replacement of heating systems) is taken without examining the opportunities for deploying CHP and renewable energy sources.

The implementation of measures to enhance energy efficiency and increase the proportion of CHP or renewable energy use is often prevented in local authorities by a lack of human, time or financial resources. Innovative energy services have been developed in recent years (e.g. Thermoprofit) to remove these barriers. Member municipalities are called upon to make use of these innovative services in order to tap the potential in these areas more rapidly.

Above and beyond private-sector services, Climate Alliance municipalities will work to ensure that promoting renewables as a component of the electricity generation mix remains a social policy responsibility of decision-makers at both the national and international levels.



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