



Setting up energy efficiency networks: Accomplishing more together

At a glance

What?	Improve energy efficiency of companies
For whom?	Companies of any size and industry
How?	Voluntary energy efficiency networks for sharing experience
Where?	Regional or sector-specific, all over Germany
When?	Starting immediately; 500 networks to be formed by 2020

Brief look at energy efficiency networks

The Federal Government wants to help companies independently set energy efficiency targets for themselves. To further this goal, it launched an initiative together with several umbrella organizations – the Federation of German Industries, the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Central Association of German Crafts – and a large number of trade associations. The joint project is designed to encourage companies throughout Germany to form voluntary energy efficiency networks. In the networks, they swap information and

ideas and define specific saving targets with the support of an energy advisor. Ideally, 500 networks of 8 to 15 companies will be formed 2020. All the networks will have to meet a standard set of requirements. For example, all companies have to undergo an energy audit before participating in the network. In addition, every network member has to set a concrete savings target and take suitable action to meet it. Annual, independent monitoring is used to document network activities and the resulting efficiency improvements. Networks have proven to be an effective tool for boosting energy efficiency at companies. The new initiative is based on the „Learning Energy Efficiency Networks“ (LEEN) pilot project funded by the Federal Environment Ministry. In this project, companies had come together in 30 networks and defined joint savings targets. Another 30 networks were established by EnBW, a utility company. Based on experiences from similar projects in Germany, the German government estimates that the establishment of 500 new networks will make it possible to save up to 75 petajoule of primary energy and five million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

Summary of key facts

- 1.) Which business associations and organisations support the energy efficiency networks?
 - Federation of German Industries
 - Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry
 - German Association of Energy and Water Industries
 - Association of Local Utilities
 - German Retail Association
 - Central Association of German Crafts
 - Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers and Self-Producers
 - Germany Machinery and Plant Manufacturers Association
 - German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association
 - German Association of Energy Consumers
 - Non-Ferrous Metals Association
 - Association of the German Petroleum Industry
 - German Chemical Industry Association
 - German Pulp and Paper Association
 - German Building Materials Association
 - Association of Steel Producers
 - Federation of German Food and Drink Industries
 - Federal Association of the German Glass Industry



2.) How many companies should be in a network?

Generally 8 to 15, but at least 5 companies.

3.) How is a network initiated?

Each network is initiated by a sponsor. Apart from the above business associations and organisations, network sponsors may also be chambers, utilities, companies, local authorities, service providers or energy agencies. Networks can be restricted to a particular industry or span multiple sectors. Other options are company networks or networks funded by the federal states.

4.) How does energy consulting work within a network?

A qualified energy advisor analyses the savings potential in the participating companies when they join the network and provides ongoing support to members. Each member then defines a company-specific savings target based on this analysis. The network sets itself a joint savings target that is the sum of the individual savings targets.

5.) How does annual monitoring work?

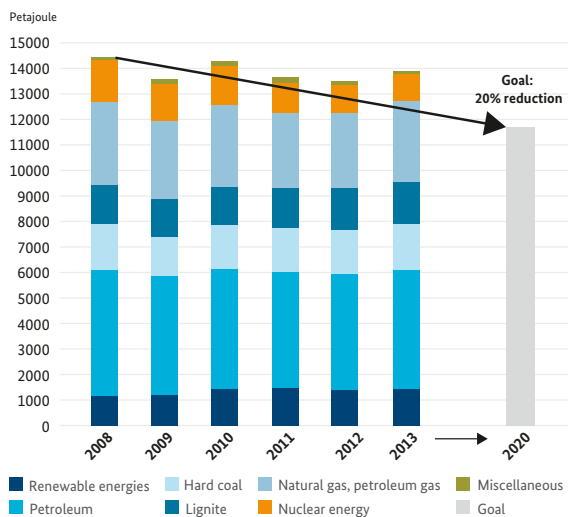
After consulting with the business associations and organisations, the German government commissions an independent scientific institute to carry out the monitoring. The first round of monitoring is scheduled to begin in spring 2016. Its purpose is to record the number of networks and to check whether they meet the minimum requirements. It will also capture the energy efficiency measures taken within the networks.

6.) Which special considerations apply in networks that consist of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)?

These networks will be subject to minimum requirements on a sliding scale. The requirements will also be changed for SMEs that form a network together with large enterprises.

Did you know?

Our goal: Reduce energy consumption 20% by 2020



Source: Working Group on Energy Balances

Germany continues to use less energy from conventional sources and more from renewable ones. The overall use of primary energy in Germany has gone down roughly four percent since 1990. This is a start – but not enough by far. By 2020, we want to lower our primary energy consumption 20 per cent compared to 2008. The business community can make a valuable contribution to reaching this goal. Numerous corporate optimisation measures can add up to huge energy and CO₂ emission savings. The goal is to cut five million tonnes of greenhouse gases by 2020 with the help of the energy efficiency networks.

Learn more

“Learning Energy Efficiency Networks” (LEEN) pilot project, which has created 30 networks:
www.leen.de

More information about the EnBW energy efficiency networks:
www.enbw.com

Contact

You can obtain further information from the business associations and organisations that support the energy efficiency networks.