



Run for energy

Cornellà de Llobregat, Spain

IN A NUTSHELL

The municipality developed a support scheme for people in a situation of energy poverty using money raised during the traditional public run.

ENERGY POVERTY ON THE RISE

In 2017 around 3,000 people directly benefited from the work the municipality of Cornellà carried out as part of their action to tackle energy poverty (2,698 people according to the Office of Energy Efficiency). This number of files corresponds to approximately 500 families that are in a situation of energy poverty in the city. The applicants for the energy support programs were on average 49-year-old, mostly women, and living in households with an average of 2.9 people. Their average income was €542.49. The number of people benefitting from help is on the rise due to the effects of the economic crisis on family income, the power market situation in Spain and the poor conditions of some homes in the city.

CREATING AWARENESS OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION

In 2015, with the aggravation of energy poverty in Cornellà de Llobregat, the city council decided to reframe the traditional popular public run, which takes place within the framework of the cities' local festivities and the EU energy week and use it to create awareness of energy poverty among its participants. In order to do so, the city council contracted a non-profit consultancy expert on energy poverty, Ecoserveis, to develop informational material that was set in key parts of the run so that the participants could see how many calories they burned and what this meant in kWh.

FROM ENERGY TO EUROS

In addition, taking into account the growing demand for subsidies needed to tackle energy poverty situations in Cornellà, the municipality decided to give a monetary value to:

- The average calories burned by each one of the participants in the popular run (in kWh);
- The total amount of calories burned by the participants in the energy-poverty-related activities that took place during the EU energy week in Cornellà.



The energy poverty stand at the local run

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CORNELLA DE LLOBREGAT

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<p>Population: 86,500</p>	<p>Area 7 km²</p>
<p>Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since: 2008</p>	<p>CO₂ emission reduction target: -20% by 2020</p>

The amount resulting from this symbolic transformation was then allocated as part of a municipal budget to carry out energy audits in vulnerable households.

ENERGY AUDITS

The total amount collected in the last 2 editions was €52,000. With this amount, a total of 110 interventions have been carried out in vulnerable households in the municipality.

Those interventions consist in the visit of a technician in order to:

- First, look at the sources of energy in the home and visualise, by means of the consumption history presented by the invoices, the way energy is used in the home. Based on such information the technician proposes recommendations for efficient use of energy in the home. Low consumption materials are also installed, such as replacement of incandescent bulbs with LED or installation of insulation materials.
- Secondly, assess the external insulation status of the dwelling to see possible causes of excess consumption
- Finally, carry out a contractual advisory service regarding the existing energy supply contract, with the aim of reducing the service costs as much as possible and making people more able to pay their invoices.

Monitoring of the consumption of the households that have been audited is conducted by the Energy Efficiency Office of the municipality, in order to determine to what extent the saving measures proposed are effective. For the households that have switched suppliers, the contractual change immediately results in price decrease, especially with regard to electricity consumption.

In addition, in 2017 the municipality carried out some phone calls to people over 65 to detect cases of energy poverty and to report consumption habits.

IMPACT

After 3 editions, the city council believes that the activity has been very popular among both the organisers and participants. In addition, it believes that it is necessary to put an emphasis on the link between communicating about energy poverty and being able to reach very specific groups that have traditionally been made invisible, and are especially affected by energy poverty, such as the elderly. Furthermore, thanks to the allocated money, resources were used to help tackle energy poverty among these groups.

USEFUL LINKS

- ▶ Covenant profile of Cornellà de Llobregat:
<http://bit.ly/2zfFC5x>
- ▶ Run4energy video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2odO9ZRLg>

KEY FIGURES

€52,000 collected in the 2017 and 2018 public runs

110 household interventions performed

23,231 beneficiaries from energy advice in 2017 (including household interventions, phone counselling and the Run4energy event)



FINANCING THE PROJECT

+ **Financing source(s):**
City Council

+ **Total amount:**
€30,000



CONTACT

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