



For Immediate Release

Alliance to Save Energy

Policy Workshop on Urban Heating Reform in Europe and Eurasia: Experiences and Future Agenda

March 27-28, 2007, 9am – 6pm, Express Hotel, Kiev

The Alliance to Save Energy Assembles Urban Heating Experiences and Recommendations for Europe and Eurasia

A policy workshop on “Urban Heating Reform in Europe and Eurasia: Experiences and Future Agenda” is being held in Kiev, Ukraine on March 27-28, 2007 to examine past successes and failures in improving residential heating in cities.

The transition from planned to market-based economies has saddled countries in the region with failing, oversized district heating systems, making the provision of heat a huge financial burden on society. The heating sector is the largest single user of fossil fuels in Europe and Eurasia, consuming as much as 45 percent of the total energy used in some countries, along with billions of dollars each year in emergency repairs to poorly-maintained systems. Despite the challenges that remain in this sector, many countries have managed to improve urban heating over the past two decades, thanks to investment projects and reforms introduced in collaboration with international development agencies and financiers.

The workshop is being organized by the Alliance to Save Energy (Alliance), a U.S.-based non-governmental organization, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The two-day event will bring together governments, policymakers, heat enterprise managers, investors and bankers, experts and donor representatives to discuss urban heating issues in the region in a comprehensive way that crosses disciplines and sectors. Part of the discussion at the workshop will be on the findings of the forthcoming *Regional Urban Heating Policy Assessment* carried out by the Alliance with USAID support.

The assessment documents the latest, most up-to-date analysis of heating policies and trends in the urban heat arena, and offers recommendations for the region’s policymakers and their development partners. It draws extensively from local experiences, documenting and analyzing the relevant policy reforms and their influence on heat supply and end-use, and on consumers. It explores how urban heating has evolved in terms of heat price regulation, supplier-consumer relations, affordability and long-term market viability. The assessment was developed with an expert advisory panel consisting of the region’s most prominent experts in heat policy reform. The assessment will be finalized for release in April 2007 based on the findings and discussions from the workshop.

The agenda outlining the goals and expected outcomes of the workshop, as well as logistical information about the workshop are available at www.munee.org.

Venue: Hotel Express, 38/40 Shevchenko Avenue, Kiev, Ukraine
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Conference Language: *English and Russian with simultaneous translation*

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