



## Project Fact Sheet

Created June 2007

### Benchmarking and Energy management Schemes in SMEs (BESS)

**Programme area:** SAVE, innovative approaches in the industry  
**Status:** completed



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**Website:** <http://www.bess-project.info>



**Objective:** Support SMEs in implementing energy management and offer possibility of international benchmarking and E-learning

**Benefits:** Awareness for energy topic raised in SMEs, improved energy efficiency in SMEs



**Keywords:** Energy efficiency, energy management, international benchmarking

**Duration:** 01/2005 – 05/2007

**Budget:** € 1.335.831,00 (EU contribution: 50%)

**Contract number:** EIE/04/246/S07.38678

#### Short description

BESS supports SMEs from the food and drink industry in improving their energy efficiency by implementing an energy management system. This leads SMEs to check their energy performance on a regular basis, discover energy saving potentials and implement energy saving measures. The main barriers for implementing energy management are the lack of personnel resources and specific knowledge.

BESS offers an easy to follow way with various tools like an “energy management implementation model” and an e-learning system on the BESS website. Additionally an international benchmarking scheme for specific energy consumption has been established which offers the possibility to compare specific energy consumption with a large number of other companies from the same sector. The benchmarking scheme is based on the already successfully running Norwegian benchmarking scheme where 63% of the industrial energy consumption is represented.

In several pilot companies it has been proved that BESS is a good opportunity for European SMEs to improve their energy efficiency and decrease their energy costs consequently and to participate on an international benchmarking scheme.

## Achieved results

- 53 pilot companies from the food & drink industries in 11 European countries tested the supportive tools for implementing energy management and benchmarking including the E-learning system.
- According to the feedback of the pilot companies the BESS consortium was able to produce tools which are satisfying the actual needs of SMEs.
- A fully operational interactive web based benchmarking and e-learning system for implementation of energy management to increase the adoption of energy efficiency measures in SMEs is available on [www.bess-project.info](http://www.bess-project.info).
- A handbook which offers one possible sequence for implementing energy management has been elaborated.
- On the first of March 2007 the BESS workshop took place in Wels, Austria. More than 60 participants from SMEs of the food and drink industry, energy service companies, consultants and associations learned about the results of BESS and the future possibilities to continue with international benchmarking and e-Learning.
- Recommendations for policymakers have been elaborated which point out how energy efficiency in industrial SMEs can be improved by establishing the BESS package of instruments and tools.



Note: based on the SenterNovem E-learning dartboard model

## Lessons learnt

- The benchmarking scheme is an important stimulus for SMEs to implement an energy management system and can support companies in monitoring the energy savings achieved through the implementation of efficiency measures.
- Sector associations are very helpful in communication with the companies.
- Additional to the e-learning scheme personal contact with external consultants is essential for most companies to implement energy management.
- Energy management and benchmarking are proven instruments to increase the energy efficiency in industry. The BESS package facilitates the implementation of energy management and offers the basis for an international energy benchmarking scheme.
- The BESS tools are suitable to mitigate the main barriers for energy efficiency measures in industry. They can be used to support and complement existing national initiatives in accordance with the country-specific situation and policy framework.
- The BESS tools can be applied for training and education programmes and awareness raising campaigns. They can be combined with economic support schemes and could support industry in reaching targeted aims in long term agreements.