How to plan a Solar Thermal Ordinance

At www.solarordinances.eu you can read all about case studies on the successful implementation of Solar Thermal Ordinances and learn about the best “recipe” on how to develop an efficient STO.

You will also find there useful tools to help you plan your local Solar Thermal Ordinance and guide you through the whole process. This STO Toolbox includes the following sections:

- **Context** - gives background information on STOs, communications and in particular all the pro arguments for the adoption of a STO in your community.
- **Baseline Assessment** - provides analysis tools in connection with the status, potential and feasibility of a STO in your area.
- **Ordinance Components** - contains model texts and legal approaches for drafting a tailor-made ordinance.
- **Flanking Measures** - lists supporting activities proposals to strengthen the STO.
- **Monitoring** - this is useful for tracking the STO’s impact.

The Helpdesk supports you in planning a STO.

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Solar Thermal Ordinances

Solar Thermal Ordinances (STO) are legal provisions making mandatory the installation of solar thermal systems in buildings. The obligation mainly applies to new buildings and those undergoing major refurbishment. The owner is responsible for ensuring that the solar thermal system installed meets legal requirements.

Most of the existing STOs are connected to national or regional energy laws and implemented through local building codes. A growing number of European municipalities, regions and countries are adopting solar thermal obligations, so far involving over 150 million inhabitants.

The ProSTO project

Boosting the use of solar thermal systems in the European countries is the prime objective of the ProSTO project in promoting an efficient implementation of solar thermal ordinances and supporting European local authorities in planning, developing, introducing and managing efficient solar thermal ordinances (STOs).

The region of Lazio (IT), the cities of Lisbon (PT), Murcia (ES), Stuttgart (DE) and Giurgiu (RO) are participating in this joint action to showcase best practice STOs. The aim is to implement optimized STOs, consisting of model regulations, tuned criteria, efficient administrative procedures and flanking measures.

A large number of practical tools are already available on the website www.solarordinances.eu, such as the STO database, the STO toolbox and the STO helpdesk. The dissemination of information on project results through the authorities’ networks will also target and persuade new potential communities to adopt STOs.

Solar Thermal offers many benefits

- Aesthetic integration into buildings
- Widely-used proven technology
- Jobs creation and boost to local economy
- Readily available all over Europe
- Energy security
- Focus on environmental issues
- Cost-effective savings on CO₂ emissions

“Solar thermal has enormous potential and low costs. Our challenge in Lazio is to convince people of the advantages deriving from its use.”
Filiberto Zaratti, Regional Minister for Environment and Cooperation among Peoples, Lazio Region, Italy

“Today, energy is a part of everyday life. Conventional energy sources are limited, but as leaders in our community, we have the obligation to set an example of good practice in the areas of energy saving and renewable energy use, so that citizens would acknowledge the importance of each gesture intended to contribute to the health of the planet.”
Lucian ILIESCU, Mayor of Giurgiu Municipality, Romania

“Solar energy will be the “sun of energy”.”
Professor Eduardo de Oliveira Fernandes, former Secretary of State for Environment (Portuguese Government, 1984-1985), Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy for Energy and Innovation (Portuguese Government, 2001-2002), and Chairman of the Commission for Buildings Thermal Regulations at the CSOPT (Portuguese Ministry of Public Works, 2002-2006)

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“Our justifiably ambitious climate protection goals are reachable. However, this needs active combatants. With the provided regulations we found a passable way for on one hand making an effective contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions and on the other hand not overburden the single citizen. People do follow, because they feel, that we have to act for protecting the climate.”
Tanja Gönner, Minister for the Environment of Baden-Württemberg, Germany

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