Gdynia

Local action for greener energy

A Covenant of Mayors Case Study

Recently distinguished as the most energy-efficient city in Poland, Gdynia has been looking at how it can improve people's quality of life, while at the same time cutting municipal spending. The city has worked on solutions including refurbished buses, better performing street lamps, using waste to produce energy and creating a digital city hall for clean easy access to local services.

460,000
people served by the waste-to-energy plant

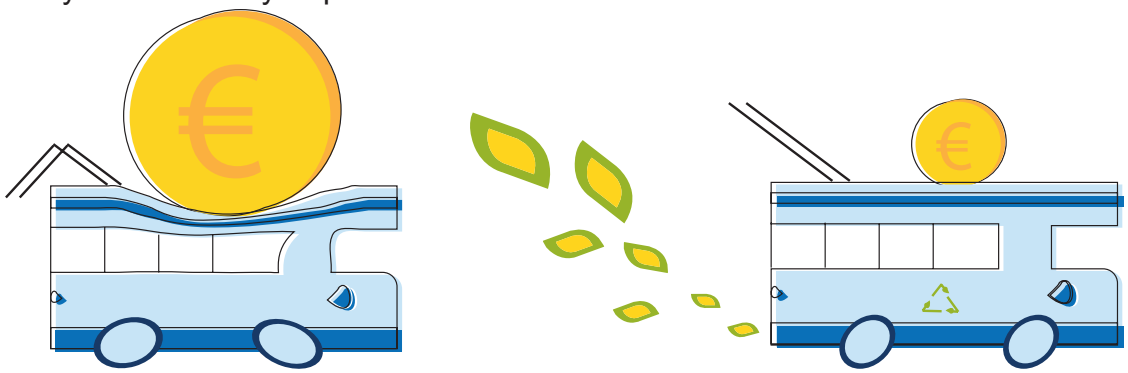
50%
of buses running on biofuel by 2030

Waste-to-energy plant

How to invest in refurbishments and low-carbon technology in an economic downturn? Make sure nothing goes to waste... not even waste! The entire metropolitan area subscribes to that thanks to Gdynia's waste-to-energy plant, which uses local technology to minimise pollution and lower energy costs. The plant has been so successful that the municipality now plans to expand it in order to produce biofuel from biodegradable waste. In the long-term, half of the local bus fleet would run on this type of gas, ensuring low ticket prices and cleaner air in the city.

Sustainable transport

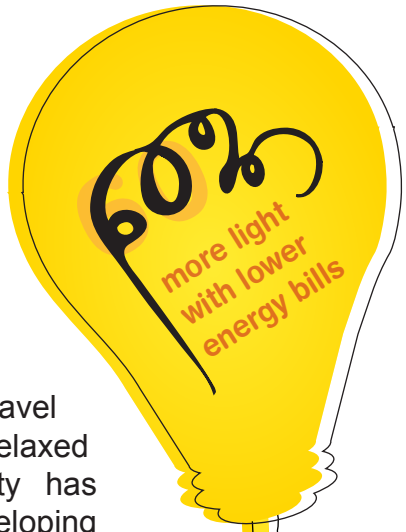
Public transport has already demonstrated to be an area where small investments can have large benefits for residents: the past two years have seen Gdynia's energy-efficient trolleybuses decrease municipal power consumption by 20%. While the local public transport company wants to adapt to clean and silent electric vehicles, new trolleys generally come with a high price tag. European funds have helped the city retrofit its old diesel buses into efficient trolleybuses for only a quarter of the cost of a new vehicle.



Converting a disused diesel bus into an energy-efficient trolley costs less than a new trolleybus. **75%**

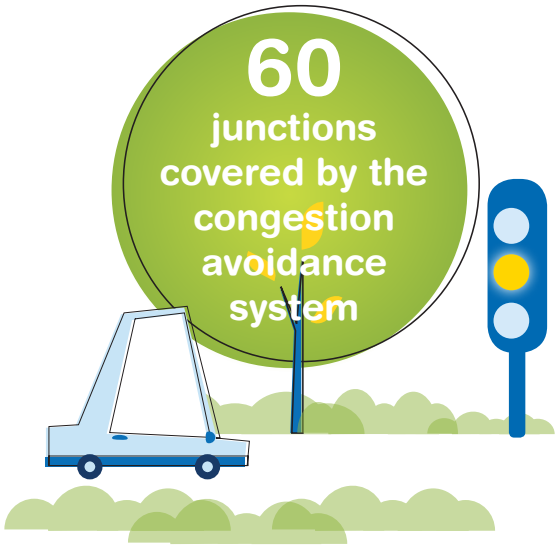
Energy efficient street lamps

Gdynia's energy bills have also been reduced through the replacement of half of the city's street lamps with more energy efficient alternatives. This has allowed the city to greatly decrease costs and re-invest in its public lighting system. While people feel safer due to an increase in the number of light posts by more than 50%, low consumption lamps and smart control systems now ensure that no energy is wasted.



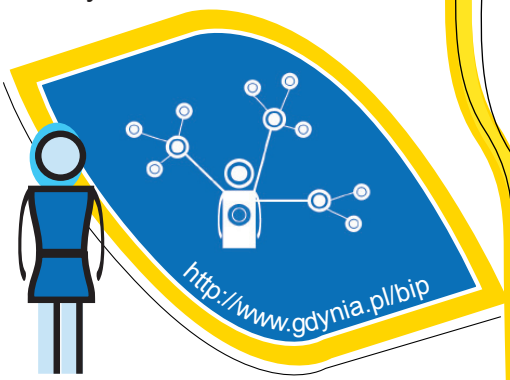
Congestion avoidance scheme

The use of synchronised green lights at peak hours results in shorter travel times, better air quality and more relaxed residents. The Polish municipality has taken that into account when developing its metropolitan congestion avoidance scheme. Congestion-detecting cameras have been installed at key junctions in the city and its surroundings; whenever they detect queues, the traffic management system adapts the rythm of green lights throughout the area to increase traffic fluidity. Gdynia also engages its car and public transport users in improving their daily commute by providing real-time information about traffic conditions and by presenting pedestrian and cycling alternative routes to the city's key areas.



E-government

Easy access to the municipality is not only about finding one's way through the streets, but also about improving the way in which citizens navigate its paperwork. To improve efficiency and lower emissions from travel to the city hall, Gdynia has developed a virtual municipal office, where residents and businesses can receive information, submit documents and comment on city developments.



Gdynia's plans for energy efficiency and emission reductions go beyond the actions mentioned above. As a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors, the city of Gdynia voluntarily commits to reducing its CO_2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020. For more information on how the municipality will achieve that goal, contact:

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