

Biogas Education Center in Kazakhstan



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In 2004-2005, a biogas educational center, "Azur Flame", is being established, aiming to be a center for education about and promotion of biogas and other renewable energy use in Central Kazakhstan.

The project is coordinated by INFORSE-Europe together with the member organisations ECO-Museum in Kazakhstan, which hosts the Center, and Renewable Energy Agency in Ukraine, which will assist with biogas knowledge etc. From Denmark, besides INFORSE-Europe, the Bioenergy Department of the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) will assist the project.

Role of the Center

The Azur Flame Center is planned to be a focal point for promotion of biogas and other renewable energy for local use, in particular in rural areas in Kazakhstan.

It is intended to introduce and to disseminate biogas technologies in Central Kazakhstan, and to improve the economical, environmental, and social situation in rural communities.

The most important of the center's activities are expected to be educational training, consulting, and designing services related with biogas technologies. In addition to these, the center is advocating for national and local policies to encourage rural groups, families, and entrepreneurs to use renewable sources of energy.

During the project, several types of materials will be developed, e.g., training material, educational videos, posters, a do-it-yourself building manual for smaller plants, database, and feasibility studies for future farm biogas plants.

In February, 2004 the project partners participated in a study tour in Denmark.

There will be trainings on biogas in Karaganda in Kazakhstan in April and in October, 2004 as well as in April and October of 2005.

In September, 2005, there will be an International Central Asian Conference on Biogas in Kazakhstan.



Visiting a biogas plant in Filskov during the study tour in Denmark. The plant receives slurry from 11 livestock farms, and the biogas is powering a 375-kW engine.

Background of the Project:

The ECO-museum implemented a biogas project between 2000 and 2003, with financing by the Small Grant Program of the GEF, the UNDP, and Dutch HIVOS Foundation. The project financed building of a few digesters (8, 36, 40, 67, and 162 m³).

The "Azur Flame" project, establishing a Biogas Training Center, is building on the experiences of this previous project. The "Azur Flame" project includes more training of local specialists, involving more foreign experience, organising several seminars to further the knowledge of the farmers and the officials, rendering

support and researching the feasibility of building more biogas plants, developing means and facilities to be able to train more local people and to optimise the biogas plants to function better in the Kazak climate.

Funding

Most (80 %) of the financial support is from the European Community - EuropeAid. The remaining 20% is cofinancing from the partner organisations, partly from support from the HIVOS foundation and the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature.



Group at the Study Tour in Denmark. From left to right: Georgiy Geletukha (REA), Jens Bo Holm Nielsen (SDU), Yuri Matveev, (REA) Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE-Europe/OVE), Valentin Zhirkov (ECO-Museum), and Julia Kalmykova (ECO-Museum).

Photo made by Judit Szoleczky (INFORSE-Europe).

More information at the INFORSE-Europe homepage:

http://www.inforse.org/europe/kz_biogas.htm

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