

Local initiatives and campaigns

European Solar Days

The concept of European Solar Days campaign

The first 'Tag der Sonne' was celebrated in Austria in 2002. The idea was then taken up by Switzerland and Germany where, in the case of Germany a whole week is now dedicated to this successful renewable energy awareness-raising campaign. The 'Woche der Sonne' in Germany has become the most successful Solar Campaign ever staged and has been a key factor in the increased use of solar energy throughout Germany.

As an awareness raising campaign, the European Solar Days aims at promoting the use of the sun as an energy source for all solar applications, Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic, throughout Europe.

It is now time to bring the Solar Days to the rest of Europe – with Belgium, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Slovenia joining the initiative in 2008. Other countries are expected to join the initiative in 2009 and it is planned to extend the Solar Days throughout Europe in the future. The European Solar Days will bring together major players from the solar thermal and solar electricity sectors throughout Europe. The European Solar Days is a project supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, coordinated by ESTIF in close cooperation with EPIA, and promoted by 25 organisations at national and European level.

What happened in 2008

The first European Solar Days were celebrated on 16-17 May 2008 when over 4000 different events were staged in 13 European countries, reaching more than 250.000 participants throughout Europe.



A special inauguration press conference as well as an all day street fair were held in Brussels to start the European celebrations in 2008. The event included educational displays for young and old, street entertainment with live music during the day, with a live concert featuring MilkInc as main act in the evening.

Participating countries in 2008 were Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, with single events also taking place in Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Events were held by anyone interested in promoting solar energy. Solar companies arranged to hold open days, schools organised educational activities, cities provided information days.

Where to find more information

<p>The edition of European Solar Days will take place on 15-23 May, 2009</p>
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Solar Days in Europe: www.solardays.eu

Solar Days in Austria: www.solarwaerme.at/Sonne-und-Energie/Aktionstag/

Solar Days in France: www.journeesdusolaire.fr/

Solar Days in Germany: www.woche-der-sonne.de

Solar Days in Italy: www.europeansolardays.it (or www.eusd.it)

Solar Days in the Netherlands: www.solardays.nl

Solar Days in Slovenia: www.ape.si/wwwesd/

Solar Days in Spain: www.diasolar.es

Solar Days in Switzerland: www.swissolar.ch/404.0.html

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See www.solarordinances.eu for more information on solar thermal ordinances and the ProSTO project.

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