

Covenant of Mayors obliges to show initiative

Solar energy and cycle paths help Polotsk implement '20-20-20' strategy

Hot water heaters powered by solar panels, cycle paths and a modernised boiler house are to appear in Polotsk as part of its sustainable energy development strategy.

Polotsk is the first Belarusian participant of the Covenant of Mayors — a European campaign uniting cities eager to considerably reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. It has begun to elaborate a sustainable energy development plan, with its first draft developed jointly by Spanish Bionet and the National Academy of Sciences' Energy Institute.

Having analysed current energy consumption, energy-saving and the results of an energy audit of ten facilities in Polotsk (carried out by the NAS' Energy Institute) Spanish specialists from Bionet have offered a plan on how

best to reduce CO₂ emissions. Measures aim to reduce consumption and promote the use of renewable energy. In particular, energy-saving measures are planned for public and residential buildings, with a new system of urban lighting and transport and new ways of generating power for public utilities. Wider use of local fuels and renewable energy are being suggested.

The sustainable energy development plan stipulates major sites for the allocation of technical assistance funds. In particular, a boiler house is to be modernised in the city and, by 2020, five hot water heaters powered by solar energy will have been installed. Moreover, the walls and roofs of

municipal buildings are to be insulated, with LED lamps used for lighting one city street — as agreed by the state energy saving programme.

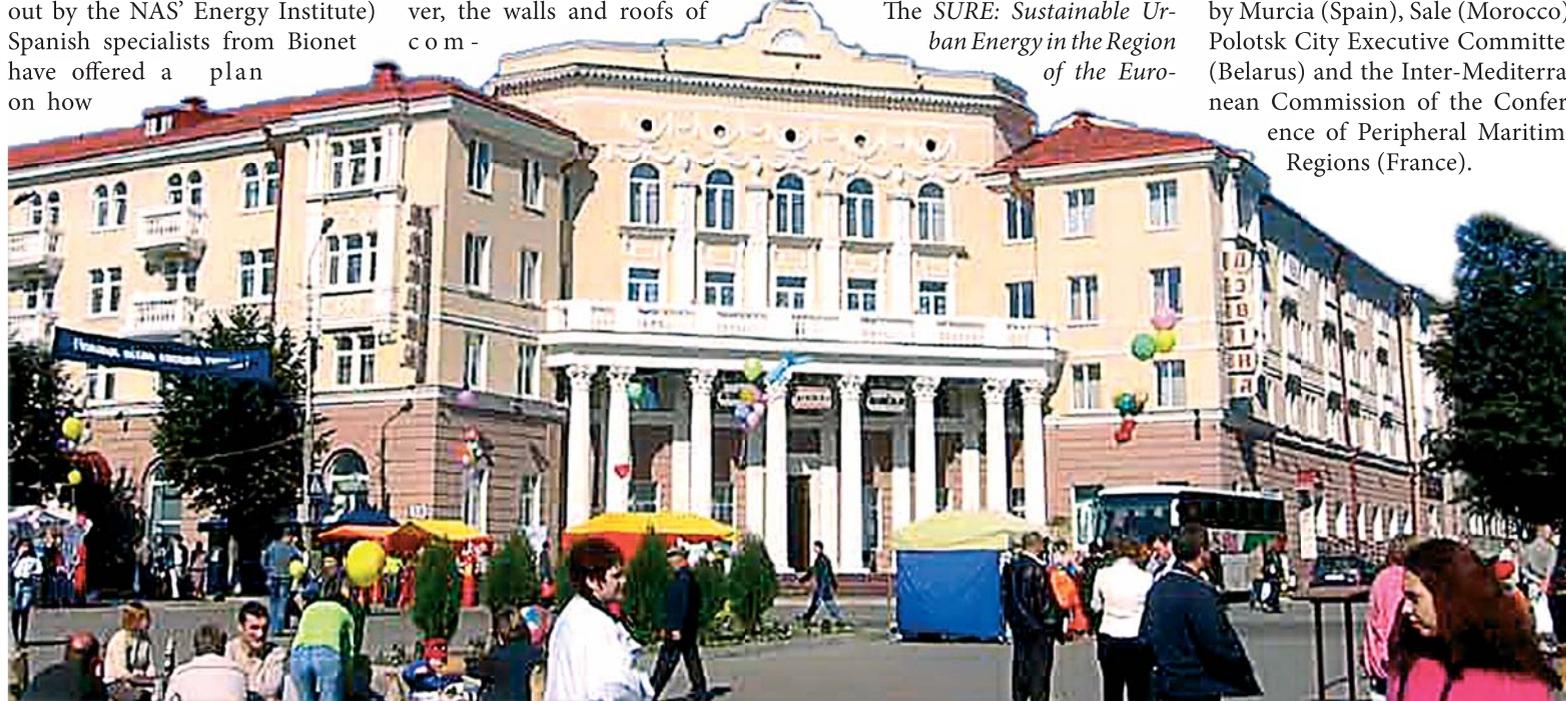
According to European experts, the expansion of dedicated cycle paths is another way to reduce CO₂ emissions. To achieve this, a system of cycle paths is being developed in Polotsk, in line with the city plan.

Public awareness will be raised regarding ways to save energy and reduce CO₂ emissions, with a draft project for sustainable energy development being submitted to the city council for discussion. If approved, it will next be submitted to the European Commission before final implementation.

The SURE: Sustainable Urban Energy in the Region of the Euro-

pean Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument — Towards the Covenant of Mayors EU project is part of an EU CIUDAD programme. The budget for the 30-month project is almost 790,000 Euros and aims to improve sustainable energy development in Polotsk and Sale (Morocco). Both have recently joined the Covenant of Mayors, undertaking obligations to implement the EU's '20-20-20' strategy. This targets CO₂ emissions, aiming to reduce them by at least 20 percent while raising the share of alternative energy sources by 20 percent and enhancing energy efficiency by 20 percent — by 2020.

Freidrichshafen is the leading partner (from Germany), joined by Murcia (Spain), Sale (Morocco), Polotsk City Executive Committee (Belarus) and the Inter-Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (France).



Modern Polotsk

Charity marathon launches

International social-artistic project *Chernobyl Road: Path of Life* starts in Belarus

The 26th International *Chernobyl Road: Path of Life* project has been recently launched in the Narovlya District of the Gomel Region. This year, it is taking place from March to April, in those districts affected by the Chernobyl disaster: the Gomel, Brest, Mogilev and Minsk regions of Belarus, the District of Surazh in Russia's Bryansk Region and in the village of Koryukovka, in Ukraine's Chernigov Region.

Famous Belarusian artistes are participating in the charity event, with talented youngsters joining them on stage, as is traditional, to open the project. For many, the programme has aided them in developing their musical skills.

Co-ordinator Yekaterina Dalidovich notes that the project supports dozens of musical schools, orphanages, children's rehabilitation centres, centres for children and young people and hospitals in affected areas.

Everything just beginning

By Ivan Demidov

Film about BelAZ wins prize at all-Russian contest for best corporate video

The *BelAZ Works Here* film, dedicated to the Belarusian automobile giant, has won the contest's major nomination — 'Image Corporate Film'. It has taken the Grand Prix, which is the People's Choice Award.

In total, 130 corporate films entered the contest, including works by world famous brands. However, only four reached the short list, being screened in Moscow during the *Corporate Video in Russia 2012: Major Market Trends* Forum.

"To make a good film, we needed to establish good relations with our customer company: BelAZ," notes Yevgeny Barkovsky, the producer of the LBLProduction Company, which shot the BelAZ film. "It's a unique enterprise employing unique people. I now understand Belarus better as a Slavonic nation."

Experts note that corporate videos are a new business com-

petence, bringing fresh business solutions and the opportunity to make bright and emotional connections with partners, clients

mentary to the public. According to Mr. Barkovsky, the film details the enterprise's successes and prospects for development, us-



Open-door day at BelAZ

and colleagues. The Belarusian automobile giant agrees, so is soon to present its new docu-

ing the idea that much has been achieved but that its path is also only just beginning.

Locators catch 'weather mood'

By Tatiana Borisova

Radar network soon to provide aircraft with meteorological data

Last April, a contemporary locator came into use at Minsk National Airport, allowing weather conditions to be monitored and forecast promptly. "This was Belarus' first radio-locator, enabling us to receive information. We can now forecast hail, snow and rainfall with greater precision," notes Igor Franchuk, the Head of the Republican Aviation and Meteorological Centre. Eight such locators are found in Poland and several in the Baltic States.

"This year, we plan to install a similar locator in Gomel; work is already underway," explains Mr. Franchuk. "A radar system is envisaged for the future."

In fact, the Republican Aviation and Meteorological Centre is working jointly with the Hydrometeorological Centre of Belarus within the *Baltrad* project of international technical assistance. Sweden, Finland, Poland, Latvia, Denmark and Estonia are fellow members. Belarus is gaining a more exact weather forecast, which is of great use to the rescue services of the Emergency Ministry and to airports.

Mr. Franchuk stresses that specialists from the Republican Aviation and Meteorological Centre and its structural regional branches are now better able to ensure the security of aircraft. The Centre provided around 18,000 aircraft with meteorological data last year alone.

Chronicle of construction goes on show

By Tatiana Bolgovskaya

Gomel is Under Construction exhibition, dedicated to city's 870th anniversary, hosted by Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace

The exhibition contains (in chronological order) photos of the most memorable buildings in the regional centre, alongside samples of construction materials and equipment, and unique documents from the archives of the Local History Museum, the Museum of City History and the State Archives of the Gomel Region.

Gomel was first mentioned in the Ipatievskaya Chronicle in 1142 — as being under the ownership of Duke of Chernigov and Duke Igor Olgovich. Over the years, the city has accumulated a rich legacy of buildings, dating far earlier than the 12th century.

The project has been prepared by student architects, from the Belarusian State University of Transport's Construction Department.