

December 2024

WELCOME

to issue No.4 of the KNOWnNEBs newsletter!

In this issue, we're excited to bring you the latest updates on our project's progress and share some key milestones we've achieved. After some project news, we'll dive into our team's evaluation of the innovative *KNOWnNEBs assessment tool*—an essential outcome of our project that's redefines how energy efficiency measures are assessed.

Next, we'll take a moment to look back at 2024, reflecting on some of the year's standout highlights and to keep you ahead of the curve, we'll wrap up with an outlook on upcoming events and opportunities in the energy efficiency and sustainability industry.

KNOWnNEBs is a Life EU-funded project that aims to accelerate the uptake of energy efficiency (EE) measures thus increasing EE investments and sustainable actions. Focusing on the primary tool for identifying and evaluating barriers to energy efficiency – the energy audit - the consortium intends to improve current practices, by quantifying the value of NON-ENERGY BENEFITS (NEBs) and

integrating it into energy efficiency calculations.

Current energy audits only report on direct energy cost savings, not considering NEBs, such as improved product quality, space comfort, increased productivity, reduced maintenance-related downtime, and other significant benefits. This leads to energy audits underestimating the true value of energy efficiency indicators and neglecting impactful measures which could increase EE investments and accelerate the implementation of sustainable actions.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues who might be interested!

To keep up with the project and be part of the change in methodologies, follow us on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)) and our [website](#).

Kind regards,

The KNOWnNEBs Team

PROJECT NEWS

LATEST PROJECT EFFORTS

KNOWnNEBs methodology takes off with our Pilot Audits

The KNOWnNEBs project has reached an important milestone with the launch of its pilot phase. This marks the first real-world application of the innovative energy audit methodology, which is designed not only to estimate potential energy savings,



but also, to quantify the non-energy benefits of implementing energy efficiency measures.

Each of our nine project partners is carrying out pilot audits at national level, testing and refining the methodology in different settings. This structured approach will provide valuable insights that will help us

optimising the tool for wider use. Once the pilot phase is complete, trainings will be offered to energy auditors to enable them to integrate this improved methodology into their practice and drive meaningful change in energy management.

The KNOWnNEBs Tool

We are excited to share the opinions from our project partners about the innovative KNOWnNEBs assessment tool developed during the course of the project. From its user-friendly design to its potential for driving change, our partners provide their perspectives on how the tool supports energy efficiency and facilitates auditing practices.

Ekodoma, Latvia:

*"We truly believe that our newly developed methodology and tools will change the way we evaluate energy-related investments. By including non-energy impacts (such as benefits and efforts), our tools make it easier than ever to encourage companies to adopt energy efficiency measures suggested in energy audits. Our approach, which has been rigorously tested during our project, will become the standard for energy audits in the industry. We've created tools that make energy audits a valuable decision-making tool for energy efficiency measures. During field testing, we've seen first-hand how our tools help companies to fully utilise the results of energy audits and clearly demonstrate the benefits of energy efficiency measures." – **Gatis Žogla, Leading Energy Auditor***

BME, Hungary:

"The tools developed in the KNOWnNEBs project are interesting and valuable additions to current energy auditing practice. The first tool helps to identify relevant non-energy benefits for different energy efficiency measures, and the second tool greatly helps with the detailed financial analysis of energy efficiency measures. It's interesting to see how non-energy benefits such as improved work performance, increased productivity and reduced maintenance costs can be integrated into the financial calculations. Although the tools are still being developed and tested, they show considerable potential. They appear to be a promising addition to standard energy audit practice."

University Coimbra, Portugal:

*"The methodology is interesting and can clearly help improve the approval of more energy efficient measures, but the effort to comply with the KNOWnNEBs methodology should not outweigh the benefits it brings." – **Paulo Santos, ContaWatt***

ESCAN, Spain:

"The KNOWnNEBs project has developed 2 different tools to include and take into account Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs) in energy audits. It is necessary to highlight the brilliant usefulness of these tools, as they provide an unusual approach in the daily life of companies that should be

valued more. These tools encourage the evaluation of those aspects that affect the company outside the energy field, which are usually not considered. In addition, all this information is supported by an economic study to assess the feasibility of implementing the measures, as this is a good way of approaching and understanding how the efficiency measures affect the industry in which it operates and its environment. The tools have a user manual with basic information to better understand and use the tool. Furthermore, for more personal and specific information and results, the user can modify the importance criteria to better focus on how the NEBs affect the results."

CISB, Bulgaria:

"The KNOWnNEBs calculation tool is very useful when carrying out energy audits. It can easily assess non-energy benefits when evaluating energy efficiency measures. The tool provides a comprehensive analysis of the proposed energy efficiency measures and their economic feasibility. The use of methods such as sensitivity analysis - assessing the impact of influencing factors on the effectiveness of the measure, as well as analyses of possible, including extreme, but still possible scenarios in the life cycle of the measure, makes it possible to achieve a comprehensive assessment of the proposed energy efficiency measures. The tool is easy to use and covers basic non-energy measures and analyses. It can be extended at the auditor's request, making it a powerful tool for energy audits." – **Eng. Michael Deliyki, Energy Efficiency Auditor**

KAPE, Poland:

"The assessment of non-energy benefits should be an important part of an energy audit, but it is often overlooked and undervalued in energy auditing practice. However, the identification of non-energy benefits can have a significant impact on a company's decision making regarding energy efficiency measures, even if they are not explicitly identified. The tool paves the way for change. It provides a process to help fully quantify the benefits of a company's energy efficiency measures. It would also effectively support the spread of a new approach to energy auditing among energy auditors." – **MSc. Eng. Marek Zaborowski, Senior Energy Expert**

CRES, Greece:

"At CRES we have been working with energy audits in industry long before the EU Directive. Non-Energy Benefits have been an issue considered in projects, but only in a few cases, in specific areas and to a limited extent. Our newly developed tool represents a breakthrough in energy auditing by integrating NEBs into the evaluation of energy efficiency measures. It combines a user-friendly design with powerful analytical capabilities, such as sensitivity analysis and scenario assessment, to provide a comprehensive assessment of proposed measures. By highlighting often overlooked benefits such as increased productivity, improved working conditions and enhanced corporate image, the tool enables companies to make more informed and transparent decisions. Rigorous field testing has proven its effectiveness in demonstrating the full value of energy efficiency measures, making it a valuable decision-making resource. With its adaptability, practical guidance and availability in multiple languages, the tool sets new standards for energy audits, driving international adoption and helping companies unlock holistic economic and sustainability potential. Andreas Androutsopoulos." – **Andreas Androutsopoulos, Senior project manager**

SOGESCA, Italy:

"Building on established guidelines and standards such as the 'VALERI' standard EN16147, this new tool represents a significant leap forward in the analysis of energy efficiency investments. It not only adheres to existing standards, but also introduces innovative methods to monetise previously un-monetizable energy benefits through a completely new approach. These features will certainly help companies by highlighting new elements to be assessed when analysing their energy performance and evaluating new energy efficiency investments. The tool encourages the evaluation of energy efficiency investments taking into account the associated "Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs)" - such as increased productivity, improved working conditions, reduced maintenance costs and enhanced corporate image - and also the so-called "Non-Energy Efforts (NEEs)" - such as downtime, additional training, design costs, etc., thereby enriching the elements to be considered. This enriches the elements to be analysed in the investment decision process. In addition, the ability to perform sensitivity analysis and create different scenarios increases the value of the tool by making it more user-friendly for decision makers. This feature facilitates a better understanding of risks and supports an informed investment decision."

- Andrea Cervato & Laura Bano, Senior Consultants

e7, Austria:

"The new tool is an important step forward for our project and offers many benefits. It acts as a constant reminder to take greater account of the often underestimated non-energy benefits - such as increased productivity, improved working conditions or image gains - and to incorporate them into decision-making processes. Of particular value is the tool's ability to analyse the sensitivity of individual inputs, enabling informed, transparent and targeted funding decisions. The tool is also user-friendly: a practical guide provides guidance, while its current availability in eight languages makes the "Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs)" approach internationally accessible. This not only strengthens the dissemination of this innovative approach, but also facilitates its application in different regions. This tool sets new standards in energy auditing and sustainability work and helps companies to achieve holistic added value."

- Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Georg Benke, Partner and Senior Consultant

Highlights of 2024

Madrid Meeting

In late February the KNOWnNEBs team met in Madrid to discuss the latest developments and innovations. The two-day meeting was hosted by our Spanish partner *Escan Consultoría Energética*, who warmly welcomed us to their beautiful city.

The meeting topics included the introduction of the new methodology for considering non-energy benefits (NEBs) as well as preparations for our pilot energy audits and trainings of external auditors.

Special thanks go to *Jekabs Endzins*, our guest speaker, who provided valuable insights with his exciting presentation.





In addition to the intensive working sessions, the informal meetings were also of great importance for the team-building process and the exchange of ideas that might not have emerged in the conference room.

After the meeting the project team was motivated for the next steps and continuing to drive the uptake of energy audits.

EUSEW24

As part of the European Sustainable Energy Week 2024 (EUSEW2024), we worked closely with our sister projects to promote decarbonization in industrial sectors and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Together with EnTRAINER, AUDIT2MEASURE, DEESME2050, EE4SMEs and EE4HORECA, we organized a high-level online session focusing on the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition. The session was all about the effective implementation of energy efficiency (EE) measures and the role of policy, business and investment in this.

Highlights:

Pitch 1: Existing gaps and barriers in the implementation of energy efficiency projects, identification of pressing obstacles and recommendations for policy improvements.

Pitch 2: The challenges of data – How can data be standardized and integrated to support SMEs in implementing EE measures?

Pitch 3: Adding value to energy efficiency investments – Insights into effective strategies for evaluating and increasing the economic benefits of EE investments.

The session ended with a panel discussion where participants were able to engage directly with experts. The collaboration of the six projects underlines the importance of a coordinated European effort to create a sustainable energy economy.

To watch the recording of the session, click on the video below or use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxCn5JBd9v0>



INDUSTRY EVENTS

Competitive, collective, climate-neutral!

Staying on target for climate neutrality is a key challenge in changing political and economic frameworks. The aim is clear: no more fossil fuels! Becoming the first climate-neutral continent will offer Europe a key competitive advantage and increase our resilience in all sectors.

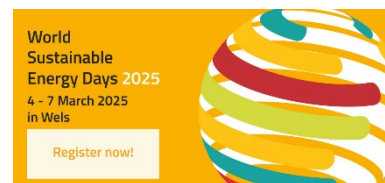
In 2025, the World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) will show how to gain momentum and present policies, programmes and innovation to reach our goals together.

[Find out more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY EVENT

World Sustainable Energy Days 2025

4–7 March 2025
Wels, Austria



INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY EVENT

European Energy Efficiency Conference 2025

6–7 March 2025
Wels, Austria



In 2025, the European Energy Efficiency Conference will show how to gain momentum and present policies, programmes and innovation to reach our goals together. The event is part of the annual World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED)

Organised by the energy agency of Upper Austria and ecee member "ÖÖ Energiesparverband", the **WSED** are a leading annual conference on the energy transition and climate neutrality with over 650 participants from over 60 countries each year.

[Find out more...](#)

Competitive, collective, climate-neutral!

The 14th International Energy Economics Conference at TU Wien is dedicated to the current challenges and opportunities of European energy and climate policy. The focus is on the security of supply, decarbonisation and competitiveness of Europe against the backdrop of global energy market distortions and supply chain uncertainties. The event will highlight necessary investments in scalable energy technologies, infrastructure expansion and the transformation of industry, the building sector and heavy goods transport. The conference language is German. However, contributions in English are expressly welcome.

[Find out more...](#)

NATIONAL INDUSTRY EVENT

14th International Energy Industry Conference 2025

26–28 Feb 2025
Vienna, Austria



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