



## Individual Heat Supply

### A Good Start with Renewable Energy in the Rural Areas

Approximately 1,200 residences in rural areas used all year round are dependent on individual systems for heating of rooms and water. Some of these are expected to be heated with heat based on electricity, also in the longer term.

#### Marketing and Co-operation

The energy organisations on Samsøe have worked closely together with local plumbers and blacksmith firms in establishing individual renewable energy systems in the rural areas. These actions have counted certificating solar heating courses, exhibitions, campaigns and visiting consumers with the assistance of consultants.

The regional energy supply company NRGi offers numerous solutions with regard to energy saving measures and renewable energy systems. Furthermore, the local plumbers play an active role in selling the renewable energy concepts and solutions to consumers.

One firm produces solar heating systems in co-operation with a producer from outside the island.

The campaigns in 1999 and 2000 were co-financed by the Danish Energy Agency, as well as by the EU ALTENER programme. The Danish Energy Agency also provided a standard financial contribution for newly established energy systems as part of the campaigns.

#### Results After 4 Years

As a result of the actions mentioned above, installations since 1998 roughly count:

- 100 solar heating systems
- 120 burners based on biomass
- 35 heat pump systems

Roughly 15% of the residences in the rural areas are now supplied entirely from renewable energy sources. The major part of the renewable energy installations have been established after 1998. In addition to residences 100% renewable energy supplied, a considerable number of these residents complement their energy consumption with solar heating. Also wood burning stoves give an important contribution to the conventional heating.

#### Further Work to be Undertaken

The energy organisations will also in the future initiate campaigns for renewable energy in the rural areas. The consumer interest depend a great deal on the existence of economic incentives. The campaigns shall give profitability high priority. Also technology and technical solutions in relation to product development shall be highlighted.

The consumer obviously focuses on the economic aspects and profitability. But also environmental consciousness plays a considerable role in energy choice. As far as elderly people are concerned, some special challenges appear.

Some people in this segment seem to be sceptical towards maintenance and running of the more technical systems. This could be wood pill burners, where cleaning, tuning and filling can be demanding. A solution could be the offering of service packages as for oil burners.



Solar heating system at Café Perlen in Sælvig