

OPEN ENERGY DAY



PLAID
PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:
ACCESSING INNOVATION
THROUGH DEMONSTRATION



COUNTRY/REGION

BELGIUM

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MORE INFO

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The **Open Energy Day** has already been organized a few times by the consortium Enerpedia, which includes the Flemish practice and research farms and some knowledge and research centres. During the last Open Energy Day in March 2016, more than **20 agricultural and horticultural businesses**, spread throughout the region of Flanders in Belgium, **opened their doors** to introduce other farmers to the innovative applications in the field of energy efficiency and sustainable energy production that they have implemented on their farm. Several visits were organised per farm, giving farmers the opportunity to visit several companies during the day. **The farms to be visited were selected** by the consultants and researchers of the consortium, based on their frequent contacts with the agricultural sector. To inform farmers about the various visits - both before and after - the consortium compiled a printed as well as an online **brochure with general and technical information about the companies to be visited**. The way the demonstration activities were held was not imposed on the receiving farm. **The visits took mostly place in an informal atmosphere, mostly in smaller groups**. As a result, there was a lot of opportunity for interactive conversations between the host farmer, the visitors, the consultants or researchers of the consortium and in some cases also the installer. **This greatly stimulated the exchange of knowledge and experience with innovative energy techniques**. In a few cases, consultants from the consortium took a group of farmers to a number of farms so they took them in a kind of guidance process during a day.

ABOUT PLAID

The project has been designed to encourage farmers and farm employees to embrace innovations in agriculture by accessing high quality demonstration activities on commercial farms. Demonstration activities may also contribute to network building in agriculture communities, leading to longer term sustainability and economic development in rural areas. However little has been documented on agriculture demonstration activities in European countries and the lack of an inventory or on-line resources have been identified.

All practice abstracts developed by PLAID H2020 project are available in EPI-AGRI official website:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/peer-peer-learningaccessing-innovation-through>



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