



Virtual Power Plant Program™

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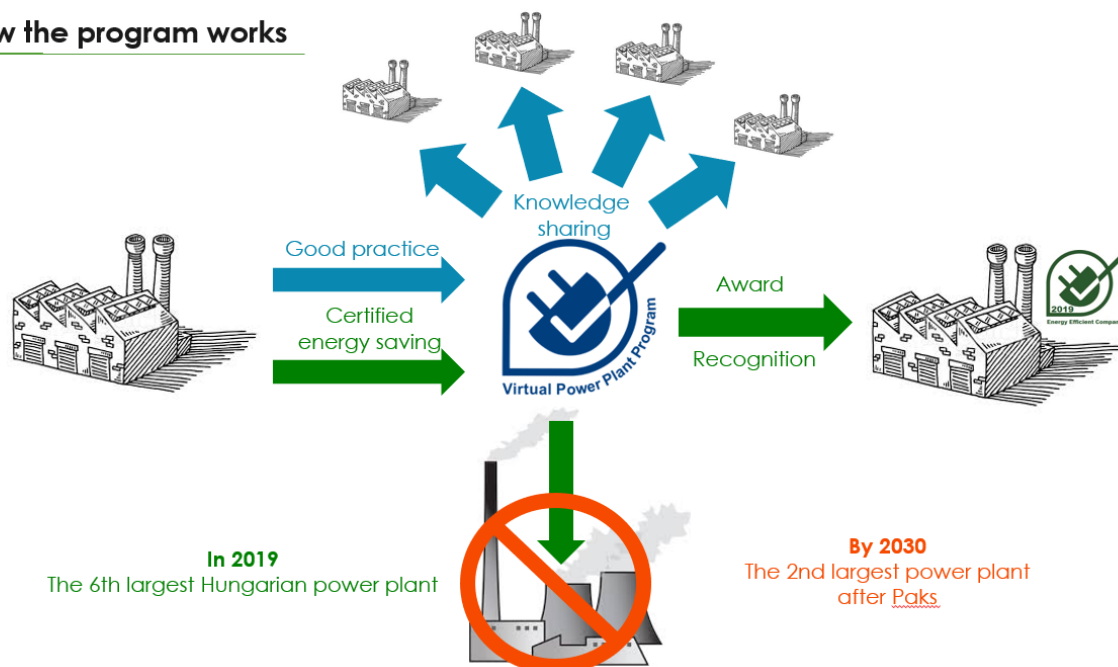


Frequently Asked Questions

What is the programme?

VPPP is an award programme, recognising and awarding energy efficiency at participant companies. Our goal is to help our partners with their CSR marketing actions, showing their climate and energy related investments. On the other hand we present these companies as good practices for others to join and relevant stakeholders to contact and support our participants' actions.

How the program works



Why is it good for me?

We offer you a unique and prestigious sustainability award, recognized by experts and broad public, which complements your green and CSR communication actions. Members of our the VPPP are supported in the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and audit of their (co-funded) energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability projects- if they have such projects. Upon reaching a critical mass of participants safer and easier access to EU funds can be provided. As a VPPP member, you may get access to experts who know how to write and how to win applications in Romania and in Brussels directly. In Hungary, members already get plus points at EU energy related calls. In Timis, we work on building a similar position for 2021-27 Let's work on it together!

... and the programme is totally free in 2019.



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But I don't have any energy related investment...

Not a problem, at all! Energy conscious companies can get awarded in the system as well. They only have to fill in a self- assessment questionnaire and upon completing it, they have to analyse their energy situation and take on at least three goals to improve it. E.g.: Making someone responsible for consuming less energy in the company, changing old lighting to modern LED lights, or creating an energy efficiency strategy for the company. These undertakings may vary from participant to participant, but they have to be harmonised with their real energy situation.

What is energy conscious and what levels are there?



- **ENERGY EFFICIENT MENTOR COMPANY (EEMC)**
Companies which (1) commit to the success of the Program, (2) share good practices with others, and (3) also actively promote the Program and its opportunities.
- **ENERGY EFFICIENT COMPANY (EEC)**
Companies with already achieved, quantifiable energy savings may “deposit” to the Virtual Power Plant, building up its plant blocks.
- **ENERGY CONSCIOUS COMPANY (ECC)**
The current energy efficiency situation must be assessed and relevant, but realistically feasible, voluntary commitments shall be made to reduce energy consumption and / or increase energy efficiency.

But I don't have time for doing such things...

The application process is not time consuming at all. ECC's only need to fill in the assessment questionnaire, which takes at around 30 minutes to complete. EEC's Need to complete the same questionnaire and also create an article (max 4-5 pages long) about their successful energy efficiency or renewable energy investment. Sample articles can be found www.mi6.hu/en and we also attached one to this material, as well. EEMC's become partners in a unique negotiation process as well.



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Ok, how do we proceed?

The application is a two -three step procedure based on what level the participant is aiming for:

- ECC-s have to complete their self-assessment questionnaire's in the programme home page, and they have to set their goals to improve for the next year. These assessments will be analysed by the Jury committee and decided upon to be qualified for the award at the ceremony.
- EEC-s have to fill the same questionnaire and also create a detailed article (4-5 page) about the completed renewable energy or energy efficiency investment, showing the energy saving results in the process. After the application, accredited auditors of the programme will contact the applicant or its employee responsible for the project to validate the energy saving results. Upon finishing the validation, the Jury Committee will decide about the qualification.
- If you want to become a mentor company, the programme is a bit different as these are our "flagship" companies for climate actions and energy efficiency. You have to show significant results in either energy efficiency and renewable energy and also you have to be willing to form a partnership with us on marketing these results.

What are the chances of winning?

We can't guarantee that every application wins, however the programme aims to be accessible to everyone and show every bit energy consciousness and every scrap energy saved/renewable energy produced, thus making a complete application ensures high chances of receiving an award.



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Support material, regarding the programme procedures

1. Programme goals

The Excellence in Energy Efficiency Application is designed to follow the evolutionary path of company energy efficiency improvements. Participants interested in the programme can join at different levels of excellence.

The first (unawarded) level is "Do it yourself" where anyone can test its current energy efficiency without the need of registration or paying any fee for it. With the help of the self-assessment test, partakers can identify their on energy efficiency situation and build up their own strategy. The test contains five major topics that include 41 questions to be answered on a scale of 1 to 4. In the test, areas are focused such as incorporating energy efficiency into the organization's management system, evidence-based decision-making in energy management, goals and action plans, providing adequate resources, and quantifying and demonstrating the results of energy efficiency actions.

The second level is „Define your goals" also known as the level of Energy Conscious applicants. At this level, there is no need for past energy efficiency successes, anyone can join who regards energy efficiency as an important priority. To use the Energy Conscious Company Trademark, it is not necessary to do anything other than assessing the current energy efficiency situation, and based on the results, make relevant, but realistically feasible, voluntary commitments to reduce energy consumption and / or increase energy efficiency. After the first administrative steps, Accredited Auditors help applicants with the application procedure, i.e. self-assessment and making and publishing their commitments.

The third level is „Show your results" this is the level of Energy Efficient Companies. This level is no longer a only a title but also and award, which go hand in hand with entry barriers. One of the most important goals of the Virtual Power Programme is to collect and transfer knowledge and skills of local stakeholders and international good practices in the field of energy efficiency and make it accessible to those interested. Accordingly, if an organization applies for the Energy Efficient Company title, it will be supported by a certified technical survey team (Accredited Auditor) to draft a 1-3-page success story and a 1-3 page documentation (both in standard structures) on a successful energy efficiency project that has already been implemented. In addition to that, the calculation methodology, which is certified by an Advisory Board, provides the result on how much fossil "power plant equivalent" is realized from the project, from the energy saving. This number defines how many kWe-s are "deposited" from the organization to the Virtual Power Plant and how much it contributes to building its capacities. The Professional Jury Committee decides on who to award based on their applications and underlying documentation. It is important to mention that the



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application levels of the Excellence in Energy Efficiency Application do not set an absolute standard. Each applicant must have relevant savings, and should be able to show success in gaining recognition.

The fourth level is „Help others develop themselves”, known as Energy Efficiency Mentor Companies. Exemplary corporations not only commit to success in the Virtual Power Plant and share good practices with others, but also actively promote the Programme and its opportunities both among their business partners and the interested local companies, also supporting potential applicant organizations in achieving their energy efficiency successes.

In 2013, the Application was extended to institutions and municipalities besides the industrial segment, also to renewable energy investments and to awarding individual experts who are prominent in the energy efficiency field in the following categories: for instance Energy Advisor of the Year, Renewable Energy Developer of the Year, Energy Manager of the Year, Young Energy Expert of the Year.

The quality assurance of the Programme and the Application is the responsibility of the Accredited Auditor, who performs random checks every year on the winners.

Application process for energy conscious and energy efficient entities

1. Complete the self-assessment questionnaire, which is the registration form as well
2. Energy conscious companies have to indicate that they are open to development and are willing to make a voluntary commitment for the future, (goals set at the end of the self-assessment questionnaire)
3. Energy efficient companies have to create a 4-5 pages long case study about their energy saving actions, renewable energy developments done recently
4. Their commitments have to be published for the broad public on their own website as well,

The Energy Efficient Company is an Energy Conscious Company which has already made energy efficiency investments. A verifiable result is the detailed presentation of the assessment results in the self-assessment (in the form of a success report that the interested companies can read) and account for the energy savings achieved through the company's energy consumption reduction practices and energy efficiency investments or development. The number of annual awards takes into account the contribution of the companies to the savings of VPPP, and will be determined by the Advisory Board on the basis of the VPPP proposal. The awards issued do not include any order among the winners. For the Awards, the Professional Jury Committee appointed by the Advisory Board decides following evaluation of the applications received.

Companies interested in the Application must fill in the relevant form at the application portal. It means completing an online data sheet where applicants need to give the registration company the general basic data, the characteristics of its activity and the



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composition and volume of its energy consumption. VPPP manages the content of the database compiled during the registration in compliance with the relevant data protection rules.

Candidates who want to achieve more than the "Energy Conscious Company" can apply for this award. The application is supplemented by the preparation and submission of one or more documents that describe the candidate's outstanding performance characteristics or demonstrate a specific energy efficiency improvement.