

TOPIC: SOLARCITY LINZ; ECO-DISTRICTS

FROM SEPTEMBER TILL DECEMBER 2015, 8 WEEKS

In 2015 the “SolarCity” in Linz celebrated its 10th birthday. It is an Eco-district of the town of Linz and is meant to have a model character for similar projects. An Eco-district is a neighborhood that uses ecological methods and concepts for a sustainable resource management. As the “SolarCity” now looks back to 10 years of operation, it’s time for an evaluation. Rating such a complex project is not easy and fitting indicators have to be found and the already existing ones have to be rated.

Together with my colleague Kristina Huber we were researching what those fitting indicators are and how to rate the existing ones. For Solar City LES! (Linz develops Cities) is used for the evaluation. Ing. MAS Reinthaler, who works for the city magistrate in Linz, helped planning the eco-district and LES!. In an interview he told us that the rating system was created after the district has been build up and that is used for the rating of SolarCity and newer projects in Linz. As compared to other indicator systems the rating tool misses some indicators. We found out that every rating system should have indicators that are objective, relevant, measurable, adaptable, effective and coherently.

After our research it became clear that most indicator systems do not satisfy all those aspects. The next big step was to create a list of indicators for the evaluation of SolarCity. We focused on the ecological aspects. The social and economic aspects are left out due the difficulty in the evaluation. For the list of useable indicators every indicator that was found was analyzed according to the requirements. With the list of useable indicators the next step will be to create our own rating system for the evaluation of the SolarCity in Linz. This will be the topic of my master thesis which results from the research done in this internship.