Interreg North-West Europe ICARE4FARMS

European Regional Development Fund

NEWS

October 2023 no. 6

Welcome to the 6th ICaRE4Farms newsletter

All good things must come to an end. This is the last newsletter of the project. A lot has happened since the kick-off meeting in Lille in March 2020, COVID immediately put a halt on project activities and the invasion of Ukraine put the transition from fossil fuels at the forefront of all policymaking decisions in the majority of countries.

2 aims of ICaRE4Farms were to raise awareness of Solar Thermal Energy as an alternative to fossil fuels on farms and to construct 4 pilot sites on different farm types. All partners have promoted STE use in the agricultural industry at many events and the pilot sites are complete and operational. Data from the pilot sites will continue to be collected after the project ends. This data will be used to fine-tune the operation of existing plants and will assist in the design of future plants. While the project may be finishing, work will continue for our partners in improving the technology.

In this newsletter, we will show updates since the previous newsletter and have a review of the 4 pilot sites.

News

French officials visit Fengtech installation at dairy farm

The Secretary of State for European Affairs, Mrs Laurence Boone visited a Fengtech STE installation at a dairy farm on June 23, 2023.

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8th Consortium Meeting in Rennes, France

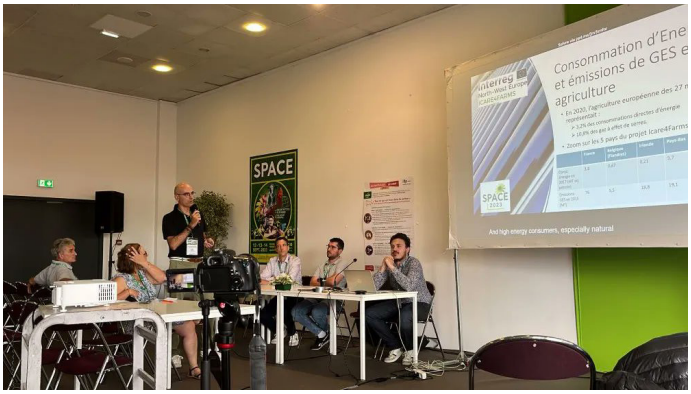
Our 8th and final consortium meeting took place in Rennes, France on the 13th September coinciding with the projects exhibition at SPACE 2023. The event was a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. At this last meeting, it was an opportunity to identify any remaining tasks which were to be completed before the project ends.

SPACE Event and Final Conference

The 2023 SPACE event took place on 12th-14th September in Rennes. ICaRE4Farms had a exhibition space in the energy efficiency hall.

- 1207 exhibitors
- 241 first time exhibitors
- 365 international exhibitors
- 90,000 visitors.

On the Tuesday, the project held its final conference which was open to all visitors to attend. During the conference, team members gave presentations about different aspects of the project, solar thermal plant and operations, and results from some of the pilot sites.



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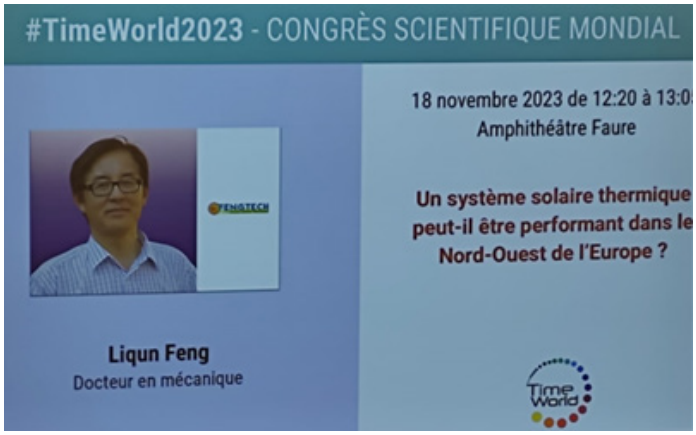
Presentation to the TimeWorld Energy event

On Saturday, 18th November 2023, Dr Liqun Feng from Fengtech was at the TimeWord Energy event in Paris. He did a conference titled "How efficient can a solar thermal system be in North-Western Europe?



Review of Pilot Sites

Site 1

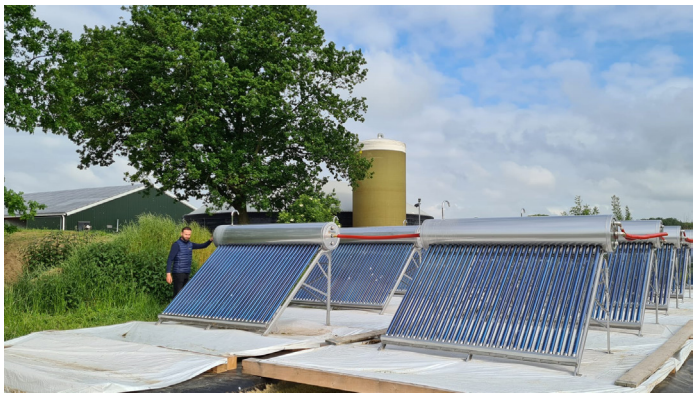
Construction of pilot site 1 **commenced** in March 2021. This plant is located on a veal farm near Saint-Georges-du-Rosay in Pays de la Loire, France. A **timelapse video** showing the pouring of the concrete slab is available to watch.

The plant has 16 panels and it was completed and in operation in May 2021. In December, the farm owner gave **an interview** where he stated that in the first 6 months of operation he saved 66% of his propane use.

Pilot Site 2

In April 2022, we **announced the location** of site 2. Initially, the solar plant was to be constructed as part of an anaerobic digester.

However plans change, and whilst the location remained the same, the use changed. The plant was to be installed as part of an ammonia stripping operation. This plant was constructed differently to the other installations, showing the versatility of the equipment. It was constructed over ponds, to save space. There are 10 STE panels in the installation.



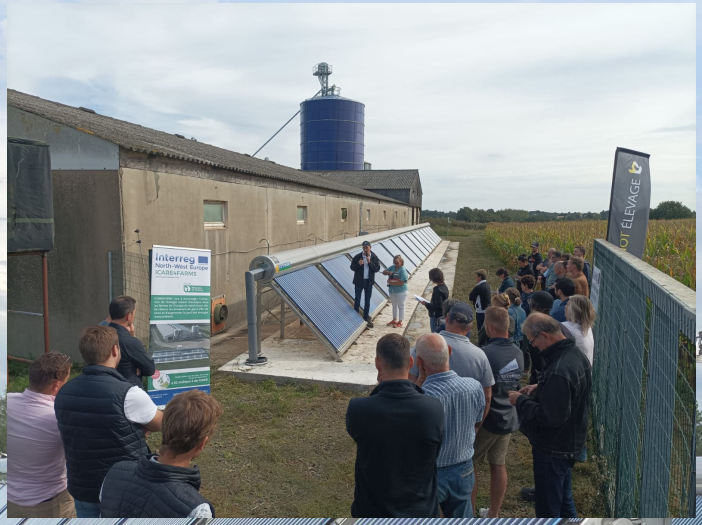
Pilot Site 3

In May 2022, we **announced the location** of site 3. Located near Herselt, Belgium, the plant would be constructed on a veal farm alongside other renewable energy installations. However construction was delayed due permit issues. There are 24 STE panels in the installation.

The **inauguration of sites 2 and 3** took place in May 2023.

Pilot Site 4

In April 2023, after trying unsuccessfully to find a suitable site in the United Kingdom or Ireland, **the location was announced** of site 4. This farm, close to Chemillé-en-Anjou in France, is a pig maternity and rearing farm. Baby piglets need additional heat during the first months of their life. It will be composed of 14 solar panels with their 4200 litres of solar tank storage.

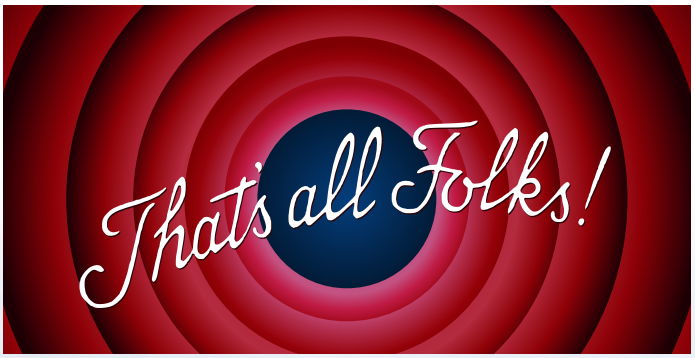


Website in closed state

The 4-year-long journey of the ICaRE4Farms project about solar thermal energy for agricultural activities ended in December 2023, and the consortium partners remain committed to further encourage the adoption of this effective and sustainable technology for a greener future.

To learn more about the solar thermal energy and the project results:

- **Join our community** to keep up to date with the latest developments in solar thermal energy
- **Watch our videos** to learn how the technology works and hear from farmers who have adopted it
- Discover many other materials on **our website** and check what solar thermal energy can offer



Check out our social media Channels