

SUCCESS STORY

From Climate Goals to Solar Energy Potential

Çorlu’s Journey Towards Stronger Local Climate Action

Çorlu Municipality is working to connect its climate and sustainability priorities with practical action. In cooperation with GCoM- MLGP4Climate and EU4ETTR project a solar energy investment concept with an estimated annual electricity generation potential of 153 MWh was developed.

The progress lies in turning a broad climate ambition into a defined investment opportunity. The concept gives Çorlu a basis for assessing technical requirements, potential municipal benefits and financing needs before moving towards implementation.

If developed and implemented, the project could contribute to cleaner electricity use in municipal facilities and provide a practical example for other local climate investments. Any financial savings and emissions reductions will need to be established through further assessment and subsequent monitoring.

153 MWh/year
ESTIMATED SOLAR POTENTIAL

SECAP
MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

MLGP4Climate + EU4ETTR
TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Renewable Energy • Climate Awareness • Climate Resilience • Project Development

CONTEXT

An Industrial City with Growing Climate Priorities

Located in Tekirdağ, Çorlu is an important centre for industry, trade and transport. Rapid urbanisation and economic development bring environmental and climate-related challenges, making local climate action and resilience increasingly important.

Çorlu Municipality identifies emissions reduction, climate adaptation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, waste management and green infrastructure among its priorities. It is working to strengthen institutional capacity and develop climate action in line with frameworks including SECAP, CDP and GCoM.

For Çorlu, the practical challenge is to connect these priorities with decisions about municipal assets, budgets and service delivery. Identifying a specific solar investment opportunity helps make that connection concrete: it provides an entry point for examining where renewable energy can support municipal operations and how a climate objective can become a deliverable project.



Local climate priorities based on SECAP

Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) guide this process by linking mitigation and adaptation priorities with responsibilities, timelines and indicators. Keeping the solar concept within this wider framework would help the municipality consider energy investment alongside mobility, waste and green infrastructure needs.

SECAP actions on emissions reduction and adaptation Solar energy at municipal buildings and facilities. Environmental awareness with children and residents inmplemented.

EVIDENCE

From Climate Priorities to a Solar Project Concept

Technical support through MLGP4Climate platform and EU4ETTR helped Çorlu Municipality explore how climate priorities could be translated into concrete project ideas. Solar energy investment at municipal buildings and facilities emerged as a priority area.

Technical assessment and feasibility-oriented work considered the energy-generation potential of municipal facilities. This process helped connect climate objectives with an actionable investment concept and strengthen project-development capacity.

The main achievement described here is the preparation of an investment concept and the capacity built around it. Technical support provides a bridge between identifying an opportunity and preparing the evidence needed for a municipal investment decision. It also creates a basis for more focused discussions with potential funding partners.



Renewables estimated potential: 153 MWh/year

The estimate is equivalent to approximately 153,000 kWh per year. It offers a starting point for evaluating the project, but the final yield will depend on the selected sites, system design and operating conditions. Further preparation should confirm the underlying assumptions and the share of generation that municipal facilities could use directly.

Potential electricity cost savings and avoided greenhouse gas emissions should be calculated using documented consumption data, relevant electricity prices and an appropriate emissions factor. These benefits remain prospective until the system is implemented and its performance is measured.

PEOPLE AND PLACE

Climate Action Is Also About People

Alongside clean-energy investment planning, environmental education and community activities help bring climate and sustainability into everyday life. Classroom engagement and tree-planting activities offer opportunities to connect environmental awareness with practical local action.

Engaging children and residents can help explain why municipal climate investments matter in everyday life. Activities linked to schools and public spaces make environmental issues easier to discuss and can encourage practical habits around energy use, waste prevention and care for green areas.





Environmental learning in the classroom and tree planting with children

These activities complement technical project development. Continued communication could connect the solar concept with clear explanations of its intended benefits and, once implemented, share measured results with the community. Participation and feedback would help the municipality understand which messages and activities residents find most useful.

Priorities for the next ste[s

- Advance the solar concept through further technical work and investment planning.
- Turn SECAP actions into feasible, measurable investment projects.
- Explore support and financing for adaptation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green infrastructure.
- Monitor greenhouse gas emissions and integrate climate indicators into municipal decisions.
- Strengthen staff capacity in climate action, project development and international funding.
- Continue environmental awareness and peer learning through MLGP4Climate, GCoM and other networks.

The lesson for other municipalities is that technical preparation and public engagement can advance together. A clearly defined investment concept creates a focus for institutional cooperation, while community activities keep the wider purpose of local climate action visible.

NEXT STEPS

From Solar Potential to Implementable Climate Action

Çorlu's next step is to advance the solar energy concept through further technical development, investment planning and exploration of suitable financing opportunities. Continued implementation of SECAP actions can help strengthen the municipality's climate project pipeline and institutional coordination.

Preparing a credible investment case

The next preparation stage should confirm site suitability, electricity demand, system sizing and connection requirements. A costed implementation plan should identify capital and operating costs, delivery responsibilities, approvals and a realistic timetable. This would help the municipality assess affordability and compare potential financing routes against the project's needs. A concise investment brief could bring together the technical scope, expected annual generation, projected savings, environmental benefits and key risks. It should distinguish confirmed data from assumptions and identify any remaining preparation gaps before approaching potential financiers. Funding discussions would then be based on a clearer and more consistent project proposition.

Measuring progress and sharing experience

Once implemented, monitoring should compare actual electricity generation with the forecast and record the electricity used on site, operating costs and resulting emissions reductions. Assigning responsibility for these indicators would support municipal oversight and provide evidence for future projects and peer learning. The wider ambition is to make climate action part of everyday municipal planning by connecting local priorities, technical expertise and community engagement to deliver practical benefits for the city and its residents.



"Some paths teach us that before explaining the value of our work, we must never stop believing in it. We get tired, we struggle, we start again, but we never give up creating for the climate and adding value to what we do."

Yasemin Duygu Bolat,
Climate Change and Zero Waste Directorate, Çorlu Municipality