

A small municipality shoulders its responsibilities

A small municipality in the Jura, Fontenais is very mindful of energy issues as well as the quality of life and respect for the environment, two closely related questions. Accordingly, in 2007 it mapped out a «sustainable development concept» covering the entire municipality.

One of the stages was to join the Cité de l'énergie programme and to deploy the necessary financial, human and technical resources to obtain the Cité de l'énergie label, which it was awarded for the first time in 2009. Fontenais has also prepared an ambitious energy policy programme. Its goals reflect the municipality's desire to cut per capita energy consumption, with a long-term target of reducing consumption to the equivalent of 2000 watts per inhabitant and cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 1 tonne of CO₂ per inhabitant.

The next phase was the preparation of an Agenda 21 plan, which was approved by the inhabitants in 2011, making Fontenais the first municipality in the Jura to introduce a local Agenda 21. The plan follows two main goals: anchoring sustainable development in municipal policy over the long term, and developing user-friendly public areas suited to all inhabitants.

As can be seen from the award of the Cité de l'énergie GOLD label in 2014, Fontenais stands out as an innovative municipality in the sectors of energy and the environment. It is setting an excellent example at the regional, cantonal and national levels.

Energy project highlights

- Municipal subsidies to encourage private production of renewable heat and electricity;
- All municipal buildings are linked to a wood-fired district heating system or rely on renewable energies;
- There are intermunicipal cooperation with Porrentruy and Delémont, and the post of Officer in charge of monitoring energy policy has been created;
- The energy rehabilitation of municipal buildings is monitored, optimized and programmed;
- Residents may consult an online solar cadaster at the municipality's website;
- A territorial energy audit has been prepared.

Photo: Richard Fleury

Facts and figures

Municipality:	Fontenais
Canton:	Jura
Population:	1689
Area:	29,5 km ²
Internet :	www.fontenais.ch
First Cité de l'énergie label:	2009
First European Energy Award® Gold label:	2014





«A guiding principle for concrete action»

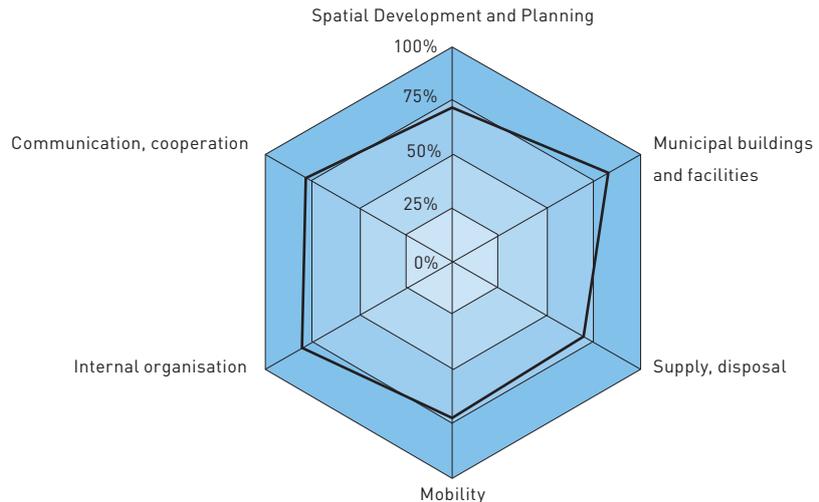
«In my view, arousing the public's interest through clear, strong communication is the linchpin of the Cité de l'énergie approach in our municipality. To guarantee maximum impact for the label and ensure its success, municipal energy policy must set an example.»

I make sure that citizens can participate actively alongside the authorities in concrete actions, as with the participatory approach to mobility. Lectures, documentary showings and theme days are used to keep the public informed on a regular basis.

I can safely say that our inhabitants are proud of the Cité de l'énergie GOLD label that we obtained this year. We are leading the way in the Jura, and hope to get others on board by proving that a small municipality can also set an example.»

*Corine Mamie Leschot
Municipal Councillor, Fontenais*

Energy policy profile in 2014



The spider chart shows the development already implemented by the municipality in each of the six sectors of the range of measures as a percentage of the total for action. To obtain the Cité de l'énergie label, the municipality must have implemented or planned 50% of its potential. The score needed to obtain the European Energy Award® Gold is 75%.

The next steps

Fontenais has committed itself to various projects which will be completed in the coming years:

- Preparing a guiding concept and an energy master plan to ensure maximum energy self-sufficiency, with a view to achieving the goals of the 2000-Watt society;
- Working together with the public, in partnership with companies;
- Implementing the Enerschool project to increase pupils' awareness of energy issues;
- Installing a pilot municipal solar power system.
- Implementing a multimodal soft mobility concept in the municipality.

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europaean energy award

What does the Cité de l'énergie label stand for?

The Cité de l'énergie label is a certificate developed in Switzerland and extended to the European level in the form of the European Energy Award®. The label is awarded to municipalities which have instituted quality management for the implementation of their energy and development policies. The award was conceived within the framework of the SwissEnergy programme for the Confederation. In this way, the Swiss

Federal Office for Energy (SFOE) promotes the implementation of national energy policy in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energies. Through the sub-programme entitled SwissEnergy for Municipalities, the SFOE systematically supports projects at the municipal level. The owner of the label is the Cité de l'énergie Association.