

A city on the way to 100% renewable energy

In 2006, the city of Geneva set itself the target of relying 100% on renewable energy and producing zero CO₂ emissions by the year 2050. Eight years later, some thirty municipal buildings have already made the transition. The same goal is being pursued at the territorial level. The approach, which is triggered upstream by large-scale construction and spatial planning projects, provides a means of identifying and developing major energy facilities. Their implementation should make it possible to accelerate the introduction of renewable energy in neighbourhoods, allowing Geneva to effect its energy transition. Indeed, the city boasts multiple local renewable resources, such as solar energy, heat from the lake water, heat from the ground, waste water and wood. What is more, using such resources is very economical: these new solutions often feature costs on a par with fossil fuel, and the related investments benefit the local economy.

This path towards renewable energies requires a spirit of openness. It is reflected by the development of a culture of innovation, which is conducive to the implementation of new solutions and technologies and to greater involvement in major networks of partners. Geneva is an active member of various organizations and initiatives aimed at promoting efficiency and renewable energies, including the Covenant of Mayors, Energy Cities and ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). It also participates in several exchanges with local institutional, association and political actors.

Energy project highlights

- Creation of soft mobility zones around the future CEVA railway stations (Eaux-Vives and Champel);
- Widespread introduction of renewable energies in the extended perimeter of the Jonction eco-site;
- 100% renewable renovation of major building complexes built in the 1970s: Minoteries. Heat recovery from waste water collectors used for heating;
- Installation of an internal wood-fired facility for the municipal administration (use of wood waste as an energy resource).

Photo of City of Geneva: Alain Grandchamp



Facts and figures

Municipality:	Geneva
Canton:	Geneva
Population:	196'257
Area:	15,93 km ²
Internet :	www.ville-geneve.ch/energie
First Cité de l'énergie label:	2009
European Energy Award®Gold label:	2010

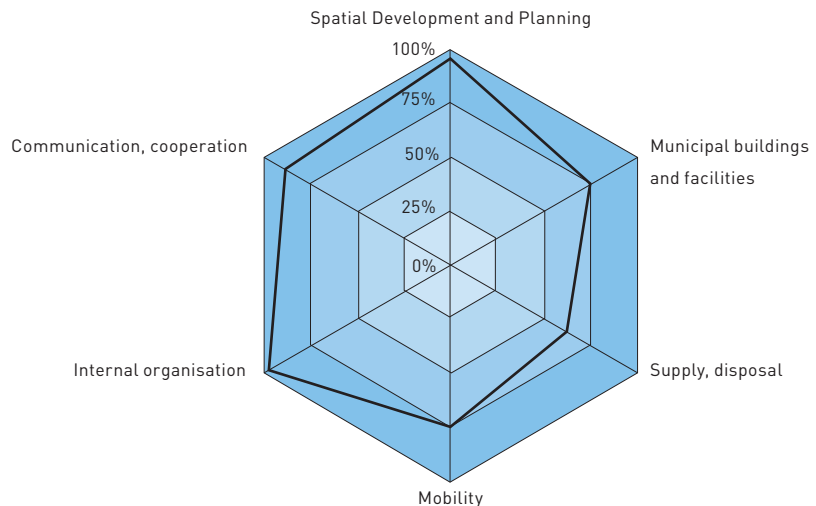


Together for a 100% renewable town in 2050

«In adopting this vision, we have changed our attitude to energy. From now on, all of our projects will pursue this objective. The ban on incandescent light bulbs induced us to invent a bulb of our own, which was awarded the <Watt d'Or> in 2012. Now, after a renovation that has resulted in a 100 year old building becoming the first to cover its heating requirements exclusively from renewable sources, our next challenge will be to do the same for the big property developments of the 1970s. However, energy savings have an even greater impact if they can be delivered at the level of an entire area or town planning project. It is by extending the scope of our consideration and acting as a catalyst with all of the players within our territory that we will attain our objective.»

*Rémy Pagani,
Mayor of Geneva*

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 label is 75%.

The next steps

The city of Geneva has committed itself to various projects to be carried out in the coming years:

- Construction of the Jonction eco-district;
- Continuation of the programme to enhance energy efficiency in the stock of 800 public buildings via large-scale construction and renovation projects;
- Second phase in the renovation of public lighting;
- Urban development projects to promote soft mobility (30 kph zones, sound-absorbant coating, consolidation of the cycling network).

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european 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.