

Münsingen – An Energienstadt from the very start

Münsingen is an attractive, active small town and forms a regional centre in the Aare Valley. The municipality has some 12 000 inhabitants. It boasts a modern infrastructure and an extensive public transport network. Lovely recreational areas such as the cantonal nature reserve along the Aare Valley or the restored Grabe-bach area are in the immediate vicinity. As a rule, economical land use is applied. Although the settlement structure is compact, it is of high quality and offers sufficient green areas. Münsingen is an attractive place, not only for living but also for working. Nationally and internationally renowned industries firms as well as many businesses are headquartered in the municipality.

Münsingen has been an Energienstadt from the very start. Back in the mid-1980s, concerned citizens founded a «Expert Committee on Energy». This in turn led to the first municipal energy concept, which was adopted by the Municipal Council in 1989. As a result, the Energienstadt has become increasingly entrenched in policy and in municipal affairs. Münsingen consistently displays an interest in pioneering projects, and has been a pilot municipality on several occasions in the energy projects of the canton of Bern. One example is the solar sail which was built in 1999.

The municipality bases its action on the principles of sustainable development. In 2013, the Municipal Council decided to initiate the transition to the 2000-Watt society. This ambitious goal is to be reached by 2050, and it will require the joint efforts of the municipality, economic actors and citizens.

Energy project highlights

- Münsingen adopted an energy concept way back in 1989.
- In 1998, Münsingen was the first municipality in the canton of Bern to be awarded the Energienstadt label. This was followed by the GOLD label in 2009.
- Münsingen has been a pilot municipality on a number of occasions in the energy projects of the canton of Bern: for example, the Schlossmatt heat pump power station (mandatory connection), the Bern Energy Agreement, the Energy Master Plan.
- The world's first bifacial photovoltaic noise-abatement installation on a stretch of railway line was introduced at Münsingen station in 2008.
- Thanks to its building regulations and energy master plan, Münsingen has set in place highly progressive energy measures in the field of construction.
- Around one-third of all residential units are heated by heat pump.

Foto: © Joachim Schaefer

Facts and figures

Municipality:.....Münsingen
Canton: Bern
Population: 11'800
Area: 12.1 km²
Internet: www.muensingen.ch

Joined Energienstadt programm: 1998
First certification: 1998
Second certification: 2001
Third certification: 2006
Fourth certification: 2009 (GOLD)
Fifth certification: 2014 (GOLD)





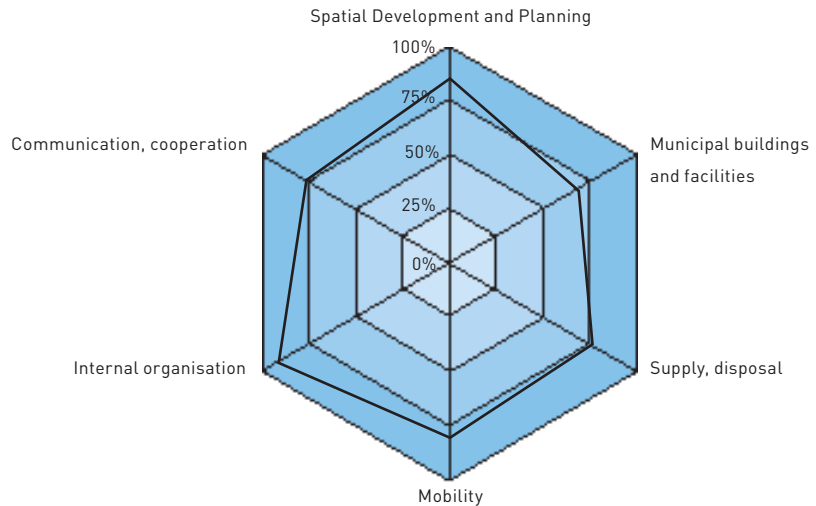
Interaction of the economy and ecology

«Conservation of our resources and high environmental quality are an integral part of policy in Münsingen. As far as our town is concerned, the Energiestadt label is an important management tool for ensuring systematic further development. It is also a benchmark enabling us to learn from the best. The label promotes local value creation, safeguards valuable jobs and creates new ones. Some companies have done well in Münsingen thanks to the strong local demand. They offer good examples with regard to the interaction of the economy and ecology.»

IntraWerkeMünsingen, which is 100% municipally-owned, has played a key role in reaching energy goals. We are on the road to the 2000-Watt society together, and are working to secure Münsingen's energy future.»

*Beat Moser,
Mayor of Münsingen*

Energy policy profile in 2014



The spider chart shows the percentage development already implemented by the Münsingen municipality out of its energy potential. To obtain the Energiestadt label, the local authority must have implemented 50% of its potential. The score needed to obtain the European Energy Award®Gold label is 75%. In 2014, the Münsingen municipality achieved a level of 80%.

The next steps

During the coming years, Münsingen intends:

- to further expand the north (central heat pump station) and south district heating grid.
- to decide and implement Münsingen energy future (Energy Strategy to 2050) by means of appropriate measures and a funding programme.
- to introduce 30 kph zones throughout the municipality (including the main road).
- to introduce mobility management into the municipal administration.

- to further promote both public transport as well as pedestrian and cycling traffic.

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Further information

www.energiestadt.ch/muensingen



energiestadt
european energy award

What does the Energiestadt label stand for?

The Energiestadt 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 Energiestadt Association.