



Association European Energy Award AISBL Annual Report 2022



Konstanz, Germany, Gold Municipality 2022

The eea has a long track record as an instrument of municipal climate protection and energy policy. Its approach of having municipalities set their own targets within the framework of local self-government and having them audited based on these targets has proven its worth over decades.

Now that the EU is pursuing ever more ambitious climate targets and has launched its Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities as a beacon project for achieving climate neutrality at the municipal level, the eea must adapt to this goal and integrate the achievement of climate neutrality into its assessment modules accordingly.

Against this background, we as the European Energy Award Association have also discussed how we can support, motivate and challenge our eea cities and municipalities on their path towards climate neutrality. Close cooperation with the Covenant of Mayors as the political voice at the municipal level is an important building block in this approach. The two programmes can complement each other perfectly.

Municipalities have a crucial role to play in many areas if local, national and European CO2 reduction pathways are to be achieved, whether through municipal buildings that set an example for private households, through bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly designs of public spaces or through planning that takes into account the grid-bound supply of heat from renewable sources that we need to transition our heating systems. As a result of the war in Ukraine, a stable heat supply in particular has come to the fore as a central aspect

of public services at the municipal level. Similarly, the business community has recognised the importance of renewable energies in securing a stable energy supply, and companies are not only exploring new approaches themselves but are also demanding that the municipalities in which they are located do the same. This poses new challenges for municipal economic development.

A new era has also begun for the eea.

Gudrun Heute-Bluhm
Chair of the Association European Energy Award AISBL



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The Association European Energy Award

2022 was the sixth year of formal operation of the international non-profit Association European Energy Award AISBL (Association-sans-but-lucratif). The main bodies of the eea are the Executive Board, the Executive Office (eea Office, mandated to Brandes Energie AG) and the two Working Groups 'Development & Quality' and 'Dissemination'.

Members and General Assembly

- At the end of 2022, the Association eea had 29 ordinary and 4 sponsoring members.
- The General Assembly 2022 was held in Brussels on 27 June 2022.

Working Groups

- The Working Group „Dissemination“ held two meetings and the Working Group Development & Quality held three meetings.
- The International Calibration Day, the annual conference of all international eea auditors, was held on 29/30 September in Salzburg, Austria.

Executive Board

- At the end of 2022, the eea Board had 12 members: 2 representatives each from Germany, Austria, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, 1 representative from Italy and the president.
- The eea Board held two conference calls and one Strategy Workshop in Stuttgart and two meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg.

eea Gold Event

- The eea Gold Event was held on 27/28 October in the city of Luxembourg. 160 participants from 29 local authorities from Austria, Germany, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland were awarded with the eea Gold Award.



Gold Event in the City of Luxembourg

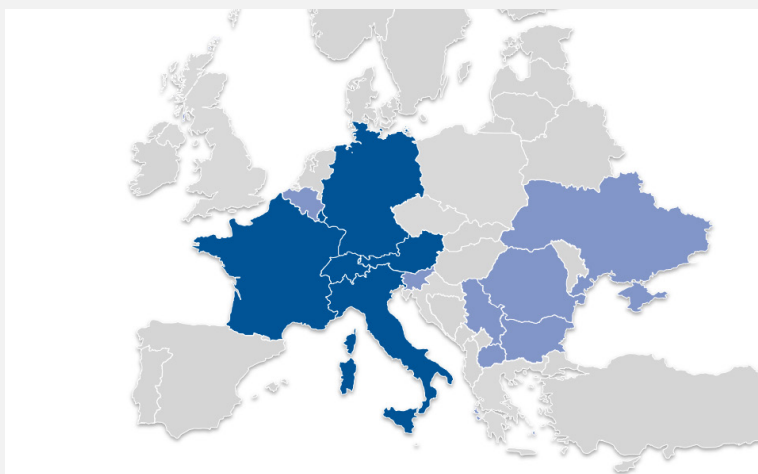


Gold Event in the City of Luxembourg, EXCITE delegation

Facts and Figures 2022

Participating countries and overall figures

Status beginning of 2023



Ordinary member countries 8

Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland

Pilot countries 7

Belgium, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Population involved

- in participating local authorities 77 m
- in awarded local authorities 42 m

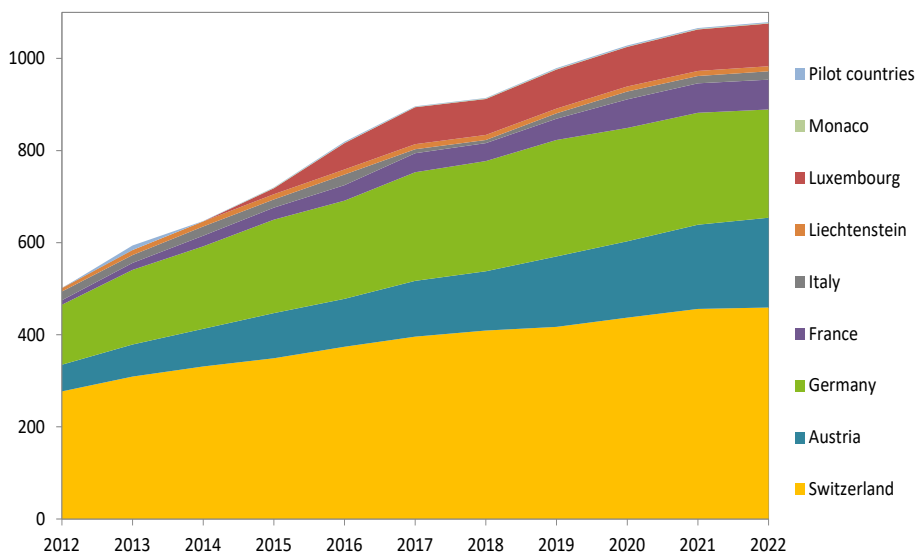
Number of local authorities

- participating 1,872
- awarded eea 1,119
- awarded eea Gold 212

Awarded and participating local authorities per country

Country	No. of awarded local authorities			Total	of which eea Gold	No. of participating local authorities
	< 5,000 inhabitants	5- 50,000 inhabitants	> 50,000 inhabitants			
AT	125	73	5	203	33	387
CH	197	257	11	465	86	633
DE	35	124	88	247	65	346
FR	1	13	54	68	9	311
IT	10	6	2	18	4	41
LI	9	2	-	11	4	11
LU	64	32	1	97	11	99
MC	-	1	-	1	-	1
Pilot countries	-	1	8	9	-	43
Total	441	509	169	1119	212	1,872

NO. OF EEA AWARDED LOCAL AUTHORITIES 2012 - 2022 PER COUNTRY



Innovation, cooperation and partnerships in the eea

European Energy Award & Climate Neutrality

In 2022, the contents of the core instrument of the European Energy Award – the eea catalogue – continued to be revised further. One aspect of this work is the integration of the topic of energy neutrality / net-zero emissions into the eea instruments and processes.

In addition, the international master catalogue was made more flexible in 2022, giving the national eea programmes even more freedom to design the national eea catalogues according to their needs, wishes and local conditions. At the national level, topics such as the circular economy, air pollution or biodiversity will be part of the national eea programmes, in addition to the core topics of energy and climate.

The technical implementation of the new eea catalogue will take place in 2023 with the reprogramming of the eea online tool. In 2022, the technical requirements for the new online tool were defined among the national eea trustees, and the relevant public tender was prepared. Following the selection of the IT service provider, the new tool will now be programmed, and we look forward to the new look and feel of the eea online tool in 2024.

European Energy Award & Covenant of Mayors: 1 common climate neutrality goal – 2 initiatives supporting cities and municipalities

The European Energy Award and Covenant of Mayors complement each other perfectly for effective municipal climate protection. While the CoM requires a strong political commitment to ambitious climate targets, the eea offers nationally adapted, individual and well-structured support and incentives to be able to implement the set targets.

In order to facilitate reporting for municipalities participating in both initiatives, the development of an automatic programming interface (API) between the online platforms of the two initiatives started in 2022. Data from the online eea Management Tool (EMT) can now be exported to the online Mycovenant platform at the touch of a button. Thanks to this new feature, eea municipalities which have recorded greenhouse gas emissions in the EMT can easily export the full set of data to the CoM as a Baseline or Monitoring Emission Inventory (BEI, MEI).



Clervaux (LU), Gold municipality of 2022



Dissemination of the European Energy Award to new countries

EU-funded H2020 project IMPLEMENT

The IMPLEMENT project, which started in 2018, came to an end in April 2022. Pilot municipalities in Belgium, Croatia, Greece and Poland have been implementing the European Energy Award process over the last few years. In the first quarter of 2022, 13 cities and municipalities from these pilot countries were awarded the European Energy Award as a successful conclusion of the project, among them the city of Gdynia (PL) and the city of Hasselt (BE).



City of Hasselt, one of the eea-awarded Belgian cities

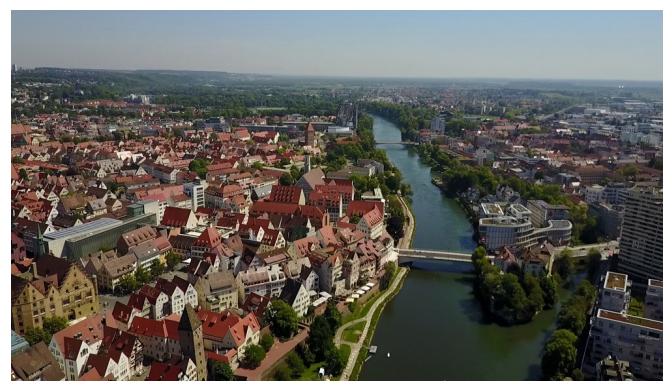
EU funded H2020 project Excite

The Excite project promotes the European Energy Award and the municipal energy transition in Eastern and Central Europe. It supports the implementation of the eea in Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine by providing direct technical support to three pilot cities in each country and training national eea office staff and advisors to set up and run national eea programmes.

A particular focus of the EXCITE project is on civic engagement strategies. Based on a review of best practices from the eea / CoM / Smart Cities and Communities network, local governments have been supported in developing local communication and engagement strategies. At the eea Gold Event 2022 in Luxembourg, the three best civic engagement projects from the cities of Cluj-Napoca (RO), Velenje (SI) and Vinnytsya (UA) were awarded.

eea along the Danube

The aim of the “eea along the Danube” project is to raise awareness of the eea in the Danube region and thus promote its dissemination and application in the area. As part of this project, up to four selected pilot regions receive individual support to establish or extend the eea. At this stage, partnership agreements have been signed with stakeholders in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and in Hungary. The [pre-project “eea along the Danube”](#) started in 2022. The project was developed by the non-profit organisation Danube Office (from the eea Gold City of Ulm), KEA (Climate and Energy Agency of Baden-Württemberg) and the eea Association in close cooperation with the [European Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\), Priority Area 2 “Sustainable Energy”](#).



Gold city of Ulm

Activities in member countries

Austria

The e5 programme supports communities and cities in implementing energy and climate policy measures. It is an outstanding example of close, productive collaboration between the federal, state and municipal governments. The federal government, for example, supports the quality assurance and further development of the programme through its klimaaktiv climate protection initiative. The states are major programme sponsors at the regional level, and communities demonstrate outstanding commitment in implementing local climate protection measures.

At the end of 2022, 42% of the Austrian population lived in municipalities or regions participating in the e5 programme.

In 2022, the future requirements regarding the e5 programme were discussed, building on the eea strategy process, to establish a basis for a new e5 assessment tool. A summit meeting of all Austrian eea Gold municipalities was held physically for the first time, during which the municipalities engaged in an exchange on the key topics of “Renewable Heat” and “Renewable Electricity”. The national awards ceremony for 16 municipalities took place immediately after the summit in Kufstein.



Awarding ceremony in Kufstein

France

As of today there are 312 participating municipalities and approximately 28 million residents (accounting for 40% of the French population). In 2022, 13 municipalities gained a 5-star CAE (Climate – Air – Energy) label; 11 had 4 stars; 60 had 3 stars; 96 had 2 stars and 142 had a 1-star CAE label.

The Municipality Day was one of the highlights of 2022:

All CAE-labelled cities were invited to attend the National Municipality Day held in Lyon in September 2022. The 2022 edition of the event brought together over 300 people. This initiative is aimed at creating momentum within the network of municipalities committed to the green transition, by supporting and promoting the implementation of ambitious climate-air-energy policies. After an introduction by the Minister for the Green Transition, Christophe Béchu, a large open forum was organised to enable exchanges on different topics put forward by the representatives of local authorities.

During the second half of the day, Mr Mathieu Potte-Bonneville, Head of the Culture and Creation Department at the Centre Pompidou, delivered a presentation on art and ecology.



Municipality Day, September 2022, in Lyon

Activities in member countries

Germany

Work in 2022 focused on updating and fine-tuning the eea catalogue of measurement. Recent legal changes and requirements regarding the pathway towards Germany reaching greenhouse gas neutrality/climate neutrality by 2045 were considered in the process. These updates went hand in hand with the aim to continuously develop the eea as a sustainable, future-oriented tool. The new assessment guidance was introduced in March 2022. In May, there was a comprehensive online information session for eea municipalities on the topic of climate neutrality.

The eea pilot for various districts in Berlin continued in 2022. Additionally, it was possible to hold major face-to-face events again, among them an exchange of experiences followed by an award ceremony for seven municipalities in Regensburg on 16 November 2022.

Moreover, the eea website was comprehensively updated.



Awarding ceremony in Regensburg

Italy

Activities in 2022 focused on promoting the eea method with CoME Easy municipalities, with a view to commencing SECAP monitoring. Given the unexpected increases in energy costs, however, so far no municipality has joined, with the decision pushed back to 2023.

Discussions are ongoing with municipalities in Apulia, Lombardy, Trentino, Piedmont and Emilia Romagna. Florence has been selected to join the EU mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 (with extensive mention of the eea in its application).

In South Tyrol, an additional 9 cities joined the South Tyrol programme in 2022, whilst regular activities continued in existing participant cities, despite the financial difficulties faced by many local authorities in the wake of the energy crisis. Four cities were recertified. The annual award ceremony held in November was preceded by a conference on the topic of “Adapting to climate change in Municipalities”, organised as part of the Italian presidency of EUSALP. At the conference the new area 7 of the eea assessment tool was introduced, to be launched in pilot cities in 2023.



ComuneKlima Awarding ceremony in Bolzano

Activities in member countries

Luxembourg

After a transition year in 2021, 101 of the 102 municipalities in Luxembourg have now joined the most recent iteration of the Climate Pact. During the past year, the municipalities engaged with the new assessment tool and started the recertification process under the new tool.

The year 2022 was marked by the energy crisis, which caused efforts to focus mainly on the issues of energy efficiency, energy savings and the switch from fossil to renewable energies in line with the national energy-saving campaign.

In a series of workshops held around the country and attended by the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Minister of Energy, political representatives of eea municipalities discussed how municipalities can contribute further to accelerating the energy transition.

Monaco

In 2022, in the context of the annual monitoring of its action plan, the Principality introduced a new, shorter and more targeted workshop format, to facilitate exchanges between implementers and government authorities.

As a result, the six workshops on the assessment areas conducted until 2021 are now replaced by fifteen shorter thematic workshops, to monitor the progress of the various actions undertaken each year.

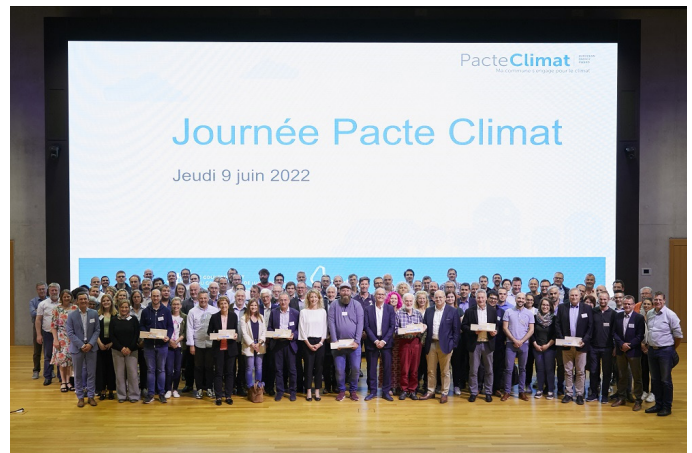
Of note among the new initiatives of 2022 is the launch of MaConsigne, which aims to reduce takeaway food packaging waste with the creation of a deposit system for glass containers. A digital map of repair stations and second-hand shops in Monaco was also published to encourage people to extend the life of consumer goods.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein

In 2022, the work of the Association Energiestadt was dominated by the implementation of the Net Zero 2050 strategy. Key tasks in the areas of communication, training, product development and cooperation were comprehensively dealt with in this context. The threat of an energy crisis has once again shown how important it is to work towards a sustainable energy future.

Activities mainly focused on the following:

- Development of a coherence check concept for municipalities on their way towards net zero
- Conceptualisation of the revision of the Energiestadt assessment tool and assessment guidance on the path towards the net zero target (implementation 2023/2024)
- Development of a net-zero toolbox for municipalities



Klimapakt-Dag 2022



„Energiestadt“-Awarding of Riederalp

Activities in pilot countries

Romania

In 2022, Romania continued its eea activities thanks to the H2020 project EXCITE and the support of the Swiss Ambassador to Romania. As the country recovered from COVID and interest in decarbonising its cities grew substantially, Romania was able to accelerate its efforts. Two communities – Cluj-Napoca and Turda – achieved certification. Cluj-Napoca is Romania’s second largest city and a hub of economic activity and innovation, thanks to a large IT community. Cluj-Napoca is also one of 100 cities selected by the European Commission to become zero-carbon, smart cities by 2030. Additionally, a delegation from Romania participated in the Luxembourg eea summit held in November 2022.



Cluj-Napoca Award Ceremony

Serbia

Following five years of capacity building and advisory services, in 2022 the awarding ceremony for the first Serbian municipalities to obtain the European Energy Award took place. Following an international audit, the international eea Association approved the awarding of the City of Uzice, the City of Krusevac and the Municipality of Paracin, while the Municipality of Vrbas obtained the national recognition EEA Serbia pioneer. The Project confirmed that the European Energy Award is fully compatible with the Serbian EMS and supports compliance with the national legislation. Furthermore, the holistic approach of eea provides for additional benefit to EMS in planning local action.



Awarding ceremony in Belgrad, Serbia

Activities in Belgium, Croatia, Greece and Poland from the IMPLEMENT-Project and in North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Slovenia, from the Excite-Project, see page 6

Activities in pilot countries

Tunisia

In Tunisia, the eea has been fully embedded in the National « Municipal Alliance for Energy Transition » (ACTE) Programme led by the National Agency for Energy Management (ANME). Based on a call for applications in 2019, 7 partner cities have been selected to benefit from financial support and technical assistance. Over the last three years, four additional cities and the municipalities of Djerba have taken up the challenge and joined the programme. 9 out of the 14 local authorities involved in the programme were awarded the ACTE-MEA label in July 2022 (« MEA » stands for Middle East & Africa Energy Award, developed on the basis of the eea). A variety of pilot projects have been supported, ranging from energy-efficient public lighting and public buildings, a bicycle lane and inter-modal mobility platform, to the development of an « eco-neighborhood » and the mainstreaming of energy criteria in urban regulation, to power generation from solar-rooftops- to mention a few examples.

[Movie of the National ACTE Programme](#)



Ukraine

The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022 has had significant impacts on the country's institutional and political frameworks as well as the priorities for all stakeholders. The war has also caused significant damage to municipal, transport and residential infrastructure, resulting not only in billions of financial losses but also in large-scale migration within Ukraine and to neighbouring countries.

Despite the difficult situation in the country, almost all eea municipalities that joined the eea in 2021 completed the initial review and developed specific eea action plans in 2022. The eea National Office has supported these municipalities in their efforts. In addition, the family of accredited eea consultants and auditors has grown by one eea consultant and one eea auditor.

In the framework of the SECO-funded eea project, the city of Trostyanets received support for the implementation of a demonstration project. Specifically, a rooftop solar PV power plant with a nominal capacity of 45 kW and backup power storage for the Trostyanets central hospital was installed. The national eea team also completed the first edition of the eea assessment guidance and submitted it for final review and approval by the Association.



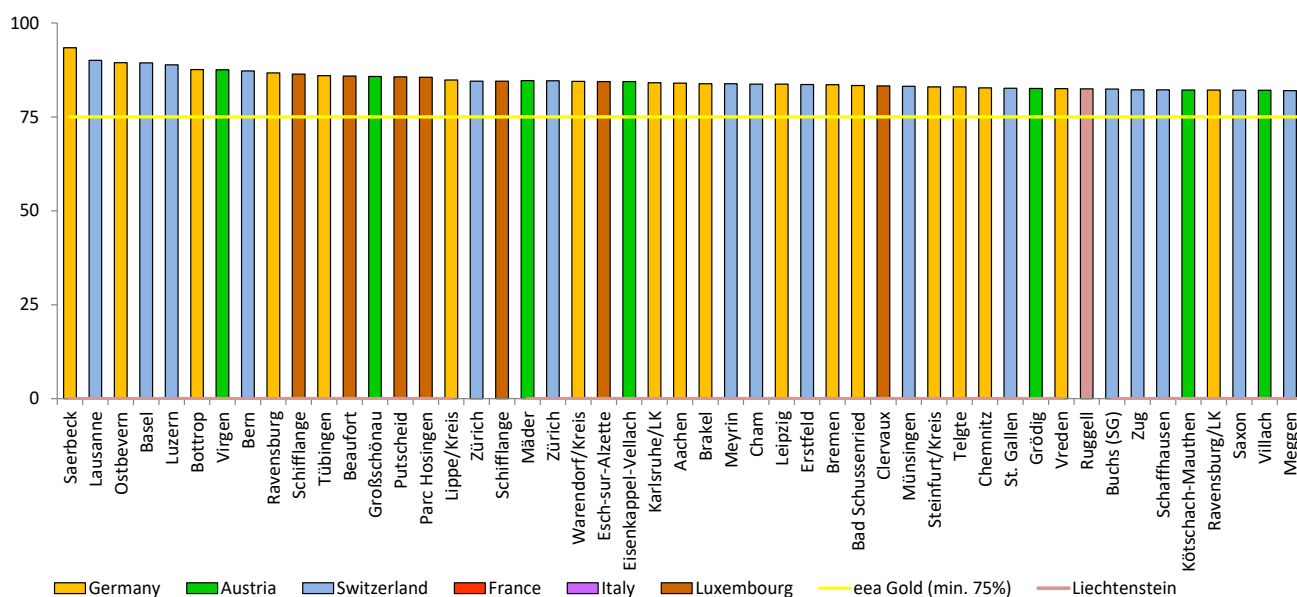
Awarding ceremony in Lviv

eea Gold local authorities 2022

By the end of 2022, 212 local authorities were labelled eea Gold. In 2022, 30 local authorities received the eea Gold for the first time, while 41 other local authorities successfully renewed their eea Gold label.



Top 50 European Energy Award Gold 2022



Comparison of the implementation level of the scope of action of the eea Gold local authorities. Status end of 2022.



Lausanne (CH), re-awarded in 2022



Tübingen (DE), re-awarded in 2022

Awarded eea Gold local authorities 2022

Austria

Assling 1'783 inhabitants	(eea Gold since 2018)
Bregenz 29'817 inhabitants	(2022)
Bürs 3'086 inhabitants	(2022)
Dornbirn 46'464 inhabitants	(2011)
Eisenkappel-Vellach 2'717 inhabitants	(2014)
Gabersdorf 1'259 inhabitants	(2022)
Grödig 7'192 inhabitants	(2018)
Großes Walsertal 3'467 inhabitants	(2016)
Großschönau 1'221 inhabitants	(2018)
Hittisau 2'019 inhabitants	(2016)
Semriach 3'262 inhabitants	(2022)
Weißbach bei Lofer 411 inhabitants	(2018)
Weißensee 754 inhabitants	(2018)

France

Bordeaux Métropole et Ville 801'041 inhabitants	(2022)
Ville et Métropole de Rennes 451'762 inhabitants	(2022)

Germany

Bad Waldsee 20'178 inhabitants	(2014)
Biberach an der Riß 33'668 inhabitants	(2022)
Bielefeld 336'352 inhabitants	(2010)
Bremen 567'559 inhabitants	(2010)
District of Emsland 325'650 inhabitants	(2022)
District of Karlsruhe 442'700 inhabitants	(2014)
Isny im Allgäu 14'500 inhabitants	(2014)
Kiel 249'190 inhabitants	(2014)
Konstanz 85'837 inhabitants	(2022)
Leutkirch im Allgäu 23'250 inhabitants	(2014)
Lippstadt 67'879 inhabitants	(2022)
Ludwigsburg 92'940 inhabitants	(2014)
Münster 316'403 inhabitants	(2005)
Paderborn 153'833 inhabitants	(2022)
District of Rhein-Sieg-Kreis 597'854 inhabitants	(2022)
District of Rottweil 140'166 inhabitants	(2022)
Schloß Holte Stukenbrock 27'092 inhabitants	(2022)
Singen (Hohentwiel) 48'193 inhabitants	(2022)
Telgte 19'841 inhabitants	(2014)
Tübingen 85'000 inhabitants	(2018)
Unna 6'848 inhabitants	(2022)
Waiblingen 55'526 inhabitants	(2018)
Wasserburg 3'801 inhabitants	(2017)

Liechtenstein

Planken 478 inhabitants	(2018)
Ruggell 2'404 inhabitants	(2018)
Triesen 5'202 inhabitants	(2022)

Luxembourg

Beckerich 2'708 inhabitants	(2015)
Clervaux 5'102 inhabitants	(2017)
Esch-sur-Alzette 36'228 inhabitants	(2018)
Parc Hosingen 3'589 inhabitants	(2015)
Putscheid 1'106 inhabitants	(2017)
Tandel 2'050 inhabitants	(2015)

Switzerland

Amriswil 13'462 inhabitants	(2022)
Arbon 14'415 inhabitants	(2022)
Baden 19'122 inhabitants	(2006)
Basel 201'805 inhabitants	(2006)
Confignon 4'566 inhabitants	(2014)
Fontenais 1'662 inhabitants	(2014)
Gland 11'633 inhabitants	(2022)
Kreuzlingen 22'375 inhabitants	(2022)
Küsnacht 14'700 inhabitants	(2010)
Lausanne 146'910 inhabitants	(2004)
Lumino 1'571 inhabitants	(2014)
Martigny 20'276 inhabitants	(2010)
Meggen 7'600 inhabitants	(2022)
Mettmenstetten 5'566 inhabitants	(2022)
Meyrin 23'324 inhabitants	(2014)
Morges 16'155 inhabitants	(2022)
Naters 10'290 inhabitants	(2022)
Porrentruy 6'434 inhabitants	(2014)
Rheinfelden 13'105 inhabitants	(2022)
UNESCO Biosphäre Entlebuch 16'863 inhabitants	(2022)
Wädenswil 24'808 inhabitants	(2022)
Wallisellen 17'239 inhabitants	(2022)
Wil SG 24'298 inhabitants	(2022)



Bordeaux (FR)

Important bodies & contacts (status end of 2022)

Board of the Association European Energy Award AISBL

Mariadonata Bancher	Energy Agency South Tyrol – KlimaHaus (IT)
Bruno Barboni	Klima-Agence (LU)
Fenn Faber	Klima-Agence (LU)
Thekla Heinel	Bundesgeschäftsstelle European Energy Award (DE)
Gudrun Heute-Bluhm	Städtetag Baden-Württemberg (Chair)
Maren Kornmann	Trägerverein Energiestadt (CH)
Sara Moltmann	Bundesgeschäftsstelle European Energy Award (DE)
Barbara Schwickert	Trägerverein Energiestadt (CH)
Helmut Strasser	e5 Austria (AT) (Vice-Chair)
Gregor Thenius	e5 Austria (AT)
Nicolas Vallée	ADEME (FR)
Eric Vésine	ADEME (FR)

North Macedonia:	Habitat for Humanity Macedonia Liljana Alceva
Serbia:	Ministry of Mining and Energy
Slovenia:	KSENA Bostjan Krajnc
Romania:	Romania Green Building Council Dorin Beu
Switzerland:	Energiestadt Maren Kornmann
Ukraine:	Association Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine Vitaliy Volkov

eea Management Tool maintenance and development

Management:
Weisskopf Partner GmbH, Zurich, Switzerland

Technical implementation:
WIENFLUSS information.design.solutions KG, Vienna, Austria

European Energy Award Office

Mandated to:
Brandes Energie, Zurich, Switzerland
Charlotte Spörndli Managing Director

National eea Offices

Austria:	e5 Austria Gregor Thenius
Belgium Flanders:	Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen Koen Reynaerts
Belgium Wallonia:	APERRE ASBL Johanna d'Hernoncourt
Bulgaria:	EnEffect Dragomir Tzanev
France:	Cit'ergie Nicolas Vallée
Germany:	European Energy Award Ilga Schwidder
Italy:	European Energy Award Chiara Tavella ComuneClima Mariadonata Bancher
Liechtenstein:	Energiestadt Maren Kornmann
Luxembourg:	Pacte climat Bruno Barboni
Monaco:	European Energy Award Jessica Astier

International auditors

Andreas Bertel	Vorarlberg Energy Institute (AT)
Petra Brandscheid	SIR (AT)
Virginie Buchheit	Luxcontrol SA (LU)
Sébastien Denis	Equineo (FR)
Claudia Lüthi	Luethi + Partner GmbH (CH)
Nathalie Moreau	Luxcontrol SA (LU)
Maren Kornmann	Enco AG (CH)
Kurt Marti	Ingenieurbüro für Energie und Umwelt (CH)
Leo Meyer	(DE)
Thalia Meyer	Spektrum Energie (CH)
Hannes Obereder	Office of the Carinthian Gov. (AT)
Monika Panek	Energie- & Umweltagentur NÖ (AT)
Martine Plomb	(CH)
Anne Rialhe	AERE (FR)
Dominique Rossel	T.Q.E. (CH)
Heide Rothwangl	Energie Agentur Steiermark (AT)
Helmut Strasser	SIR (AT)
Chiara Tavella	SPES Consulting Srl (IT)
Reiner Tippkötter	energielenker projects GmbH (DE)
Gabi Zink-Ehlert	energielenker Beratungs GmbH (DE)



European Energy Award

Association European Energy Award AISBL
Chaussée de Wavre 1110
1160 Bruxelles
Belgium

Phone: +41 44 213 10 22
E-Mail: info@european-energy-award.org
www.european-energy-award.org

European Energy Award Office
Molkenstrasse 21
8004 Zurich
Switzerland

