

An energy pioneer in the Rhine valley

Buchs, situated in the Rhine valley of St Gallen, is the main town of the Werdenberg region. With a population of 11'500, it is one of the largest settlements between Lake Constance and Chur. The territory of the municipality extends from the agricultural areas on the valley floor at an elevation of 441 metres through industrial and residential zones, wooded hills and mountains up to the summit of the Glannachopfs at an elevation of 2232 metres.

As the municipality attaches great importance to the quality of living space, a sustainable treatment of the natural environment is firmly entrenched in the town's mission statement. Moreover, the fact that these are not just empty phrases is evidenced by a bunch of exemplary projects which have recently been rewarded by the Energy City label. The municipality supports the sale of renewable electricity. Power is obtained from solar energy and from turbines driven by the mountain spring water gushing down into the valley. Large photovoltaic installations are to be found on the roofs of the interstate High School for Technology and the old people's home. A third large installation soars on stilts over the EWB (energy supplier of Buchs) equalising tanks at a thousand metres above sea level.

The Buchs municipality has already won prizes for solar energy and for recycling in recognition of its sustainable action for the protection of the environment. Since December 2001, Buchs is an Energy City and, in 2013, the municipality was awarded the Energy City GOLD label.

Energy project highlights

- Buchs has six times more photovoltaic solar energy cells installed per capita than the average for Switzerland.
- The production of green electricity is three times the national average, thanks mainly to the generation of electricity by means of the drinking water system.
- More than a third of the final energy consumption of the whole municipality is covered by renewable sources and waste heat.
- District heat from the Buchs household waste incineration plant provides more than one third of the heating requirements of all our public buildings.

Facts and figures

Municipality:.....Buchs
Canton:St. Gallen
Population: 11'416
Area: 16 km²
Internet:www.buchs-sg.ch

Joined Energy City programme in:..... 2001
First certification:..... 2001
Second certification: 2005
Third certification:..... 2009
Fourth certification: 2013



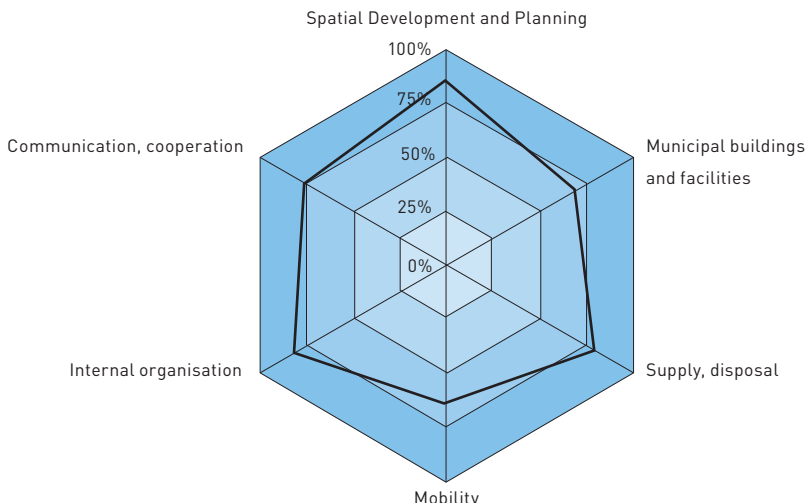


Working together

«In its energy plan <Buchs 2020>, the city council has committed itself to the objective of the 2000-Watt society. We are convinced that the municipality has everything to gain from a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and an increased use of Swiss renewable energies: we reduce our dependence on imported energy supplies and we create added value for local business. Within this framework, we are making our way together along the road to the 2000-Watt society.»

*Dr. Daniel Gut
President of the Municipality, Buchs*

Energy policy profile in 2013



The spider chart shows the percentage development already implemented by the city out of its energy potential. To obtain the Energy City 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 2013, the Buchs municipality achieved a level of 76%.

The next steps

During the coming years, Buchs intends:

- to implement the Energy City building standard for a high energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies.
- to build further photovoltaic installations.
- to extend the district heating system.
- to set up an installation for the carbonisation of biomass.
- to introduce smart meters.

Energy City contact person in Buchs

Daniel Göldi, T: 081 755 75 87
daniel.goeldi@buchs-sg.ch

Energy City Consultant

Kurt Egger, T: 052 368 08 08
kurt.egger@novaenergie.ch

Further information

www.energiestadt.ch/buchs



européan energy award

What does the Energy City label stand for?

The Energy City 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 Energy Cities Association.