

## Setting the right example

For several years now, Vernier has been implementing its energy policy for a 2000-Watt Society. It was against this background that Vernier became the first municipality in the canton of Geneva to gain the European Energy Award® GOLD label in 2009. In that year, the town published infra-red photographs taken by a helicopter enabling to visualise to the citizens the heat loss from their buildings. The house-owners was then offered financial support to carry out energy check-ups, followed by workshops on how to prepare a renovation plan.

Vernier also played a pioneering role in «A new light», a project designed to promote new, energy-efficient technologies in socially and economically deprived areas and the adoption of sound ecological behaviours by consumers. Energy consultants came to visit the residents and to advise them on the best way to cut their electricity bills. The «ambassadors» of this eco-social project replaced conventional light bulbs free of charge with low consumption bulbs and LEDs and supplied multi-socket power strips enabling users to switch off equipment on stand-by. People were also offered a financial incentive (chèque froid) to replace existing refrigerators and freezers with more energy-efficient and economical appliances. Initiated within the framework of the eco21 programme in 2009, the operation was repeated in 2010 and 2013.

## Energy project highlights

- Subscription of a contract with Services industriels de Genève to supply 100% «SIG Vitale Vert» electricity under the «naturemade star» label for all public buildings and facilities.
- Creation of a mobility fund to encourage people to opt for a more sustainable form of transport (subsidies for subscriptions to public transport, car-sharing and for the purchase of electric bikes).
- Within the municipality, renewable energies account for 45.9% of total heat consumption, the bulk of the potential (23.1%) being implemented through the wood-fired district heating system.

Photo : Blaise Lambert ; Les Avanchets à Vernier



## Facts and figures

Municipality:	Vernier
Canton:	Geneva
Population:	34'500
Area:	7,86 km <sup>2</sup>
Internet:	www.vernier.ch
First Energy City label:	2005
European Energy Award® GOLD label:	2009

Yvan Rochat

Photo : Magali Girardin



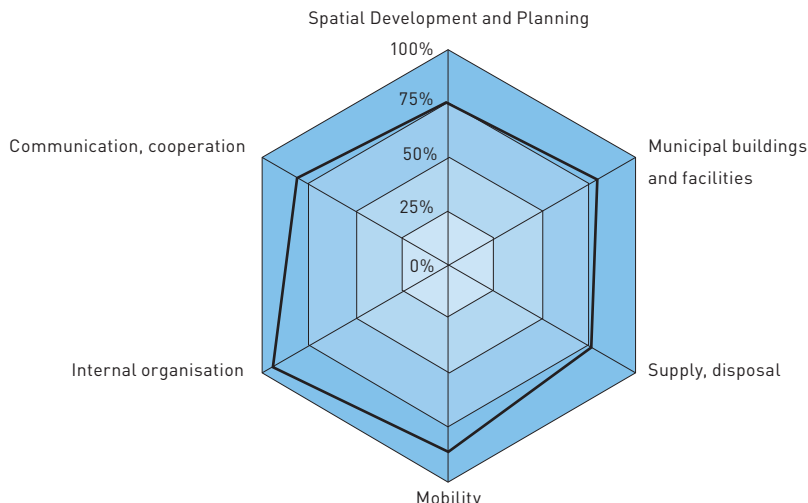
## A long-term vision and strong principles

«The energy policy of Vernier is based on the principle that, both in decision-making and in actions, it is essential to limit environmental impacts. This principle is expressed in the following ways:

- by developing a public action which permits the achievement of a 2000-Watt Society without nuclear energy.
- by promoting a built environment, both public and private, which offers high energy and environmental standards.
- by encouraging the population to switch modes in favour of public transport and soft mobility.
- by accepting a densification of the territory only where the environmental impact is low or where the proposed project is of high environmental quality.»

Yvan Rochat  
Mayor, Vernier

## Energy policy profile in 2013



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 Energy City label, the local authority 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

Vernier has committed itself to various projects to be carried out in the coming years:

- Optimisation of building and street lighting (2012 to 2015): 330 lights will be changed, resulting in a reduction of 128'000 kWh p.a. or 14%.
- Participation in the establishment of a self-service system for bicycles in Geneva, with between 6 and 10 stations situated within the territory of Vernier.
- 30 energy audits for small businesses, providing an estimate of the potential savings and the ways to achieve them.

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### Further information

[www.citedelenergie.ch/vernier](http://www.citedelenergie.ch/vernier)



european 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.