

Press release

Morges, 14 September 2021

A second city steps up its energy transition by joining Commune Rénove Vevey joining forces with Romande Energie to significantly reduce carbon emissions from its building stock

Vevey is now targeting 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050, having officially acknowledged the climate emergency and signed up to the Swiss Sustainable Cities & Towns Charter in 2020. Energy retrofits of buildings – many of which are still heated with fossil fuels – can make a massive difference. Commune Rénove, a solution marketed by Romande Energie in conjunction with its partners, is designed to speed up the process by providing personalised support to property managers.

The City of Vevey has been committed to cleaner energy and sustainable development for over 20 years. It has been awarded the European energy award on several occasions, including the Gold label (the top level in the scheme) in 2012 and 2016. It is reapplying for this certification in the current year.

Determined to take its efforts to the next level, Vevey has this year increased the amounts available under sustainable development incentives (Municipal Fund for Energy and Sustainable Development) to support projects complementing its municipal energy policy, including subsidies to owners, tenants and the retail trade and business.

This is the background to Vevey's decision to join Commune Rénove, which is wholly aligned with its own energy strategy. Specifically, the proportion of the renovated building stock will be increased through a joint public-private approach that draws on the expertise of several professions and fosters dialogue with property owners and managers. "This pilot project fits perfectly with Vevey's ambitious energy and environmental policy," said Pascal Molliat, councillor in charge of buildings, property management and energy. "We're convinced that Commune Rénove efficiently and effectively meets this real need and hope that it will serve as a blueprint for the entire region."

Commune Rénove encourages property owners and managers to make their buildings more energy efficient by providing technical and administrative support and streamlining the renovation process. The scheme has already got off to a great start in Morges. Commune Rénove is financially supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy and Vaud Canton energy department, and managed by Romande Energie, the Centre de Recherches Energétiques et Municipales (CREM) research facility, Signa-Terre (a company specialising in energy monitoring) and Pierre Olivier (a consultant on energy and sustainable-development projects).

"This second partnership with a city pursuing an ambitious energy policy is a milestone in Commune Rénove's regional rollout and more broadly for Romande Energie's goals to help achieve a 'net zero' property sector in the region," stated Nicolas Demierre, Product Manager for the Property Sector and Local Authorities at Romande Energie.

Commune Rénove is part of the Group's commitment to a more sustainable world.

For more information, please go to www.commune-renove.ch

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Romande Energie at a glance

Romande Energie Group is the leading supplier of electricity in Western Switzerland and a mainstay in the Swiss energy industry. It offers several sustainable solutions for the distribution and generation of electricity in addition to energy services, which include energy efficiency and electromobility.

All its generation assets are driven by renewable sources of energy. Additionally, it is working hand in hand with customers, investors and employees to provide ever-better standards of living through innovative services and a commitment to corporate social responsibility. Romande Energie is dedicated, day in day out, to offering high-grade services and security of supply, just as customers expect, as well as supporting them in transitioning to more sustainable forms of energy and reducing carbon intensity across Western Switzerland.

For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit
www.romande-energie.ch

Vevey's energy and climate policy

By ratifying the Swiss Sustainable Cities & Towns Charter in June 2020, Vevey has reaffirmed its commitment to the energy transition and climate protection. This Charter embodies the goals set out in the Paris Agreement, the Swiss government's Energy Strategy 2050 and the 2000-Watt Society. Through it, Vevey is targeting 'net zero' emissions by 2050.

The City of Vevey has earned the Gold label under the European energy award and is committed to Switzerland's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. It is currently drawing up its own climate plan, which will lead to specific actions enabling it to achieve its ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

For more information on Vevey's energy policy, visit
<https://www.vevey.ch/vivre-vevey/developpement-durable-et-energie>