

## **Press release**

*Morges, 17 February 2021*

### **A solution helping municipalities and property owners play their part in the energy transition**

#### **Romande Energie's approach strives to accelerate the pace of building stock renovation to meet climate and energy goals**

**The large-scale Commune Rénove project addresses the imperative of reducing the building stock's energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in order to meet the federal government's Energy Strategy 2050 targets. With the backing of federal authorities – a first for this type of project – and Vaud Canton, this programme targets energy system upgrades for the building stock through support and guidance for property owners and managers.**

Less than 1% of the Swiss building stock has currently been renovated. There are various obstacles, such as the fear of embarking on a vast project, the complexity of business models and the administrative red tape. Romande Energie's goal is to help municipalities overcome these hurdles and thus encourage owners and property managers to renovate buildings. It will do this by offering step-by-step support and guidance with their renovation project – from a personalised energy audit through to suitable renovation strategies pre-approved by the authorities. Additionally, by establishing itself as a partner of choice coordinating owners, property managers, project contractors and the relevant authorities, Romande Energie aims to facilitate interaction and streamline execution of renovation projects.

Inspired by the successful Onex-Rénove trial piloted from 2014, which helped the municipality achieve a sevenfold increase in the annual rate of renovation permits issued for rental properties and which was popular with both property owners and managers, Commune Rénove is part of a broader drive to define a template for the entire canton of Vaud. "Upgrading the building stock is a key way of lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and so we think it's important to invest more in that area so we deliver on our goal of helping to decarbonise Western Switzerland," commented Christian Petit, Romande Energie Group's CEO.

To achieve this goal, Romande Energie has teamed up with the Centre de Recherches Energétiques et Municipales (CREM) research facility, Signa-Terre (a company specialised in building security and energy audits) and Pierre Olivier, an energy and sustainable development consultant who helped coordinate the Onex-Rénove programme. The names of the two communities piloting the Commune Rénove project will be announced shortly.

The successful trials in the canton of Geneva and the watertight project put together by Romande Energie and its partners persuaded the federal authorities and the Vaud Canton to provide financial support for the Commune Rénove project.

Romande Energie's goal is to build a stronger presence in the property sector in order to reduce the building stock's carbon footprint in the canton of Vaud and to play a full part in leading the shift to cleaner energies. To do this, it plans to involve both public authorities and private property-market stakeholders and apply a novel approach to implementing energy and climate protection policies.

For more information, please go to [www.commune-renove.ch](http://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 a wealth of sustainable solutions for the distribution and generation of electricity, and in energy services, 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.

**For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit**  
[www.romande-energie.ch](http://www.romande-energie.ch)