2000-Watt best practice

This factsheet highlights best practice examples that show the way to a 2000-Watt society.

1) «Power of tomorrow» strategy

In its report «Power of tomorrow» the city’s electricity company analyzed and evaluated four production scenarios with respect to energetic, ecological and financial criteria. The scenario that it pursues is one with investments particularly in wind and solar energy as well as hydropower plants. In line with the 2000-Watt targets of the city the power company wants to become a forerunner in the areas of ecology and energy efficiency.

2) Energy networks

Currently 85% of heating energy originates from fossil fuels. In the future, the city will use a diverse range of resources mainly from locally available sources. In order to exploit these resources efficiently more and more energy networks will be build. One of the energy networks already in place uses for example heat from the city river for heating and cooling buildings in an area of the old town that includes the city hall. Another example is the recently build energy network that uses waste heat from the city administration’s datacenter to heat 800 apartments.

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3) Public district heating

The city’s public district heating has been in place since the 1960s. Its main energy source is heat from waste incineration. In addition, since 2011 it also distributes heat from a newly-build wood power plant. The incineration power plant in the Western part of the city has reached the end of its life-span. In order to keep and increase the use of this sustainable energy the city is planning a new pipeline to connect the Western area to the second incineration plant in the North.

4) City hospital «Triemli»

The city hospital «Triemli» has been in operation since almost 40 years. Currently the building part housing the patients’ rooms is replaced by a new building. The old part will be refurbished afterwards. The new modern hospital wants to achieve the 2000-Watt targets: reduce energy consumption by factor two and greenhouse gas emissions by factor four. To implement this project the electorate has voted in favor of a 290 Mio. CHF credit.

5) 2000-Watt sites

2000-Watt sites show a sustainable use of resources during construction and operation of buildings as well as with respect to traffic caused by the buildings’ operation. Currently there are two 2000-watt sites in the City of Zurich: Sihlbogen and Greencity. In addition, an increasing number of investors designs settlements in-line with the 2000-Watt targets. Most recent example is the internationally renowned business and living district «Kalkbreite» which opened in 2014. An evaluation of the first year has shown that the inhabitants could considerably reduce their primary energy and greenhouse gas emissions.