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Tour of Switzerland



Best practices in sustainable development



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www.are.admin.ch/sd

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Foreword

As part of the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme, in autumn 2015 the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) organised a field trip for a Czech delegation from some fifteen towns. The aim was to visit sustainable development projects in Switzerland, focusing on indicator systems and action to foster sustainable development (Agenda 21).

ARE's role, alongside spatial development and coordination of the transport system, is to promote sustainable development in Switzerland. To drive forward this goal, it is responsible for coordinating the federal sustainable development strategy. That includes involvement in the development of national sustainability indicators and setting up projects to position the federal administration as a role model in the areas of sustainable construction and respect for the environment. ARE also supports the cantons and municipalities in the implementation of sustainable development.

To document the field trips by the Czech delegation, ARE prepared the best practice information sheets presented in this document.

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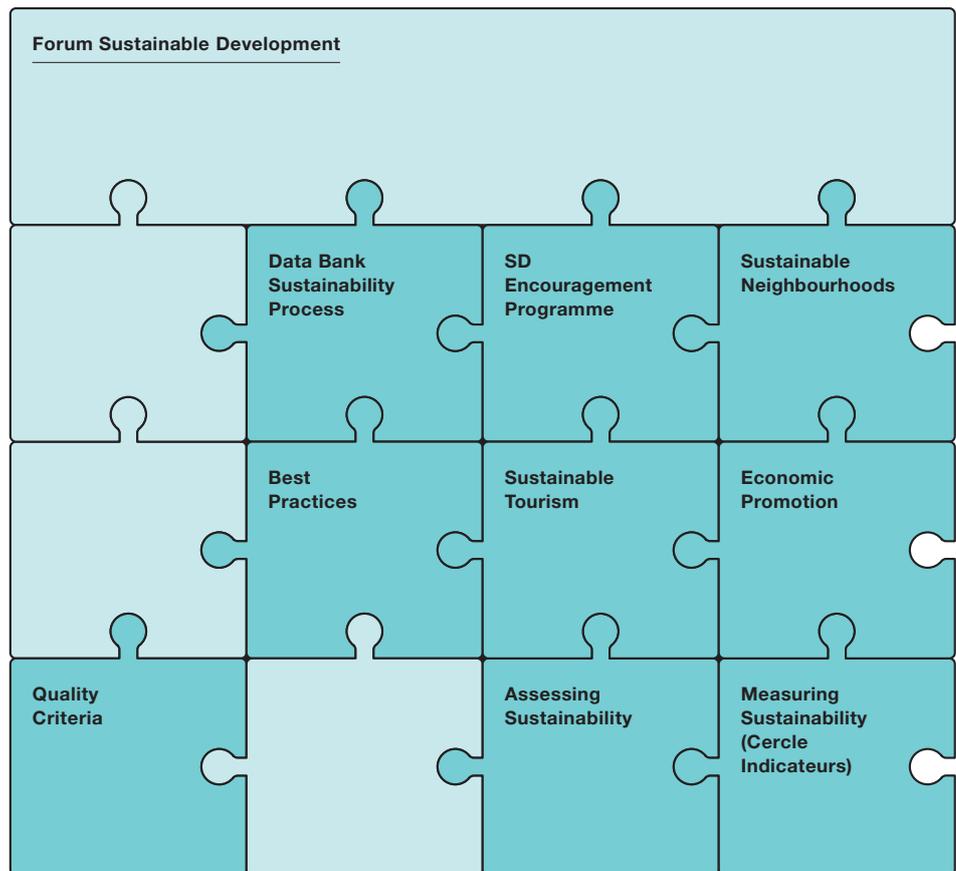
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1. A platform for the cantons and municipalities

ARE offers a range of activities to assist the cantons and municipalities in sustainable development: The Sustainable Development Forum is a platform that targets three institutional levels, the Confederation, the cantons and the municipalities. Special days focusing on specific topics have been organised to encourage an exchange of information and experience and drive forward sustainable development in general. This platform includes the following activities:

- The Sustainable Development Encouragement Programme provides financial support for projects, based on annual areas of focus: public-sector procurement, evaluations, sustainable neighbourhoods, etc.
- An online database of sustainable development activities providing an overview covering the whole of Switzerland. This is updated once a year.
- Sustainable development analyses of the environmental, social and economic impact of the projects. Groups are organised to share experience, and guides and tools are made available.
- Through the “Cercle Indicateurs”, ARE and the Federal Statistical Office FSO provide two systems of some thirty indicators to measure the sustainability performance of cantons and municipalities both comparatively (benchmarking) and over time (monitoring).
- A set of best practices is used to share successes. Different aspects are examined in detail as required (e.g. economic promotion, responsible procurement, tourism, sustainable neighbourhoods).

1. A platform for the cantons and municipalities



2. Cercle Indicateurs Confederation, Cantons and Cities

Description

The “Cercle Indicateurs” (CI) is a platform created by the Swiss Confederation, cantons and cities in 2005 with a view to developing and using sustainable development indicators for Swiss cantons and cities. The goal is to assess their current state of sustainable development and their evolution over time in terms of political strategy. The cantons and cities are responsible for analysing the results, reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses, identifying possible improvements and taking the necessary policy measures when appropriate. The Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) is responsible for managing and coordinating the initiative, and the Swiss Federal Statistical Office is responsible for the scientific and technical aspects.

Links to sustainable development

The indicators can be used to keep up with developments (monitoring) and to make comparisons between cantons and between cities (benchmarking).

- **Society:** Ten or so indicators covering social aspects.
- **Environment:** Ten or so indicators covering environmental aspects.
- **Economy:** Ten or so indicators covering economic aspects.

Implementation

We call the indicators selected by the participating cantons and cities to provide a common system “core indicators”. Thematic priorities have been defined for each aspect of sustainable development (e.g.: air quality, land use, income and wealth distribution, etc.). In general, one core indicator for the cities and one for the cantons has been chosen for each of these thematic areas. The cantons run a data collection exercise once every two years and the cities once every four years.

The indicators thus reflect behaviour patterns, highlight trends or situations, play a role in early detection, provide a basis for decision-making and allow us to describe phenomena systematically. The indicators straddle boundaries and create a link between data and information, between science, politics and society, and between different scientific disciplines. In this way, they forge a common understanding of a given phenomenon.

The cantons and cities use different channels for communication on CI indicators. The main tools used are the internet, management reports, legislative programmes, the statistical yearbook, specific publications, presentations and reports on sustainable development.

Information

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE
Sustainable Development Section
CH-3003 Berne
www.are.admin.ch/cercleindicateurs-f
www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/fr/index/themen/21/04/01.html
www.are.admin.ch/cercleindicateurs
www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/21/04/01.html

Environmental aspects

Thematic area

Env 1	Biodiversity
Env 2	Nature and countryside
Env 3	Energy quality
Env 4	Energy consumption
Env 5	Climate
Env 6	Materials consumption
Env 6	Materials consumption
Env 7	Water regime
Env 8	Water quality
Env 9	Land use
Env 10	Soil quality
Env 11	Air quality
Econ 1	Income
Econ 2	Cost of living
Econ 3	Job market
Econ 4	Capital expenditure
Econ 5	Cost transparency
Econ 6	Resource efficiency
Econ 7	Innovations
Econ 8	Economic structure
Econ 9	Know-how
Econ 10	Public finances
Econ 11	Taxes
Econ 12	Production
Soc 1	Noise/quality of living environment
Soc 2	Mobility
Soc 3	Health
Soc 4	Safety
Soc 4	Safety
Soc 5	Income and wealth distribution
Soc 6	Participation
Soc 7	Culture and leisure
Soc 8	Education and training
Soc 9	Social welfare
Soc 10	Integration
Soc 11	Equal opportunities
Soc 12	Interregional solidarity

Economic aspects

Social aspects

3. Sustainable construction Confederation

Description

The Swiss Federal Council attaches great importance to sustainable development: “The federal government sets an example in its own consumer behaviour by purchasing products and realising construction projects based on economical, environmentally friendly, healthy and socially responsible processes” (taken from “Sustainable Development Strategy: Guidelines and Action Plan 2008–2011”). Two areas in particular that are affected – product purchasing and construction – fall within the remit of the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL). Concrete measures relating to construction are mentioned in Section 4–2 (“Sustainable construction”) of the action plan drawn up by the Federal Council within the context of its sustainable development strategy. New federal government buildings are subject to particularly stringent requirements.

Thus, the new building constructed in Ittigen for the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) was designed in line with sustainable development principles. In 2010, the FOBL launched a competition for projects to construct a new building in Ittigen. In 2013 the building, a four-storey timber structure suitable for flexible use in the long term, was completed. The timber construction allowed for prefabrication, such that the building took barely a month to put together. The timber used was spruce grown in Switzerland. The building houses around a hundred workstations.

In 2013, for the first time, the sustainability of a federal administration building was assessed using the “SméO” assessment tool. The ARE building in Ittigen successfully passed the test. Here, too, the intention was to set an example by applying a sustainability assessment tool, in particular for the cantons and municipalities.

Links to sustainable development

Investment in the Swiss construction sector amounts to 50 billion francs, a third of which is accounted for by the public sector; it accounts of 80% of raw materials consumption and 40% of energy requirements. This sector is thus key to the fight against global warming. Moreover, on average every individual spends 80% of their time inside a building. In practical terms, this means ensuring that all the criteria of the three aspects of sustainable development are taken into account through the sustainability assessment. This mainly has to do with adequate land use (limited and non-renewable resource), using environmentally friendly construction materials, and creating high-quality public spaces.



Implementation

Right from the launch of the project, ambitious objectives were set for the building:

- **Identity, security and accessibility:** A generous central circulation space offering the opportunity for interaction between co-workers. The building and its surroundings were designed to avoid architectural barriers and insecure areas.
- **Energy and mobility:** In the spirit of the “2000-watt society”, the building seeks to optimise energy in three key areas: construction (grey energy), operation and mobility. Regarding this last factor, the building is located close to a rapid transit rail station; at the operational level, the project complies with the “Minergie-P” criteria, and its grey energy figures are within the limit defined by the label. The threshold values are defined for each individual project, based on certain characteristics of the building and its technical installations.
- **Environment:** As well as the “Minergie P” certification, the project was awarded the complementary “Eco” label, which certifies the use of a successful green construction approach, in particular the use of environmentally friendly materials (solid wood wherever possible, plaster, concrete), solvent- and biocide-free surface treatments, accessibility of technical installations for ease of maintenance and replacement. The origin and certification of the materials also featured in the specification documents. The timber used is Swiss or PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certified.
- **Soil, water and biodiversity:** Equipped with a green roof and surrounded by rough pasture, the building leaves plenty of room for green areas (over half the total surface area). The project did not require any land clearing. It has an underground mezzanine level, which allowed us to limit the production of excavation materials, and the arrangement of the windows does not represent a risk to birds.
- **User comfort:** By its design (orientation, thickness of walls, etc.) and the choice of materials (timber, plaster, etc.) the building has the basic elements needed to ensure a good level of thermal comfort for its users in both winter and summer plus good visual comfort (adequate but not excessive supply of natural light) and indoor air quality. The building has been awarded the “Good Interior Climate” (Bon climat intérieur®) certificate.

Information

Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE
 Worblentalstrasse 66
 CH-3063 Ittigen
www.aren.admin.ch

FOBL homepage: www.ofcl.admin.ch
 Sustainable construction recommendations of the Coordination Group for Construction and Property Services (KBOB): www.bbl.admin.ch
 Information on MINERGIE® standards: www.minergie.ch
 Assessment tool: www.smeo.ch

4. Swiss Federal Resource and Environmental Management programme – RUMBA Confederation

Description

The federal administration has set up a resource and environmental management programme called RUMBA. The programme's objective is to continuously reduce the pollutant load from the federal administration's activities and products (electricity, heating/refrigeration, mobility/official travel, paper, waste, etc.).

Links to sustainable development

- Reduces costs and increases efficiency.
- Coordinates the federal administration's environmental activities.
- Motivates employees and encourages their spirit of initiative.
- Contributes to the exemplary role attributed to the Confederation with regard to the environment.

Implementation

Since its launch in 1999, RUMBA has been seeking to reduce the environmental impact of the federal administration's operations and products. In 2007, the Federal Council called for the environmental footprint of each employee in RUMBA units to be reduced by an additional 10% by 2016 compared to the 2006 figure. This objective had already been surpassed in 2014. As a matter of fact, the federal administration's 2015 environmental report indicates that the federal departments, the Federal Chancellery, Parliamentary Services, the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland and the Federal Court in Lucerne have reduced their ecological footprint by 23.1% compared to 2006. Electricity consumption has declined by 14% compared to the 2012 figures, water by 7%, paper by 9%, heat by 10% and car journeys by 17%. However, there is still huge potential for improvement, in particular in the areas of electricity consumption, heat and mobility. Given the role assumed by the federal administration, in particular for the Energy Strategy 2050 and within the context of the Confederation's sustainable development strategy, the Federal Council is considering anchoring the mechanisms for guaranteeing the environmental compatibility of its various offices in an even more systematic manner.

The RUMBA Coordination Group, which is chaired by DETEC, is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the RUMBA guidelines and objectives and Federal Council mandates and for reporting in this regard. It is also in charge of standardizing indicators and annual environmental reports for all the organizational units, and of assessing the RUMBA programme based on the biennial environmental report for the federal administration as a whole.



Information sheets on the various subjects with relevance to the environment within the federal administration are provided mainly for unit heads and members of the environment teams. The facts and recommendations related to ecology should serve as the basis for adopting environmental measures within the federal administration:

- **Electricity:** information on helping to reduce power consumption.
- **Heating/refrigeration:** information on optimising heating and ventilation in the workplace.
- **Mobility:** information on the efficiency, cost and environmental impact of official travel to other countries.
- **Paper:** information on correct use of paper for copying, printing and archiving.
- **Waste:** information on economical and environmentally friendly waste disposal in the workplace.
- **Actions:** saving energy by motivating employees.

The information sheets are updated periodically.

Information

www.rumba.admin.ch

5. Sustainable mobility

City of Bern

Description

For several years the city authorities in Bern have been trying to reduce the undesirable impacts of motor vehicles on the city so as to improve the quality of life and safeguard the environment. They have taken various measures to improve public transport provision and encourage all users (the general population, companies, institutions, etc.) to opt for more sustainable forms of transport. For example, a **Mobility Advisory Service** (Fachstelle Mobilitätsberatung) was established, after the concept of “Mobility management” had been defined in 2006. Adopting the slogan “the right means of transport in the right place”, this service provides all comers with information, advice and support in managing the way they get around.

The service has also been working to promote low-impact mobility through its **policy to promote cycling** (Velo-Offensive), introduced in 2014. Inspired by the example of Munich, the City of Bern has set itself the objective of increasing cycling’s modal share to 20% by 2030 (from the current level of 11%). To achieve this goal, it is creating the necessary infrastructure for bicycles, but is also working at the “mental” and “cultural” levels. To create a real “bike culture” in the city, it has launched a dialogue involving the municipal administration and external partners (private individuals, institutions, lobby groups, etc.) with the aim of drawing up a set of measures to promote cycling: a self-service bike hire system, parking facilities for bicycles, and so on.

Another interesting project is **Bern rollt** (“Bern on wheels”). Established with a partner organisation, this project involves free bike hire for city residents and tourists. To use one of the free bikes, all you need to do is lodge an identity document and pay a 20 CHF deposit. This project, which extends to a further eight Swiss towns, also has a social and occupational purpose: unemployed people whose entitlement to benefits is coming to an end maintain the bicycles and welcome and manage customers, with the support of social workers.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Promoting a healthy lifestyle by encouraging everyone to adopt environmentally friendly, active ways of getting around. Creating jobs and contributing to social and occupational integration through projects such as Bern rollt.
- **Environment:** Helping to reduce air and noise pollution, and reduce the consumption of non-renewable forms of energy.
- **Economy:** Increasing the efficiency of the transport system by managing travel needs better. Making the city more attractive as a tourist destination thanks to the emphasis on low-impact mobility. Creating jobs through projects to promote social and occupational integration. Involving all stakeholders in the political process (including enterprises and industry).

**Implementation**

Since the political concepts were defined by the City's executive (Mobilitätsmanagement in 2006; Velo-Offensive in 2014), the municipal services have been responsible for implementing the various measures, coordinating their efforts with external partners, providing information and raising the awareness of potential target groups.

Information

Fachstelle Mobilitätsberatung
Brunngasse 30 / Postfach 124
CH-3000 Bern 7
www.bern.ch/mobilitaet

Bern rollt
Hirschgraben
CH-3011 Bern
www.bernrollt.ch

Illustration: tatort kommunikation & design GmbH, Bern

6. ARA Bern AG water treatment plant City of Bern

Description

ARA Bern AG is one of the three largest water treatment plants in Switzerland. Its task is to purify the waste water discharged by all the households, enterprises and industries of the City of Bern and twelve other municipalities in the canton – the equivalent of approximately 315,000 inhabitants. Each day, 100 million litres of waste water pass through the ARA Bern AG plant and are then discharged into the River Aare. But the company does more than just purify waste water: it makes good use of the waste materials by applying cutting-edge technologies to supply various forms of renewable energy. Greenhouse gas-neutral biogas is produced from the region's sewage sludge and biological wastes. The use of this biogas by the city's public transport services (Bernmobil) reduces greenhouse gas emissions by around 2,500 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. The sewage sludge is then reduced, dried and transformed into biosolid granules, a fuel used by cement works in particular. Finally, before the water is returned to the natural environment, its residual heat is extracted to heat roughly 250 private dwellings in the neighbourhood (equivalent to 750 Minergie homes). And in the grounds of the water treatment plant, ARA Bern AG has created a nature reserve with the aim of preserving biodiversity.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Providing Information and raising public awareness. According to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), ARA Bern AG is an exemplary enterprise in the way it serves society (99% of the population are connected to the public sewage system).
- **Environment:** Protecting watercourses and producing renewable energy. Promoting biodiversity by creating a nature reserve (Natur & Wirtschaft-certified) in 2009.
- **Economy:** Breakdown of operating revenues for 2014: Water purification (the plant's primary public mission): 72% / Production of renewable energy: 19% and exploitation of biomass: 9% (economically profitable secondary activities). Sales in 2014: CHF 25.44 million.

Implementation

Each year, ARA Bern AG publishes a sustainability report (GRI) summarising its efforts in the area of sustainable development. As a result of these efforts, the enterprise has been awarded ISO 14000 certification.

Information

ARA Bern AG
Neubrückstrasse 190
CH-3037 Herrenschwanden
www.arabern.ch



7. Agenda 21 Canton of Valais

Description

Agenda 21 is an action programme that defines objectives and measures to implement sustainable development at a given level (canton or municipality). The Agenda 21 of the Canton of Valais aims to ensure fair and inclusive development that respects the environment and economic efficiency.

Links to sustainable development

Sustainable development goes beyond simply protecting the environment. It also includes tomorrow's economic challenges and factors to ensure the social cohesion of the population of the canton. Taking into account the three aspects of sustainable development – environmental, economic and social – is therefore fundamental to the development of Agenda 21.

Implementation

The Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (FDDM) was established in 1999 by the Canton of Valais and the Municipality of Sion to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 and promote sustainable development both throughout the canton and in mountain regions worldwide. FDDM supports and implements specific projects, conducts awareness-raising and communication campaigns and organises events and public consultations. It is certified by Valais excellence (ISO 9001/14001).

At the end of 2008, the Valais Council of State defined 16 major challenges which serve as guides for the sustainable development of the canton: **1.** Setting an example; **2.** Promoting the development of sustainable tourism; **3.** Guaranteeing sustainable and multifunctional agriculture; **4.** Ensuring a balanced labour market that supports the momentum of economic life; **5.** Ensuring sustainable spatial planning; **6.** Maintaining and improving vital resource; **7.** Addressing the energy challenge; **8.** Fostering biodiversity and preserving the beauty of the landscape; **9.** Ensuring integrated management of natural hazards; **10.** Managing alternative mobility; **11.** Ensuring fair working conditions; **12.** Ensuring social cohesion through integration and respect; **13.** Promoting cultural development; **14.** Health promotion; **15.** Educating young people in the principles of sustainable development; **16.** Encouraging municipalities, businesses and inhabitants to take specific action in the area of sustainable development.

Together with priority measures and action plans, these major challenges are integrated into the administrative functions and are aligned to the Federal Council's sustainability strategy. The measures do not simply relate to the canton; they are also applicable for the municipalities, businesses and the population as a whole. Therefore, everyone has to make an effort.



Examples of projects

- **Arbaz: vision of the future in 20 years:** three evening meetings were organised to consult inhabitants on 9 issues (e.g. landscape / tourism, mobility / schools, energy / environment) and deliver a dashboard (legislative programme).
- **St-Martin: review and presentation of sustainable development:** inventory of action taken by the municipality on the 16 commitments in the canton's Agenda 21 and presentation of the results to the inhabitants (brochure).
- **Savièse: tourism action plan:** consultation with tourist service providers and related committees, development of an action plan to improve the tourism offering and promote the municipality (strengths to highlight and deficiencies to be overcome).

Information

Agenda 21 of the Canton of Valais
 Foundation for the Sustainable
 Development of Mountain Regions
 – FDDM
 Pré-d'Amédée 17
 CH – 1950 Sion
www.fddm.ch

Photo: FDDM

8. Acclimatisation Municipality of Sion

Description

Climate change in Switzerland is raising temperatures and this phenomenon is gaining pace: + 1.7°C in the past 150 years, and a threefold increase in the rate of warming since 1950. To combat urban heat islands, boost biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding, the municipality of Sion's Acclimatisation project aims to encourage urban development that supports vegetation and water cycles. This project also endeavours to align spatial development tools (municipal master plan, zoning plan, neighbourhood plans, building regulations) to the challenges of climate change, draw best practices to the attention of decision-makers and the general population, and share the experience gained with other Swiss municipalities.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Improve the quality of life of residents, draw best practices to the attention of political decision-makers and the general population, and share experience with other urban areas in Switzerland.
- **Environment:** The aims are to reduce heat in the urban area, improve biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding.
- **Economy:** Reduce costs relating to local climate change.

Implementation

Acclimatisation is supported by the Swiss Confederation as part of its pilot programme "Adapting to climate change", which has selected thirty projects for support in a three-year period (between 2014 and 2016). The aim is to identify the best ways of limiting damage and therefore maintaining the quality of life for Switzerland's inhabitants.

The municipality of Sion, which is home to the Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (FDDM), was chosen to run the urban development project. This project is an opportunity to realise pilot developments in partnership with private owners. It is based on the desire to rapidly create pleasant but low-cost pilot amenities in the area of nature ("green developments") and water ("blue developments"). The following criteria have to be met: agreements with everyone affected, especially neighbours, proven public and community benefit, ability to take action on the site, good value for money. The municipality of Sion is also working on a number of public spaces. Although the main focus will be on vegetation and water, special attention will also be paid to maintenance in order to avoid the use of chemical products and focus more on natural solutions.

Various actions have already been taken: greening (open spaces, walls, roofs and parking spaces), diverse and local planting, use of heat-reflecting materials, water installations (e.g. fountains) and permeable paving.

**Information**

City of Sion

Planning Department

Espace des Remparts 6

CH – 1950 Sion

www.sion.ch/particuliers/environnement-construction/architecture-batiments/acclimatisation.xhtml

www.are.admin.ch/themen/raumplanung/00236/04574/index.html?lang=fr

Photo: FDDM

9. Sustainable development plan City of Lausanne

Description

By signing the Aalborg Charter (the sustainability charter of European towns and cities) in 1998, the City of Lausanne gave an undertaking that it would implement a sustainability programme through its Agenda 21. The strategy adopted focuses on the three dimensions of sustainability – the economy, the environment and society. It comprises nine commitments, which are sub-divided into 34 objectives:

- **Governance:** sustainable development unit, human capital.
- **Social cohesion:** local social networks, integration, participation in civic life and associations, relationships across generations.
- **Sustainable finance & economics:** public finances, economic development and corporate responsibility.
- **Shared natural resources:** nature and the landscape, water, air.
- **Planning & design:** land use planning, heritage buildings, mobility/air, noise.
- **Production & consumption:** sustainable purchasing, green IT, food, waste/residues.
- **Health promotion and preventive healthcare:** prevention and lifestyle, quality of the environment.
- **From local to global:** international solidarity, climate.
- **Exemplary administration:** human capital, public finances, nature & landscape, water, landscape heritage, heritage buildings, mobility within the city, sustainable purchasing, green IT, food, eco-friendly programmes.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Encourage an open, friendly and caring society where everyone's basic needs are met.
- **Environment:** Preserve and enhance the quality of the environment for present and future generations to ensure a healthy quality of life and the necessary natural resources.
- **Economy:** Promote a diversified and dynamic local economy that creates jobs for the inhabitants of the region while meeting sustainability requirements.

Implementation

Efforts to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic efficiency, social cohesion and environmental responsibility – have to be integrated into all municipal policies and the functioning of the public administration as a whole. Implementation is based on a multidisciplinary approach that endeavours to find innovative and pragmatic solutions. The involvement of inhabitants, companies and associations is also indispensable. Implementation takes place through collaboration between public and private stakeholders, especially initiatives based on local involvement (neighbourhood contracts, subsidies, etc.).

The Sustainable Development Unit of the City of Lausanne was established to coordinate initiatives relating to sustainability, suggest action and support other municipal departments. Its principal objectives centre on sustainable development strategy, the need for the administration to set an example, governance and mobilising stakeholders, public policy and communication.



Examples of sustainable development initiatives

- **Lausanne nature:** Creation of a shared website on the subject of “nature” to leverage synergies between the various stakeholders (city, associations, local residents). This platform aims to encourage the development of an identity as a “nature city”, generate momentum that brings together the municipal administration, the residents of Lausanne and the associations that are active in this sector, encourage coordination between these stakeholders to mobilise their resources for large and small-scale projects, share best practices regarding nature in the city, encourage the involvement of inhabitants by setting up an initiative and the associated tools, and highlight the commitment of the various associations and raise the visibility of their initiatives.
- **Action plan for municipal catering with high nutritional quality and environmental and social standards:** The municipal catering plan aims to ensure that within 3 years local – and preferably organic – produce makes up 70% of the food served in canteens run by the city (catering centres for schoolchildren, canteens at primary and secondary schools, police force, civil protection training centre, etc.). The City of Lausanne is responsible for providing 1,300,000 meals a year. It aims to raise the awareness of those involved (suppliers, parents, children, etc.) of the challenges relating to food supply, explore options for partnership with providers, and share the experience gained with other Swiss cities.

Information

City of Lausanne
 Urban Development and Communication Department
 Sustainable Development Unit
 Escaliers du Marché 2 / P.O. Box 6904
 CH-1002 Lausanne
www.lausanne.ch/thematiques/developpement-durable.html

10. Neighbourhood contract City of Lausanne

Description

As an expression of trust between the City of Lausanne and those who live and/or work in a particular district, a “neighbourhood contract” encourages people to enter into a dialogue and take part in improving the quality of life in their local area. A contract of this kind may lead to joint projects in an existing neighbourhood (community projects connected with daily life) and also promote dialogue between local people and the municipal authorities, based as it is on a participatory approach.

The first neighbourhood contract, involving the City of Lausanne and the residents of the Montelly district, ran from 2010 to 2012. It had a number of positive outcomes: a pedestrian through-way for nursery school children, a community allotment area, organic produce delivered by bicycle, upgrading of a substandard stairway, and regular celebrations leading to a more friendly atmosphere. A second neighbourhood contract was concluded, in 2013, for the Boveresses district, due to run for at least three years. This is a working-class district with a strong sense of identity, multicultural, distant from the city centre, with a large number of voluntary organisations. It has more young people, children and families than the city average.

Links to sustainable development

- **Participation:** The idea is to create a participatory environment in which local people can express their wishes, make proposals and thus become actively involved in the development of their neighbourhood.
- **Society:** The key issues covered by a neighbourhood contract are the prevention of crime and vandalism, public safety, social action, social inclusion and employment, and the physical environment in which people live their lives, not to mention education, leisure, sport and culture.
- **Environment:** This dimension is taken into account when a project is adopted.
- **Economy:** A neighbourhood contract is organised and projects implemented on a voluntary basis.

Implementation

The initiative must come from the local community (local people or voluntary associations). The preconditions for a neighbourhood contract are a strong sense of local identity, a carefully defined set of initiatives, and active cooperation with the municipal services concerned.

Once a year, a *neighbourhood conference* is organised, open to all members of the community. This is the occasion when the *neighbourhood committee* is elected, consisting of local delegates (residents, shopkeepers and voluntary association members) and members of the Municipal Administration. Following this conference, a walk-about is organised, enabling people to get to know the district better, see it from a different point of view, and discuss how it could best be run, with all its qualities and defects.



Implementation of the contract is the task of the committee, which organises *work groups* for different purposes. Each work group meets several times, running workshops on specific topics (public transport, soft mobility, layout of public areas, green spaces, solidarity, etc.). These workshops are opportunities to identify solutions to problems affecting the neighbourhood and to discuss them with people with the necessary expertise. During these discussions, a shared diagnosis gradually emerges and serves as a basis for formulating proposals and projects likely to receive general support. Each work group then submits its ideas to the neighbourhood committee which draws them all together, establishes priorities in the form of an action programme, presents them to the Municipality, then sets to work.

As a result, the residents and users of a neighbourhood have the opportunity to take part in a participatory process with the aim of making practical improvements to their living conditions.

Information

City of Lausanne
Administration and Integration Department
Rue du Port-Franc 18 / P.O. Box 5354
CH-1002 Lausanne
www.lausanne.ch/thematiques/vivre-a-lausanne/residents/vie-de-quartier/contrats-de-quartier.html

11. Community allotments

City of Lausanne

Description

Since 1996, the City of Lausanne Parks and Estates Department has laid out twelve areas of community allotments, known as “plantages”, in a number of densely inhabited neighbourhoods. In total, they cover an area of 15,000 m², enabling almost 350 local people to work a small plot of ground in the immediate vicinity of their home.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Thanks to these community gardens, families working an allotment can enjoy a worthwhile supply of fruit and vegetables. Gardening is a way of re-establishing a relationship with the land and making people (especially the younger generation) more aware of the importance of a healthy, balanced diet based on fresh seasonal produce. Health-wise, physical activity in the open air is beneficial for gardeners of all ages (children, parents, the elderly). Socially, the gardens also have an important role to play: as meeting places of a very special kind, they foster networking and facilitate the inclusion of new arrivals and migrants.
- **Environment:** In all of these gardens, allotment holders are required to adopt natural methods: growing native species suited to the local environment (maintaining biodiversity), careful water management, no chemical fertilisers and pesticides, cultural diversity. In addition, a ready supply of fruit and vegetables means that households can limit their use of convenience foods (often excessively packaged) and imported exotic products.
- **Economy:** By growing their own food, allotment holders are able to save money; they can also receive advice on growing local produce. The fact that they care for their plots of ground relieves the city administration of the cost of maintaining these outdoor areas.

Implementation

As part of its Master Plan for family and vegetable gardens, the Parks and Estates Department is continuing to create new allotment sites (*plantages*) in various city neighbourhoods. One of their objectives is to include allotments in their plans for new residential districts. In response to urbanisation and growing demand from residents, the new projects are designed to take into account the principles of sustainable development, including various forms of participatory management. The aim is to achieve a balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic efficiency, social cohesion and environmental responsibility.

The municipal gardens are divided up into individual allotments varying from 6 to 48 m² in area. To become an allotment holder, certain conditions must be met, for example the applicant must live no more than 5 minutes' walk away. The allotments are laid out and equipped in a simple, functional way, the main consideration being to provide allotment holders with the facilities they need to garden efficiently.



Growing local is good; growing organic is better. The Parks and Estates Department is therefore putting in place a structure to support the transition to organic methods. Surprisingly good results can often be achieved simply by respecting certain basic principles, without recourse to chemical products: not planting seedlings too close together, not planting too late in the season, spot watering (targeting individual plants) and so on.

In 2015, our allotments were awarded the Schulthess Gardening Prize: welcome recognition of the value of these gardens in the quest for environmentally friendly and sustainable urban development.

Information

City of Lausanne
Parks and Estates Department
Avenue du Chablais 46/P.O. Box 80
CH-1007 Lausanne
www.lausanne.ch/thematiques/nature-et-domaines/espaces-verts/jardins-potagers/plantages-lausannois.html

Co-citizenship

Municipality of Val-de-Ruz

Description

Co-citizenship is a decision-making tool to help the municipality ensure controlled and concerted development of its territory. It can be used to support, coordinate, coach and organise the involvement of representatives of civic society and local residents through stakeholder networks. In order to come up with a long-term vision for municipal development, this tool is used in the drafting, implementation and management of the local land use plan and to deal with opposition and disputes.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Measures to implement urban consolidation, raise residents' awareness of the issues relating to spatial development, encourage debate (by setting up networks), encourage residents and other stakeholders to get involved in all stages of land use planning, develop and test new methods of governance.
- **Environment:** Enhance the natural environment, guarantee the quality of life and biodiversity.
- **Economy:** Increase the number of jobs in Val-de-Ruz, maintain and develop the vitality of town and village centres, improve amenities for tourists.

Implementation

The Municipality of Val-de-Ruz, which was created in 2013 by the biggest municipal merger in Switzerland, combining fifteen former municipalities and ten inter-municipal associations. The municipal authorities then launched a consultation process to enable residents to give their views on the development of the new municipality. Workshops were organised on various topics: housing, living, doing business and discovering. Almost all of the proposals made were included in the legislative programme. Since the consultation process was so successful, the authorities decided to extend the concept to other areas of land use planning (management of construction zones, denser use of commercial and industrial areas, regeneration of village centres, etc.).

Therefore, *co-citizenship* is not confined to providing information for local residents; it also aims to encourage consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. For example, schools, which are rarely integrated into consultation processes, are included in *co-citizenship*. The project has therefore evolved from an ordinary local consultation process to a principle of *co-citizenship* that enables the stakeholders consulted to influence the decision-making process on various aspects of development and management of the municipal area. In this sense, it is clearly an innovative initiative.

The initiative was piloted by the executive administration of Val-de-Ruz, with the assistance of cantonal and federal departments and external consultants. The main stakeholders, i.e. local residents, are represented by a network of specialists (inhabitants, associations, legal entities, schools, etc.) and representatives of the legislative. The project is coordinated by a team comprising a project manager, technical managers, a representative of the Neuchâtel urban network (cantonal level) and an external consultant who is responsible for developing a local development plan. In addition, various adjoining municipalities and the associations affected are involved in the initiative.



Thanks to this innovative initiative, a range of different challenges have been examined:

1. Enhancing the natural environment as guarantor of the quality of life and biodiversity; **2.** Preserving good agricultural land; **3.** Raising awareness of the defining features of the landscape around Val-de-Ruz; **4.** Strengthen the urban attractions on the north slopes; **5.** Consolidated development of the villages on the western slopes and central region within their present boundaries; **6.** Consolidating development around the railway stations (with or without RER rail links); **7.** Regeneration of village centres and municipal amenities (leisure / sport / culture / heritage); **8.** Safeguarding the regional rail service; **9.** Developing the public transport network in the municipality and low-impact mobility, **10.** Managing the road network in line with its status; **11.** Increasing the number of jobs in Val-de-Ruz to a ratio of 1 job per 2 inhabitants; **12.** Maintaining and developing the vitality of urban and village centres; **13.** Enhancing key tourist sites; **14.** Increasing the amount of tourist accommodation.

Information

Municipal administration
Epervier 6 / P.O. Box 134
CH-2053 Cernier

www.val-de-ruz.ch/fr/politique/conseil-communal/demarches-participatives/
www.are.admin.ch/themen/raumplanung/modellvorhaben/2014-2018/index.html?lang=fr

13. Monitoring sustainable development City of Zurich

Description

Since drafting its local Agenda 21 in 1998, the City of Zurich has regarded sustainable development as an interdisciplinary task. To enhance awareness of the city from a sustainability viewpoint, in 2001 the City of Zurich developed a monitoring system comprising 21 criteria aligned to what it considers to be essential long-term goals. This system provides information for political decision-makers, the public administration and residents on the state of sustainability in the City of Zurich.

Monitoring is aligned to the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic efficiency, environmental responsibility and social solidarity. For each of these dimensions the system defines 7 criteria that are backed by specific indicators, such as climate protection (greenhouse gas emissions), housing (habitat), employment (workplaces) and equality of opportunity (wage differential between men and women). These 21 criteria cannot of course provide a complete picture of the status of sustainability in the City of Zurich. However, the big advantage of this monitoring system is that it minimises the complexity of sustainability in order to provide an overview.

In the city's sustainable development report, each indicator is explained (background, link to sustainable development, etc.) and presented in the geographical, historical and political context of the City of Zurich. The city administration reports on its endeavours in the area of sustainable development by presenting the projects and activities relating to each criterion.

A comparison over time highlights progress and shows whether the results are desirable or not. Finally, a system of comparison with other Swiss and / or European cities puts the status of the various areas of sustainability into a broader context.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Presenting criteria relating to social solidarity, including equality of opportunity, quality of life and security.
- **Environment:** Presentation of criteria relating to environmental responsibility, especially climate protection, energy consumption, air quality and noise.
- **Economy:** Presentation of criteria relating to economic efficiency, including the economic position, employment, taxes, public finances and revenues.

Implementation

The city's Urban Development Department is responsible for gathering information and monitoring sustainable development with the aid of experts from a range of fields. Following introduction of the monitoring system in 2004, the City of Zurich published a sustainable development report every four years (2004, 2006, 2012). Since 2013, publication of a printed report has been replaced by an internet site, which can be updated more regularly (most recently in November 2014).

**Information**

City of Zurich
Office for Urban Development
Stadthausquai 17 / P.O. Box
CH-8022 Zurich
www.stadt-zuerich.ch/nachhaltigkeitsmonitoring

Photo: City planning office, Juliette Haller

14. Eco-neighborhood: Greencity City of Zurich

Description

The Greencity development on the former Sihl-Manegg industrial site, an 8 hectare area between the Sihl river and the Chur motorway, will comprise 13 buildings providing homes for around 2,000 people and 3,000 workplaces. Lead-managed by Losinger Marazzi SA in close collaboration with the City of Zurich (development and planning matters), the project is creating one of the first city districts in Switzerland that will take on board all objectives of the “2000 Watt Society”. Its status as a “2000 Watt site” has been certified by the energy award body Energiestadt/Cité de l’énergie.

Greencity offers an exemplary energy management concept both for the buildings and for the district as a whole. All the buildings are designed to meet the highest energy standards (LEED Platinum Core & Shell label for the offices, Minergie P-Eco for the apartments). New smart grid technology will monitor and optimise energy consumption throughout the district, for example, by planning the recharging of electric vehicles during periods of low energy consumption. Finally, the district’s energy requirements will be met from its own renewable energy generation, principally comprising a geothermal system, photovoltaic panels on the roofs and the old hydroelectric plant which has been restored and brought back into use. All heating and ventilation systems will therefore be run entirely with renewable energy.

Greencity’s mobility objectives are based on the behaviour of its inhabitants and users. It therefore provides a framework that encourages sustainability. Greencity is only 11 minutes by train from Zurich’s main railway station and the local station is located at the heart of the district, ensuring excellent accessibility by public transport. Cars will be essentially be banned from the district and parking restricted to 0.7 parking spaces per household. The plans also include car sharing (Mobility) and electric vehicles (electric bicycle hire).

Losinger Marazzi SA, which is in charge of developing the site, also wants it to be a vibrant and diverse neighbourhood. To achieve this social mix, its goal is to provide a mix of owner-occupied properties and cooperatives, including housing geared to the needs of elderly people and family-oriented amenities (daycare centre and school). Mixed use is another strength of Greencity, with a 50:50 split between housing on the one hand and offices and services on the other. The ground floor of each building is designed for shops, tradespeople and services.

Links to sustainable development

- **Society:** Construction of a variety of housing for various target groups; measures to encourage mixed uses and social diversity; encouraging inhabitants and users to behave in a sustainable manner.
- **Environment:** Buildings that meet high energy standards; energy savings and energy generation from renewable resources; sustainable mobility, urban consolidation.
- **Economy:** Private development (no public funding); mixed-use district

**Implementation**

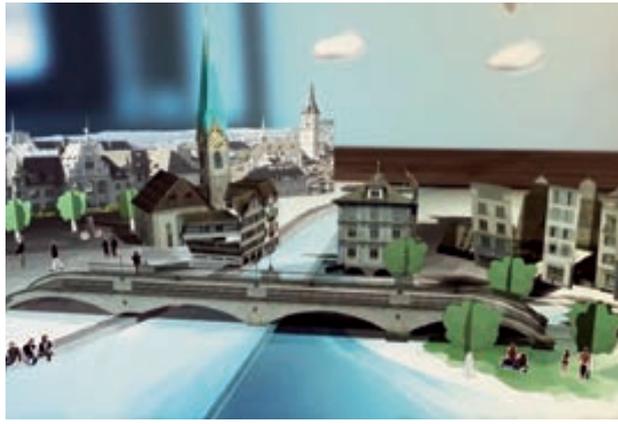
The master plan, developed by Losinger Marazzi SA and the City of Zurich in 2012, was followed by a zoning plan in the same year. The applications for construction permits were submitted in 2013. Work started at the beginning of 2015 and is scheduled for completion in 2019. Since the vision of the “2000 Watt Society” is a long-term objective, the general contractor is implementing a system to ensure regular monitoring of the attainability of the defined objectives. The “2000 Watt Site” certificate is also dependent on long-term implementation. It is only issued for two years. At the end of this period, the developers have to submit an application for renewal based on updated data. Greencity was certified for the first time in 2012 and for the second time in summer 2015.

Information

City of Zurich
www.stadt-zuerich.ch/hbd/de/index/entwicklungsgebiete/manegg/projekte_geplant/sihlpapier_areal.html
www.2000watt.ch
www.greencity.ch/de

15. Sustainable development in tourism Region and city of Zurich

Description	<p>Zürich Tourismus, an organisation promoting tourism in Zurich and the surrounding region, has ambitious objectives where sustainable development is concerned. It has already achieved some of them: signing up to the Schweiz Tourismus/Suisse Tourisme sustainability charter, adopting qualitative and environmental principles by obtaining ISO 9001 and 14001 certification, and reducing and offsetting its own CO² emissions. It encourages its partners and target audiences to follow its example, aiming to be carbon neutral: In particular, it urges visitors, individuals and enterprises to offset their CO² emissions, in collaboration with the myclimate organisation. Where hotels, conference centres and events organisers are concerned, it invites them to adopt a range of measures with the climate in mind: waste reduction, promotion of regional products, provision of local public transport, etc.</p>
Links to sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Society: Raising the awareness of its employees and giving training on the environment and sustainable development; encouraging people to adopt behaviour that is geared to sustainability; urging businesses to respect the principles of social responsibility.• Environment: Encouraging low-impact mobility by promoting the ZürichCard, which offers reduced fares on public transport; organising city tours with no negative effect on climate; monitoring the environmental impacts of Zürich Tourismus and offsetting its CO² emissions.• Economy: Certification and the award of SD labels are an economic plus-factor for hotels; organisers are encouraged to adopt the Green Meeting concept.
Implementation	<p>The approach adopted by Zürich Tourismus is based on the City of Zurich's sustainability guidelines. The long-term objective is to introduce sustainability into all aspects of the tourism chain in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• setting an example: the organisation measures, reduces and offsets its CO² emissions and thus demonstrates to its partners that this is possible;• providing practical information for its partners;• encouragement: it promotes the enterprises which are most respectful of sustainable development principles on its website.
Information	<hr/> <p>www.zuerich.com/en/about-zt/sustainability www.myswitzerland.com/en myclimate Foundation: www.myclimate.org</p>



More information available on www.are.admin.ch/sd

