

Press Release

16 November 2023

International awarding of the European Energy Award Gold in Lörrach

34 cities, municipalities and districts from Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland will receive the international European Energy Award Gold award to-day at Burghof Lörrach. The European Energy Award Gold label is awarded to municipalities that are continuously committed to climate protection, energy efficiency and renewable energies at the highest level. The award ceremony will take place as part of the tri-national European Energy Award Gold event in the border triangle of Lörrach - Basel - St. Louis.

Achieving climate neutrality is the primary goal of international and national energy and climate policy in both the EU and Switzerland. Cities and municipalities are key players in achieving this climate goal. The municipalities awarded with the European Energy Award Gold have been leading the way as role models for years, demonstrating how the path to climate neutrality can look with a consistent energy and climate policy and concrete measures.

34 new municipalities are getting awarded

This year, 61 European municipalities will receive the European Energy Award Gold. Of these, 34 municipalities are present at the award ceremony and gala dinner in the "Burghof" venue of Lörrach. A total of 1800 with a total population of over 70 million are already taking part in the eea programme.

The awards will be presented by Gudrun Heute-Bluhm, President of the international organisation European Energy Award and former Mayor of the town of Lörrach. In addition to the award ceremony, participants can look forward to exciting flash talks on the topic of heat transformation by Marion Dammann, State Councillor for the district of Lörrach, and Heinz-Werner Hölscher, CEO of badenova, a municipally owned regional energy supplier on the Upper Rhine.

Together with the German-Swiss energy company naturenergie, formerly Energiedienst, badenova is providing significant support for the event.

Heat transformation as a thematic focus

The award ceremony is embedded in a two-day thematic framework programme with various tours and workshops for the 160 or so participants at the event. The main topic is the heat transformation from fossil fuels to renewable heat. This must be driven forward quickly, as the building sector is responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions. The technologies for this transformation are already available today. The task now is to utilise them consistently. At the event, participants will have the opportunity to visit showcase projects in Lörrach, Rheinfelden, St. Louis and Basel (see programme below). The event will conclude on Friday lunchtime with a speech by Basel Councillor Kaspar Sutter on the city of Basel's net-zero targets.

The cities of Lörrach and Basel also both carry the European Energy Award / Energy City Gold label: the city of Lörrach was awarded this label for the first time in 2010, while the city of Basel has held the Energy City Gold label since 2006.

Press photos can be downloaded free of charge from Friday midday (17 November) via this [photolink](#). Image source is Association European Energy Award.

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Further information

Programme European Energy Award Gold Event 2023

Thursday, 16 November 2023

Afternoon: Welcome and workshops or visits

Visit 1: Planning for the heating transition in Lörrach and Basel-Stadt

Presentations:

- Ulrich Höhler, first state official of the Lörrach district
- Inga Nietz, Climate Protection Unit of the Lörrach District Council
- Dr Ulrich Reiter, IWB Basel

Visit 2: Geothermal district heating Riehen (CH)

Guided tour and presentation by Matthias Meier, Managing Director of Wärmeverbund Riehen

Visit 3: Utilisation of industrial waste heat Rheinfelden (DE)

Guided tour by Stefan Schlachter, naturenergie (formerly Energiedienst)

Visit 4: Biomass cogeneration plant Saint Louis (FR)

Guided tour by Florence Prudent, Agglomération Saint Louis

Evening: Awards ceremony with gala dinner in the castle courtyard

Welcome speech

- Gudrun Heute-Bluhm, President of the international eea association and former mayor of the city of Lörrach

Flash talks

- Marion Dammann, District Administrator of the district of Lörrach
- Heinz-Werner Hölscher, Managing Director of badenova

Friday, 17 November 2023

Morning: Visits

Tour A: Minergie-A-ECO building Office for Environment and Energy with PV façade

- With presentation on PV façades by Christian Roeske, Managing Director of Sundesign

Tour B: Sustainable urban development in the Erlenmatt neighborhood

- With a presentation by Andreas Appenzeller, ADEV

Visit C: Tourist city tour in Basel

Lunch: at Basel City Hall

Speech by Kaspar Sutter, member of the Basel cantonal government

Awarded with the European Energy Award Gold 2023

In 2023, 61 municipalities achieved the European Energy Award Gold level, including 11 in Germany, 3 in France, 3 in Italy, 10 in Luxembourg, 24 in Switzerland and 10 in Austria. The largest award-winning municipality is the city of Aachen with around 260,000 inhabitants and the district of Steinfurt with around 450,000 inhabitants. With just 369 inhabitants, Saint Denis (Italy) is the smallest municipality to receive the European Energy Award Gold in 2023. The municipality of Beaufort in Luxembourg achieved the best result this year with 90.7 per cent of the scope for action utilised and was awarded the Gold label for the second time. This means that a total of 241 municipalities across Europe have been awarded the European Energy Award Gold.

The following municipalities and districts in Germany will be awarded with the European Energy Award Gold in 2023

- Counties: Borken, Coesfeld, Lippe, Steinfurt
- Municipalities: Aachen, Brakel, Borgholzhausen, Chemnitz, Emsdetten, Nottuln, Soest

The European Energy Award

The European Energy Award is an international quality management and certification instrument for municipal climate protection, in which 18 nations and more than 1,800 municipalities with over 77 million citizens are currently participating.

An award is presented if a municipality implements more than 50 per cent of all possible measures to increase energy efficiency, supply renewable energy and protect the climate. If a municipality even implements more than 75 per cent of all possible energy and climate-relevant measures, it is awarded the European Energy Award Gold.

Information at www.european-energy-award.org