

The MINERGIE®-Charter 2008

A contribution to sustainable development

Both in Switzerland and worldwide, know-how on sustainable building spreads much too slowly. The MINERGIE®-Charter aims to strengthen important basic principles involved in building for the future. www.minergie.com



MINERGIE®

Mehr Lebensqualität, tiefer Energieverbrauch
Higher quality of life, lower energy consumption

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<p><u>Aims</u></p>	<p>The most important aims for the construction of sustainable buildings which help to protect our climate are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comfortable buildings that are also beneficial to health ■ High energy-efficiency and drastic reduction of the use of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal ■ Inexpensive systems providing high long-term value of buildings
<p><u>Environment</u></p>	<p>Excessive CO₂ emissions are a significant cause of global warming. Climate change and the long-term availability of energy supply are two of the century's greatest challenges.</p> <p>Sustainable development takes place in three dimensions: it has to be socially, economically and environmentally compatible. Correspondingly, buildings have to be built, renovated and operated to comply with these three dimensions. A building constructed to meet the criteria of sustainability has a considerably higher value, even more so in the long run. By promoting appropriate regional products and services, the generation of local added value is achieved and the outflow of funds for imported energy is reduced.</p>
<p><u>Strategy</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MINERGIE® – with its high standards – is a powerful driving force in the renovation of existing buildings and in the construction of new ones. ■ MINERGIE® provides recommendations on concepts for sustainable construction, renovation and operation of buildings ■ MINERGIE® promotes regional markets for sustainable buildings, to create business opportunities for innovative builders, investors, enterprises and authorities. To this end, new products and services are continually being developed and put on the market.
<p><u>Measures</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sustainable buildings in climates with hot and cold weather have a highly insulated, airtight building shell. This building shell is like a coat that completely encloses the heated or cooled interior. Thermal bridges and leaks are to be avoided. Solar irradiation is efficiently used by the inclusion of appropriate glazing elements. Adjustable shading systems guarantee the reduction of the energy demand for cooling in summer. ■ As far as interior air quality is concerned, heat-recovery ventilation allows a high level of user comfort during the whole year. The provision of fresh air is guaranteed and thus both comfortable and healthy conditions are assured – in particular as far as temperature, humidity, noise and pollutants are concerned. ■ Energy-efficient, simple and user-friendly building services guarantee low energy consumption for heating, cooling, hot water preparation, lighting and electrical equipment. The energy for heating and hot water preparation is mainly provided by renewable sources such as ambient heat, wood and the sun.

MINERGIE® buildings provide comfort, good health and inexpensive operation. Their users are living and working in a sustainable environment – be it in the office, in school or at home.

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