



## **Introducing the *Elektrizitätswerke Schönau* (EWS):**

**Atomic-power free, climate friendly, citizens' property.**

### **Citizens' electric revolution**

1986, subsequent to the worst case scenario in Chernobyl, a parents' initiative was launched against atomic energy in the small Black Forest town of Schönau. As the operators of the local grid attempted to hinder these citizens' activities, be they attempts to save energy or demands for more environmentally friendly power generators, the idea of buying the Schönau grid, and thus determining the future of its general framework, came into being. The anti-atom-initiative wouldn't let itself be put off by two referenda, nor by overpriced demands for millions, and so, in 1997, a citizens' initiative took over the grid and its community's supply. In this it is unique in Germany. The press wrote lovingly of the "Schönau electricity rebels having won a David against Goliath battle", and the victory of the Schönau residents against the atomic lobby was enthusiastically celebrated throughout Germany.

When the German electricity market was deregulated in 1998, the EWS was quick to seize the opportunity and henceforth supply all its Schönau customers exclusively with electricity produced with renewable energy and cogeneration: Schönau was free of atomic and coal electricity. The EWS introduced generous subsidised plans for renewable energy and cogeneration, and thus the proportion of environmentally friendly energy creation in Schönau continuously increases: EWS has the largest percentage of solar electricity of any grid supplier in Germany (by now approx. 3 per cent of Schönau's total electricity requirements are supplied by solar power) and it also has the highest concentration of cogeneration units.

### **Nationwide eco-electricity sales**

One year later, in 1999, when the electricity market was opened up to householders, the EWS was able to supply customers throughout Germany with clean electricity. The EWS business philosophy is based on ecological guiding principles that reject atomic and coal electricity, subsidise renewable energy, and posit the reduction of electricity consumption whilst also supporting the climate-compatible use of cogeneration. Since Chernobyl, this ecological concept has been the basis of Schönau's activities and is being consistently and coherently applied by the Schönau power supplier EWS.

When it comes to the supply of sustainable and climate-friendly energy, matters of conservation and efficiency are of ever increasing importance. The faster the reduction in energy consumption and demand levels in Western Europe, the sooner it will become possible to switch to renewable energy sources.

Cogeneration (also known as combined heat and power, CHP) is assigned particular significance in the question of energy efficiency and the scenarios envisaged for sustainable power supply – therefore the EWS employs a small amount of gas-driven, highly efficient cogeneration units in its electricity mixture (5% cogeneration, 95% renewables).

### **Advancement of ecological electricity production**

Geschäftsführung  
Ursula Sladek, Martin Halm

Handelsregister  
HRB 700365  
beim AG Freiburg im Breisgau  
Steuer-Nr. 11087/28870

Bank  
Sparkasse Schönau  
BLZ 680 528 63  
Konto 170 393 06

Bank  
GLS Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum  
BLZ 430 609 67  
Konto 309 219 01