



Approximately 75,000 electricity users (in around 650 grid areas) across Germany have already chosen the EWS. This is not only due to the consistent and coherently ecological approach within the local grid and the clean electricity mixture, but also thanks to the advancement of new, ecological electricity production that it practices. Almost the entire amount of electricity sold, created by hydraulic power, was in 2008 produced by new (i.e. six-years-old or newer) equipment. The producers, furthermore, invest in new equipment or the upgrading of existing equipment. In addition to this, the EWS subsidises new, ecological, electricity production equipment among its customers. Approximately 1200 units have been created in this manner - solar units, cogeneration units, biogas and hydraulic power units. Decentralised production of electricity creates jobs and growth in a future-friendly economy, and is the basis of sustainable energy production.

Motivational and charismatic power

The EWS is more than just an electricity supplier and its goals are broader. The EWS wants to encourage independence of action, the will to change and create. The success of the EWS can therefore only be partially measured by the amount of its customers and the units it has subsidised. What cannot be measured or put into figures is the great motivational and charismatic power that Schönau exudes and which triggers much activity. Schönau's electricity seminars, for example, are attended by people who share its goals and plan to join together and execute common projects. In this manner, a perpetually growing network of ecologically sound initiatives is created and goes into action.

Furthermore, the EWS practices what politicians preach and demand; the headquarters of EWS features a solar power unit. "Electricity creating heating", a cogeneration unit, has been installed in the office block, and the listed building on the company premises is being insulated by specialists.

Prizes for the EWS

The EWS' work has repeatedly garnered prizes.

Not only the shareholders and workers of the EWS are pleased by this; the customers too are happy to see that they are vindicated in participating in the EWS' vision of sustainable and fair power production.

Business figures as of July 2008:

Shareholders: 650

Customers: Approx. 75,000

Employees: 31

Subsidised units: Hitherto, some 1200

Prizes for the Schönau energy initiatives:

2008 Utopia Award

2008 Ashoka Fellow – Social Entrepreneur

2007 Deutscher Gründerpreis (German Business Founder Award)

2006 Preis der Arbeit (employment prize)

2003 European Solar Prize

1999 Gutedelpreis (Gutedel prize)

1999 Nuclear Free Future Award

1997 Henry Ford European Conservation Award

1997 Förderpreis „Demokratie Leben“ (living democracy sponsorship award)

1996 Ökomanager des Jahres 1996 (eco-manager of the year 1996)

1994 Deutscher Energiepreis (German energy prize)

Geschäftsführung
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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 01
Konto 309 219 01