

SWM is leading Munich to the energy of the future

Deeply involved in the daily life of the people of Munich, the German public company SWM (Stadtwerke München) aims a high target in matter of green energy and environment protection. Its objective : to cover all the electricity need of the Bavarian capital by renewable energy by 2025.

It's a great challenge in favor of sustainable development that Munich has launched. The Bavarian capital is aiming no less than the world excellence in renewable energy with the help of SWM (Stadtwerke München), its municipal company. The objective is double : supply at first with green electricity the 800 000 homes of Munich by 2015 (that is approximately 2 billion kilowatt-hours a year) with its own power plants, then the whole city by 2025 (7 billions kWh). To reach this target, SWM will use all the possible sources of green energy : solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and hydraulics. Estimated total investment : 9 billion euros, with local, national and European helps.

" Munich will become then the first City to realize this performance ", comments Bettina Hess, in charge of communication at SWM. " With the help of SWM, the City of Munich is on the way to become a pioneer in environmental protection and in the fight against climate change ". Several important projects have already been launched : ten in Munich and its surrounding (6 hydroelectric power plants, 2 biomass, 1 geothermal and 1 wind turbine), six in the rest of Germany (2 photovoltaic power plants and 4 wind farms among which 2 offshore), a solar power plant in Spain, and an offshore wind farm in England. " The total investment is about 500 million euros a year ", adds Bettina Hess.

A strong structure was needed to get engaged in such an ambitious way. But SWM is one of the biggest energy and infrastructure German company. More than a million families, industrial and business customers use its services everyday. The local public company does not only supply the city with energy. It also takes care of its drinking water and manages its 18 municipal swimming pools. " Its subsidiary, MVG, is also the pillar of the ÖPNV, the public transport system of the city ", explains Bettina Hess. The company employs altogether 7 500 employees. Its turnover in 2009 : 4,9 billion euros.

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