

How to build a low energy Hostel



Our Hostels

Achieving carbon neutrality



National Association

Swiss Youth Hostels

Hostels

6 hostels: Gstaad Saanenland, Zermatt, Interlaken, Saas-Fee, Scuol, Valbella and Bern is currently undergoing complete renovations

SDG Contribution



Summary

Minergie is a quality label for new and renovated buildings. Those awarded the certification demonstrate significantly lower use of energy than conventional constructions. The approach was adopted by the Swiss Youth Hostels for new buildings and major conversions. A first milestone was the opening of the Minergie Youth Hostel in Zermatt in January 2004. In 2006 and 2007, the comprehensively refurbished Valbella Youth Hostel and the newly built Scuol Youth Hostel also joined the group of businesses meeting the Minergie Eco standard. May 2012 saw the opening of the new Interlaken Youth Hostel, the first accommodation establishment in Switzerland to be built to the highest ecological standard (Minergie P Eco). The Saas-Fee Youth Hostel (Minergie Eco) and the Gstaad Saanenland Youth Hostel (Minergie P Eco) followed in summer 2014.

Economic

The costs of building in Minergie standard are about 10% higher

Lower energy consumption

Social

Raising awareness and education

Environmental

Reduction of any heating resources, such as heating oil or gas

Reaching CO2-neutrality

Recycled building materials



Technical details

Materials required:

Building ecological: Materials including lead are not allowed. Extensive use of copper or titan-zinc on roofs or outer surface have to be avoided. Ensure sufficient use of recycled concrete. As far as possible only European wood should be used, otherwise only wood with a sustainability label is used.

Health: It is not allowed to use biocides, timber preservatives, solvent dilutable products indoor and/or products that emit formaldehyde in relevant quantities. In case of modernising a building, it is mandatory to check the building for hazardous substances.

Return of Investment (ROI): Within some years or at the latest within life cycle of the buildings

Waste: Building in Minergie standard means that practically all building materials used are recyclable or separable. Non-reusable materials will be as far as possible avoided, used only when reusable materials are not available.

Target audience: HI Members/ Guests/ General Public/ Staff/ Differently abled people/ Children/ Families

What is the most important outcome of the project?

“Actually it is more an energy-efficient standard than a project. We build and renovate our new hostels in Minergie-Eco standard, which unites reduction of complete energy consumption of approx. 20% and reduction of fossil consumption of approx. 50%”

Substantially smaller energy consumption in relation to conventional buildings, reducing the carbon dioxide output (-45%), savings on heating and use of sustainable und recycled building materials.

Would like to know more about this initiative?

Contact: [Tanja Arnold, Media Spokesperson](#)
Email: Tanja.Arnold@youthhostel.ch

Follow the Swiss Youth Hostels on

Read more about [Sustainability](#) at the Swiss Hostels and about the [Mingergie](#) Standard
(available in German, French and Italian)



Youth

