

BEST PRACTICE



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Sustainable energy production at district level

Graz, Austria – 285 000 inhabitants

Smart city – District network – Photovoltaic

The city of Graz has a fast growing population and is confronted with climatic challenges because of its geographical location, which prevents further expansion. The project Smart City Graz is an integral part of the new urban development concept.



Credits: Smart City Graz Facebook

Project in a Nutshell

The project sees the participation of 12 national and international partners, headed by the Municipality of Graz. It will start in Waagner Biro, a compact district with mixed urban usage, attractive public spaces and a high quality of life. Thanks to the project Smart City Graz, a new energy-self-sufficient district will emerge in the former industrial area near the main railway station, close to the cultural venue Helmut List Halle. Sustainable technologies in the areas of energy, building technology and mobility will be used for the first time in the area.

Impact & Next steps

A high-quality public urban space will connect the residential and office buildings to the new school campus. By 2025, an additional 3 800 people are supposed to live in the Smart City Graz Waagner Biro quarter. Besides, around 1 500 jobs are being created and € 330 million invested in the new quarter by both project partners and the city of Graz.

The Science Tower, a unique green building example, was inaugurated in September 2017. The company, SFL Technology has enveloped the tower with a 100% solar façade. Amongst other technologies, this façade was partially covered by a new type of photovoltaic technology using transparent, coloured and sensitized solar cells (called Dr. Grätzel's cells) to produce electricity.

Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

The measures foreseen in Graz are clearly linked to improving the quality of life of its citizens. The project answers to very concrete problems and it is linked to demands coming from the citizens, such as having more residential space, but also decreasing traffic and increasing social infrastructures.



Thanks to the Science Tower, the project also made renewable energy more visually appealing and prominently showcased in the urban space.

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