

## The Energy Transition Chronicles

### THE “ENERGY REBELS” OF SCHÖNAU (GERMANY) OR HOW A COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE BECAME A GREEN ELECTRICITY PROVIDER

#### The town



Schönau im Schwarzwald,  
Germany  
2,314 inhabitants

#### Emblematic figures



Ursula and Mickael Sladek, the  
instigators of the community initiative

#### Key figures

**56%** is the score obtained by the community association in the 1991 referendum

**8.7 million** Marks, i.e. around 4.5 million euros, is the exorbitant price set by the electricity supplier for the network

**2 700** is the number of cooperative members in 2012

#### Milestones

**1986** Chernobyl nuclear disaster – Establishment of the “Parents for a nuclear-free future” association

**1990** Failure of cooperation with the electricity supplier – Establishment of a company to take over the grid

**1991** The takeover bid is rejected by the town council – Citizens’ initiative referendum in favour of the association – The town council’s decision is invalidated

**1993** The company presents its energy concept

**1994** Expiry of the electricity concession – Establishment of a community energy cooperative (EWS) – Municipal elections

**1995** The new town council grants the electricity concession to EWS

**1997** EWS hires a CEO and officially takes over the town’s electricity supply

**1998** EWS sues the former energy supplier for fraudulent estimation of the selling price – Liberalisation of the electricity market

**2005** Ruling in favour of EWS: the takeover price is set at 3.5 million marks

**2012** EWS supplies 100% renewable electricity to over 142,000 customers throughout Germany

You can get the story “*The energy rebels of Schönau, or how a community cooperative became a green electricity provider*”, as well as the chronicles of Heidelberg (Germany), Växjö (Sweden), Burgenland (Austria) and Brussels-Capital (Belgium), via Energy Cities’ website [www.energy-cities.eu](http://www.energy-cities.eu) - Resources > Publications.