

Swiss Contribution to the climate change mitigation and environment protection in Poland

Securing the sustainable use of resources for a safe, clean environment in Poland

Around 90% of Poland's electricity generation is coal-based. Currently circa 11% of energy production is covered by Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and the 2020 target is set for 15%. Increasing energy efficiency and reducing emission levels require, inter alia, modernization of energy systems, including heat sources and installations. Thanks to Switzerland, the climate and environment protection measures can be more effective. This includes sustainable functioning of ecosystems, hazardous-waste management and development of modern public transportation systems.

Swiss enlargement contribution

With the enlargement contribution Switzerland supports the reduction of economic and social disparities within the EU. The Swiss contribution to Poland amounts to CHF 489 million. Between 2013 and 2017, 58 projects designed to reduce economic and social disparities in Poland will be implemented. Roughly 43% of the funding, or CHF 198.7 million, will be allocated to 23 projects aimed at protecting the environment. The projects cover the following fields: energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste disposal, public transport, and biodiversity.

1. CLEAN ENERGY

(CHF 115 million, 10 projects)

In Poland the air pollution, including CO₂ and particular matter emission levels, is still higher than in other European countries. Energy generation is at the moment much dependent on the use of conventional fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. In addition, the energy infrastructure is often outdated and requires substantial modernization. Switzerland supports development of renewable energy sources like solar thermal and photovoltaic systems, heat pumps and biomass boilers. Priority is also given to the moderni-

zation of central heating and hot water generation and distribution systems.

Examples of supported initiatives

Solar panels are being purchased and installed in 50 villages to provide 16,000 private homes and 170 public buildings with hot water. The private homes will be selected according to environmental criteria such as the potential for emission reductions, as well as socioeconomic criteria such as income, family size and residents with disabilities. Information campaigns and training sessions will ensure that solar panels are used and maintained correctly by recipients. Public buildings and parks in six municipalities and their partner regions will be supplied with power through the installation of seven photovoltaic systems.

Further information, see a project example: "Solar energy instead of coal for Poland"

2. HAZARDOUS-WASTE MANAGEMENT

(CHF 36 million, 3 projects)

Switzerland supports the existing municipal waste management systems by creating networks for collection and depositing hazardous waste, including reducing the risk of asbestos.

Asbestos Waste Removal in the Malopolskie Voivodship

Switzerland supports Poland in its effort to introduce a system for the monitoring and disposal of asbestos. Some 70,770 tons of asbestos will be removed as part of this project, including asbestos roofing on 6,600 houses that will be replaced with asbestos-free materials to the benefit of over 11,730 families. Illegal dumps also contain this hazardous material and therefore have to be

cleaned in order to improve the health and safety of surrounding communities.

Further project information: "Asbestos as a health risk: a challenge for Poland"

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(CHF 38 million, 3 projects)

Switzerland supports projects in line with sustainable transport strategies. These include developing regional and local public transport, limiting congestion, promoting low-emission transport options and improving accessibility for the elderly and the disabled. Part of the project is to renovate and modernize the existing railway infrastructure.



Construction site of a modern transport hub in Legionowo

Transport Centre in Legionowo

Legionowo is a fast growing city of more than 50,000 inhabitants, located some 20km to the north of Poland's capital Warsaw. Today, different public transport modes (national, regional and local buses and trains) do not exploit their full potential. One of the key reasons is the lack of a proper transportation hub with adequate passenger services. Yet the potential of public transport is huge. The aim of the project is to build an integrated rail and bus station (Transport Center Legionowo), fully equipped with an electronic passenger information system and with a park&ride facility.

Further project information: "Transport Center in Legionowo"

4. BIODIVERSITY

(CHF 10 million, 7 projects)

Nature conservation and the sustainable functioning of eco-systems are important goals in environmental protection and adaptation measures. Switzerland helps tackle the ever-increasing pressure on natural resources in the geographic focus areas of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, i.e. in Lubelskie, Malopolskie, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie voivodships.



Revitalisation measures at the Raba River

Upper Raba River Spawning Grounds

The Raba Valley in the south of Poland was once an attractive and environmentally valuable recreation area before construction measures in the 1960s

and 1970s led to major changes. At the time it was believed that the river could be better controlled by means of canalisation and a system of dams in the upper part of the river. The disadvantages of such interventions include the threat to biodiversity, the distraction of spawning grounds for fish and amphibians, the erosion of river beds, and the risk of flooding during raining seasons. Switzerland supports Poland in its efforts to revitalize the river and protect the natural environment of the Polish Carpathians and the Bieszczady National Park, thus also building the touristic potential of the region.

Further project information: "Renaturalisation of the Raba river in Malopolskie – Little Poland"

THE POLISH-SWISS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

(CHF 11.5 million, 14 projects)

Out of 31 joint research projects of Swiss and Polish academies, 14 projects are financed in two of the five thematic areas: renewable energy sources and environment. The projects enable scientists from Poland and Switzerland to undertake research activities. The Polish-Swiss Research Programme provides grant assistance up to CHF 2 million for each project.

Further information: www.swiss.opi.org.pl

Knowledge Transfers

The projects also promote know-how exchanges between Switzerland and Poland through visits of Swiss experts to Poland and study visits to Switzerland for the Polish partners. Between 2011 and 2013 these included visits to energy, transport and biodiversity projects to share Swiss best practice and expertise.

Contact and further information

List of all environment and infrastructure projects in Poland: www.contribution-enlargement.admin.ch/en/Home/Projects

www.swiss-contribution@deza.admin.ch

www.swiss-contribution@seco.admin.ch

Full information about the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme:

www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch/poland



Solar collectors on a public hospital in Sucha Beskidzka



Reclamation of illegal dumpsites in Lubartów – before and after