

Overview of incentive policies targeting the decarbonization of the Swiss building sector

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Assumptions when developing this overview

- This overview provides only the most important policies and not an exhaustive list
- Incentive policy only (no “punitive” policy, e.g., ban on fossil heating), and focus on financial and information-based policies, no focus on regulation
- Swiss policy = policy stemming from federal, cantonal, or municipal authorities
- Target of policy = Lowering emissions and energy use in construction and operation of buildings in Switzerland (no biodiversity or other policy goals)
- For coming up with the collection of policy types we used
 - Our in-house experience from the Swiss policy landscape
 - The [IEA policies database](#)
 - A review paper by [Polzin et al. 2019](#)
- Incentive policies target different building components:
 - Onsite renewable electricity and heat generation
 - Thermal insulation of buildings
 - Shading and efficient cooling
 - Low-carbon building materials
 - Other (areal planning, district heating)
- For an overview of how incentive-based and regulatory policies interact in the Swiss building sector, see: [Mit politischem Rückenwind zu einem klimafreundlichen Gebäudesektor - Schweiz 2050 \(schweiz-2050.ch\)](#)

Overview of Swiss incentive policies targeting buildings

Type of policy	Description	Link
Financial incentive policy		
Investment grants	Building programme, Harmonized Funding Model of the cantons (HFM)	Harmonisiertes Fördermodell der Kantone (HFM) — Aktuelles (endk.ch) Energie sparen und Fördergelder erhalten Das Gebäudeprogramm (dasgebaeudeprogramm.ch)
Investment grants	Additional funding for building programme through Klima- und Innovationsgesetz (KIG)	Klima- und Innovationsgesetz - UVEK (admin.ch)
Investment grants	One-time upfront investment grants for rooftop and building integrated solar PV	Einmalvergütung (admin.ch)
Investment grants	Local subsidies from municipalities	Förderprogramme für Energie und Mobilität – Energiefranken
Investment grants	Financial incentives for charging infrastructure of electric vehicles	Ladeinfrastruktur: Welche Förderung für Ladestationen gibt es? Energie 360°
Blended co-financing	Financing sources from compensation program	KliK Plattform Gebäude
Preferential loans	Loans with low interest rates and other preferential treatment for clean investment by publicly owned financial institutions (such as cantonal banks)	Umweltdarlehen – Festhypothek für umweltfreundliches Bauen (zkb.ch)
Tax credits	Cantonal tax credits/relief for energy efficiency spending	Quantifying the degree of fragmentation of policies targeting household solar PV in Switzerland - Research Collection (ethz.ch)
Research and development funding	Funding of applied research through research programs from SFOE or SNF and other	Gebäude und Städte (admin.ch) NFP 81 Forschungsprogramm 2024-2027 (admin.ch) Innosuisse ist die schweizerische Agentur für Innovationsförderung Förderprogramm SWEET (admin.ch)
Infrastructure spending	Programme on support for district heating	72696.pdf (admin.ch)

Type of policy	Description	Link
Information-based policy		
Governmental information campaigns	Cantonal, municipal “Energieberatung” for homeowners	Energieberatung Stadt Zürich - Stadt Zürich (stadt-zuerich.ch) Regionale und lokale Energieberatung für alle Energiefragen (energieschweiz.ch) Wie viel Strom oder Wärme kann mein Dach produzieren? (admin.ch) erneuerbar heizen: Heizung ersetzen mit erneuerbarer Energie Impulsberatung für Heizungssanierung: Impulsberater finden (erneuerbarheizen.ch)
Governmental information campaigns	Programme on spatial energy planning in cities and other topics (EnergieSchweiz)	So wird jedes Gebäude fit für mehr Energieeffizienz (energieschweiz.ch)
Efficiency assessments and labels	GEAK classification of buildings	Was ist der GEAK / GEAK
Efficiency assessments and labels	Minergie labels (private label with support of public authorities)	Schweizer Baustandard - Minergie
Efficiency assessments and labels	Minergie-Areal und SNBS-Areal (formerly 2000 Watt Areal)	News (2000watt.swiss)
Governmental databases	Databases and Tools for low-carbon technologies, such as GIS tools for heat pump suitability	Onlinekarten Kanton Aargau (ag.ch) GIS-Browser (zh.ch)

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