



Renewable Energy Report

Swiss pin low-carbon hopes on renewables, efficient energy

Switzerland is counting on both renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions by slashing its per-capita energy consumption. Michael Kauffman of the Swiss Federal Energy Office told participants at the 6th European Green Power Marketing Conference in Geneva, Switzerland this month. The Alpine nation is looking to cut per-person primary energy consumption by nearly two-thirds, from the current 5,000 watts to 2,000 watts by 2035, Kauffman said, adding that the technology already exists for meeting this goal.

"The concept of a 2,000-watt society is seen as a promising means of drastically reducing CO₂ emissions and simultaneously promoting efficient energy use – including electricity," he said. "We can only achieve supply security with maximum energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy."

Switzerland has encountered some early problems, Kauffman acknowledged, as the country's feed-in tariff for renewable energy, introduced this year, had to be frozen because it drew more responses for subsidies than the government could afford (RER 190/2).