

KWG: 100 years – 100 roofs

KWG is a local renewable electricity company in Schwanenstadt, Upper Austria. It is a cooperative with over 1,000 members and generates 100 % renewable electricity for the area. As part of its "100 years – 100 roofs" programme, KWG is installing PV systems on unused roof surfaces. Financing is done through an open public participation model with attractive repayment conditions.

Renewable energy, sustainable business practices and regionality have always been top priorities for KWG. It puts these principles in practice through sustainable energy projects (PV, e-mobility, LED lighting, its e-vehicle fleet), by supporting communities in the region (electricity bonus for members of the fire brigade and Red Cross, and for people with disabilities, "start school energized" packages for pupils, KWG baby bonus, support for families in need), and with their own employees (company health support, work-life balance, support for training and further education). Even beehives have been digitised (and thereby better protected!). In 2020, KWG was awarded the Upper Austrian prize for sustainable energy projects "Energie-Star" for its commitment to sustainability.



100 years – 100 roofs

KWG celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020. Today, the company stands for sustainable and environment-friendly electricity supply more than ever before. As a cooperative, citizen involvement in energy supply is key for KWG. As part of its "100 years – 100 roofs" programme, the company is building high-quality PV systems with Austrian modules (25-100 kWp) on over 150 m² of roof area of existing buildings in Upper Austria. In 2021, PV systems with a total capacity of around 4.5 MWp were installed on about 60 roofs (selected from ca. 150 applications).

Facts & figures

KWG

- founding year: 1920
- cooperative members: > 1,000
- employees: 37
- annual turnover: > 6 million Euro
- 100 % renewable electricity
 - 7 small hydropower plants (along the Ager River)
 - 120 kWp PV
- length of the electricity grid: over 500 km

100 years – 100 roofs

- project for KWG's 100th anniversary
- over 60 PV rooftop systems (total > 4 kWp)
- Upper Austrian districts: Gmunden, Vöcklabruck, Wels-Land
- public participation

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Participation opportunities for citizens:

- **Roof rental** (best when own electricity demand is low, 20-year term): KWG builds, operates and maintains the PV system and uses the generated electricity for regional energy supply. The roof owner receives a one-time voucher (up to 10,000 Euro) or compensation in kind (ex: e-bike, own small PV system up to 8 kWp).
- **Direct use with purchase option** (best when own electricity demand is at least 20 % of the system's output, 20-year term, purchase option after 10 years): KWG builds, operates and maintains the PV system. The roof owner uses as much of the generated electricity as possible and pays a reduced PV-electricity price to KWG. Surplus electricity (including guarantee of origin) goes to KWG for regional energy supply. The higher the self-consumption rate, the more economical for the roof owner.
- The PV systems are financed through a **public participation model**. Private individuals can contribute up to 5,000 Euro, legal entities up to 20,000 Euro. As repayment, participants receive regional vouchers over a period of 5 years with a rate of return of up to 8 %.

Impressum: OÖ Energiesparverband, Landstraße 45, 4020 Linz, www.esv.or.at
ZVR: 171568947