



EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2012

## *Umwelt Arena AG / Switzerland*

Owners or operators of renewable energy installations

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**The Umwelt Arena -  
more than energy sufficient,  
by 203 %**

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Renewable building design and environmental showcase technologies and services are perfectly integrated in the new 'Environment Arena' in the Swiss town of Spreitenbach. Since opening in summer 2012 it offers visitors insights into a wide range of energy and environment topics. Sustainable energy and ecological solutions become tangible, as they have been integrated into the building's envelope, systems and controls, using a wide array of innovative technologies.

The building's sweeping forms, energy systems and efficiency captivate the visitor. The architectural design of the roof creates a striking identity. The specially designed photovoltaic solar panels appear arran-

ged like the scales of a reptile, its facets glittering like a crystal. With a peak output of 760 kW the photovoltaic installation generates 540,000 kWh of electricity a year. In addition a CHP unit, a solar thermal system and a biogas digester deliver reliable renewable energy.

In place of conventional refrigeration solar energy provides cooling in summer and heating in winter. Thanks to the integrated photovoltaic installation combined with innovative building technology the Umwelt Arena nearly produces twice the amount of energy than it consumes - equivalent to 203 % energy self-sufficiency.

The Umwelt Arena enables visitors from near and far to gain first hand experience and understanding of the major themes of environment, energy and sustainability. The plus energy building shows in an exemplary way how architecture, aesthetics and ecology can optimally blend. Thereby, it is a reference for the future of CO<sub>2</sub> neutral building operations.



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