



**NWB**

Netzwerk Wasser im Berggebiet

Réseau de l'eau dans les régions de montagne  
Rete dell'acqua nelle regioni di montagna  
Rait per l'aua en las regiuns da muntogna  
Mountain Water Network

CONNECTED FOR SWITZERLAND'S  
MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

## «SWISS MOUNTAIN WATER AWARD»



**Mountain Water Network's sponsorship  
award for sustainable water projects**



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# «Swiss Mountain Water Award»

## MOUNTAIN WATER NETWORK'S SPONSORSHIP AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER PROJECTS

### Background

The environment, politics and society are in constant change – also in Swiss mountain regions. To promote economic development in the structurally weak mountain regions strained by rapidly changing circumstances, innovations are high in demand. Water is probably the most important resource for mountainous regions and most economic sectors and spheres of life, at least indirectly, depend on water. On the backdrop of societal change and in particular considering the anticipated climate change, the various branches of water management will face severe challenges. To enable forward-looking management of water resources in mountain regions in the interest of the concerned communities and society as a whole, new partnerships and integrated projects are required.

However, while innovative ideas might exist, financial resources and relevant contacts for implementation are often the limiting factors. Since 2005 the Mountain Water Network has annually organized the «Swiss Mountain Water Award» to support one or several lucrative projects in Swiss mountain regions. Common for all these projects is their sustainable approach to water management. The supported projects are further characterized by their clear focus on value adding as well as their orientation towards a balance between economic, ecological and social aspects and are elaborated in a participatory manner with all concerned groups. Integrated projects with a potential for replication and positive impulses for mountain regions are particularly welcome.



«The award-money from SMWA 2005 helped leveraging the project «Universalturbine» and opened up for the development of new, so far non-utilisable ecological energy potentials.»

Bruno Schindelholz  
Project leader ‚stiftung revita‘



«Thanks to the project „waterfall.ch“ an almost forgotten attraction in the Swiss mountains was revived. The SMWA 2006 opened the doors to local mayors and tourism professionals, and resulted in a fruitful cooperation to market the waterfalls in question.»

Florian Spichtig  
Co-owner «die Geographen»



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# «Swiss Mountain Water Award»

## Who can participate?

The award addresses private persons, companies, schools, universities, universities of applied science, administration, societies, NGOs, “startups” as well as regional federations and consortia between various partners.

## What do we promote?

With the «Swiss Mountain Water Award» the Mountain Water Network supports the implementation of concrete, innovative projects in Swiss mountain regions. The projects are characterized through their sustainable approach to water management and exhibit a potential for long term added value. Projects in planning stage, with clearly evaluated feasibility are promoted. Following points receive particular attention:

- The project exhibits an innovative approach for long term and sustainable water management.
- The project creates short to mid-term (5 years) contribution to the regional economy. Active value adding, i.e. surplus value, as well as passive value adding ,i.e. through avoiding costs, are hereby considered.
- The feasibility of the project must be comprehensibly proven and the project should have a plan for long term funding.

The projects must, conceptually as well as practically, aim for long-term utilisation of water resources in mountain regions with particular attention to economic, ecological and social aspects. Especially appreciated are projects which establish a link between research and practice or aim for such cooperation. These projects should generate new knowledge and in particular aim for practical implementation.

The main project outcome must be generated in Swiss mountain regions. However, it is positively rated if wider impacts on down stream areas are also considered in the project set-up. The projects can also be part of larger, international federations (e.g. alp-related initiatives).

The issue «water in mountain areas» in the context of the «Swiss Mountain Water Award» is widely defined. Thus, projects ranging from domains such as tourism, drinking water, water protection, natural hazards, energy production, spatial planning, agriculture, urban water supply and sanitation, knowledge transfer or education and marketing are possible. Inter-sectoral projects will be favoured.

Possible project ideas are (the suggestions merely serve as examples):

- Models and projects for the capitalisation of water for tourism and leisure uses
- Innovative projects for sustainable water management in agriculture
- Studies and projects for mitigating and adapting measures to climate change
- New approaches to and pilot projects for the management of natural hazards
- Development of new technologies for the advancement of hydropower
- New, flexible approaches to handle the issue of residual flows



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## «Swiss Mountain Water Award»

### Which prices are there to win?

Depending on the quality of the submitted projects, one or several projects are awarded. The award money, in total CHF 50'000.-, is supposed to function as initial funding and has to be used for the implementation of the winning projects. The award ceremony is conducted at the annual event of Mountain Water Network. The winning projects are further published at the Mountain Water Network's website [www.netzwerkwasser.ch](http://www.netzwerkwasser.ch) as well as presented through press releases to a wider audience.

### Which documents are required?

To participate in the competition, following documents should be submitted (in German, French, Italian or English):

- Completed participation form
- Project documentation (max. 10 pages excluding appendices) with a description of the methods, activities and expected results
- Timetable with tangible milestones
- Budget

The documents should be submitted to [smwa@netzwerkwasser.ch](mailto:smwa@netzwerkwasser.ch) (preferably in digital form) or to the address below. Incomplete submissions lead to disqualification of the project. The participation form is also available for download at Mountain Water Network's website: [www.netzwerkwasser.ch/aktivitaeten/award/](http://www.netzwerkwasser.ch/aktivitaeten/award/)

### How are the submitted projects evaluated?

The submitted projects are evaluated by a jury consisting of independent water experts, representatives from sponsors/partner entrepreneurs and the governing board of Mountain Water Network. The jury's decisions are final and cannot be debated. No correspondence is entered into concerning the award.

The evaluation criteria are (among others):

- Sustainability and potential for value adding
- Reproducibility
- Degree of innovation
- Feasibility

### Important dates

16th April 2010: Date of submission for projects

Summer 2010: Award ceremony of the «Swiss Mountain Water Award» 2010 at the annual event of Mountain Water Network.



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### Jury

The jury is currently composed of the following members:



Pankraz Freitag  
Jury chairman, Chairman MWN board, Representative Canton of Glarus, Council of States,



Dr. Daniel Wild  
SAM Research AG, Equity Analyst



Dr. Tony Kaiser  
ALSTOM Power Systems, Future Technology, Director



Michael Roth  
ewz, Director of production, board member



Dr. Jakob Rhyner  
Director of the WSL-Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF)



Prof. Dr. Alexander J. B. Zehnder  
Scientific director «Alberta Water Research Institute»; previous president of the ETH and director of Eawag

### Previous laureates

- 2009: Elmer hydro  
The naturally available and storable water from an existing lake is used for the production of hydropower as well as for the production of artificial snow, under the consideration of ecological and economic aspects.
- 2009: Dégrilleur hydromécanique - mechanical grill  
The development of a mechanical grill for the cleaning of water catchments for hydropower production to save costs and minimise water loss.
- 2008: Area wide GIS-supported identification of potential sites for small hydro power plants  
Through geographical information systems, target-oriented spatial analyses are carried out covering whole Switzerland. Potential sites for power plants are evaluated based on existing geo-data.
- 2007: Doppelpower - Utilising unused hydraulic potential in the region of Glarus  
The project uses the natural gradient of a river bend for the production of carbon neutral electricity.
- 2006: Waterfall.ch: Waterfalls – fascinating natural monuments  
Through on-site information boards and a website, generally less known waterfalls are introduced to a wide audience.
- 2005: Hydroelectric turbine (Universalturbine) for open and closed water supply systems  
The hydroelectric turbine utilises the energy potential in open and closed water supply systems.



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