

Company: [ewz](#)

Project name: [Windfarm Mollendruz](#)

Project location: [Switzerland](#)

Please provide a short project description (5 lines) with link to any webpages which provide more detail: <https://www.energienaturelle.ch/content/energie-naturelle-mollendruz-sa>

[ewz and local communities jointly commenced the development of the windfarm Mollendruz on the ridge of the Jura mountain range in Canton of Waadt in February 2009. It involves twelve wind turbines with a total capacity of 50 MW and an expected electricity output of 110-112 GWh per year. Over a period of 13 years, all necessary approvals have been granted, including the consent of each of the affected communities and the Canton of Waadt. Nevertheless, the project has been subject to court cases, the latest has been filed by NGOs at the federal court – the ruling is still outstanding.](#)

1. What are the technologies involved in this project (hydro, wind, grids, hybrid projects [e.g., agrisolar])? [Wind](#)
2. How did you take into account the relevant biodiversity and environmental protection legislation in this project? During which phase of the project were these considerations analysed and integrated into the project? Did you anticipate concerns around biodiversity and environmental protection for this project, and if so, what did that process look like and during which phase of the project did this occur?

[The installation of new power generation assets based on renewable energies this size requires an environmental impact study by law. The results of the study on the windfarm Mollendruz are publicly available on \[energienaturelle.ch\]\(#\). The windfarm has been planned with the aim to avoid or minimize potential impacts on the environment, the landscape, noise, soil, shadowing, monuments and archaeological sites. The expected impacts are planned to be compensated as required by appropriate authorities. The environmental impact study has been updated during the construction phase. Ecoscan SA – an enterprise specialised in environmental impact studies – follows the windfarm project during the preplanning, planning and construction phases and conducts performance measurements when windfarm is operating. Successor projects in Switzerland like the windfarm «Grenchen» served as an example in terms of biodiversity demands from different stakeholders and procedures to be expected.](#)

3. What makes this project innovative? [N/A](#)
4. Did you collaborate with stakeholders outside of your company (authorities, local communities, NGOs, etc.) and if yes, with whom? Can you describe your experiences with these external stakeholders? Were you able to integrate community concerns into this project?

[The windfarm is located on the land of the three communities Juriens, La Praz et Mont-la-Ville. Shareholders of the corporation that develops the windfarm Mollendruz include all communities. All of them hold a 10% share in the project corporation «Energie Naturelle Mollendruz SA» that develops the windpark Mollendruz. Furthermore, the communities of Vaulion and Yverdon-les-Bains hold another 10% share each. ewz holds a share of 50%. There are close collaborations with local communities. Collaborations started early in the preplanning phase of the windfarm and are maintained during the planning, construction and operating phase. Those collaborations can be economical, social or environmental. The engagements are continuously reviewed and adapted according to the needs of communities and local residents. Examples are investments in infrastructures like providing access to water or sponsoring local sports clubs or beekeepers associations. All supporting activities are agreed with local communities. Collaboration with local communities is](#)

productive and very much welcomed, no big issues have been recorded. The inclusion of local residents in an early stage of planning renewable energy projects is key for successful development. Every local community and every local resident can use its veto against the project. Meetings of the project corporation are held regularly. The high participation rate of shareholders and stakeholders proves their interest in the windfarm and the corporation. Information boards, informal meetings and digital media round off dialogue and communication measures.

NGOs had the opportunity to raise their opinion on the project, its impact and its limitations. Furthermore, in the planning phase of the environmental impact study, NGOs have been asked to express their expectations about the content of the study. Collaborations with NGOs have been fruitful. In the worst case, disagreements are ruled out in court cases, the latest case brought to the federal court is expected to deliver a pragmatic solution for all parties.

5. How did data enable this project and what data did you collect? Of the collected data, what was provided to regulators and authorities as part of the permitting process?

Wind data have been collected over a period of two years. Biodiversity data have been collected according to the environmental impact study and will be collected during operation. See <https://energienaturelle.ch/themes/environnement>. Information is part of the permitting process; regulators and authorities have access to the environmental impact study.

6. Please describe the experiences surrounding the permitting process for this project, including any bottlenecks you faced:

All activities serve the aim to obtain the building permit for the windfarm. In Switzerland, the direct democratic system allows every affected person or organisation to file a court case. Therefore, a project developer needs perseverance and financial resources to meet all requirements and expectations in the case of windfarms.

7. Please describe any permitting bottlenecks this project faced specific to land use change:

In 2012, the first application for land use change has been filed with the cantonal authority. Faced with several applications for other windfarms, the authority stopped all application processes until a cantonal master plan for windfarms was introduced. End of July 2015 ewz publicly issued another utilisation plan for the windfarm Mollendruz. Based on these documents, feedback and expectations from different stakeholders have been collected. Another, amended utilization plan has been filed with the authority, which in 2018 has been approved.

Did you receive public funding for this project? If so, please describe from which funding source (local, national, EU-level, international) and the application process you faced in attempting to secure this funding (including any special requirements conditional to the funding programme)

Compensatory feed-in remuneration has been granted (Kostendeckende Einspeisevergütung, KEV). KEV is a federal instrument to promote the installation and use of renewable energies in electricity production. The windfarm Mollendruz receives a fixed feed-in tariff for a defined remuneration period. Requirements can be reviewed here: <https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/de/home/foerderung/erneuerbare-energien/einspeiseverguetung.html/>

The application process for funding has been filed by Romande Energie, the local utility, and has been granted. ewz bought these KEV rights for the project.

8. Please choose at least **one** of the following questions to answer which is relevant to this project:
9. Does this project regenerate previously degraded natural habitats or ecosystems? If so, how was this achieved or how did your company integrate this restoration into the project?
10. OR
11. Does this project protect or provide alternative, undisturbed, comparable habitats for protected species? If so, how is this achieved or how did your company integrate this protection into this project?
12. OR
13. If a previous project was found to be environmentally detrimental and your company was able to course correct to not only mitigate, but reverse the negative effects, how was this achieved?
[Roads, platforms and windmills have an impact on the natural environment. Some are reverted. For others, compensational measures to enhance local biodiversity and landscape have been and will be taken. For more information, see: https://energienaturelle.ch/themes/environnement#page204](https://energienaturelle.ch/themes/environnement#page204)
14. OR
15. Did this project take into account effects on soil composition or the GHG impacts of land use change? If so, does this project comply with existing regulations around maintaining soil quality or land use, or does this project go beyond what is required? If so, what did you do in excess of the existing regulations?
16. Photos (if available): [available if needed](#)