

Press release

BKW is aiming to hit net zero by 2040

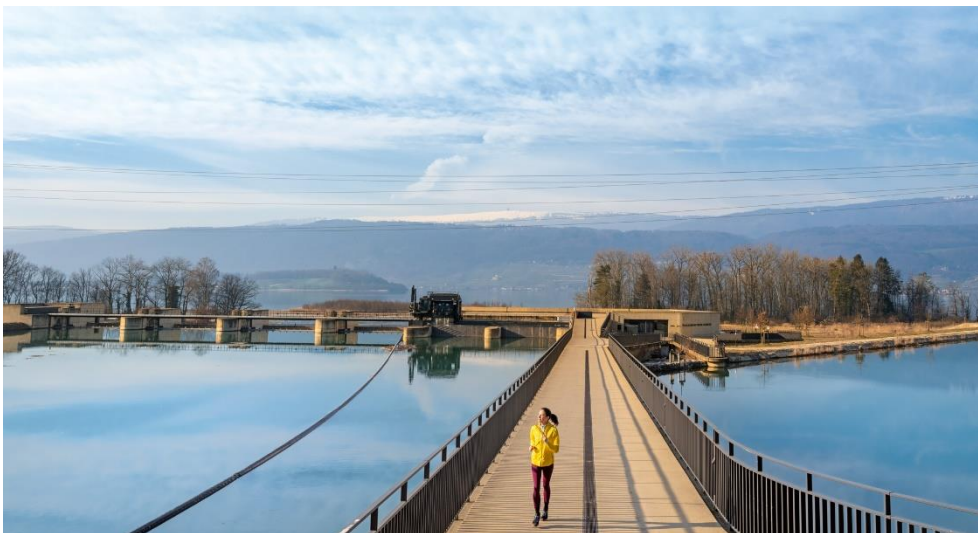
125 years of BKW: a future always needs a past

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The Hagneck hydroelectric power plant is where it all began for BKW, as it is there that the company was founded in 1898. Since then, BKW has grown into an international energy and infrastructure business with over 11,500 employees. The “Lebensräume 2025” (Living Spaces 2025) initiative was launched at the anniversary event during which BKW also presented its decarbonisation strategy.



Innovation and sustainability are part of the DNA of BKW. Roger Baillod, Chairman of the BKW Board, emphasised this at the event to celebrate the company's 125th anniversary: “By expanding the use of renewable energies and with its services in the fields of photovoltaics, electromobility and energy efficiency, BKW is already playing a huge part in decarbonising the economy and society.” He also stated that BKW now wants to focus more on its own carbon footprint – i.e. the CO₂ emissions it causes directly as a company. As part of this process, BKW has set an ambitious goal: “We will reduce our greenhouse emissions from the energy business to net zero by 2040 at the latest,” continued Roger Baillod. He also stated that the company's path towards reducing emissions as well as any interim targets still need to be examined and, in doing so, BKW is going to take into account the needs

of Switzerland and Europe for a secure power supply. Roger Bailod stated that BKW also wants to make electrifying its entire vehicle fleet an additional focus of its decarbonisation strategy – this is somewhat more challenging for commercial vehicles than for personal vehicles, but BKW is sure to find the solutions for this.

A future always needs a past: launch of the “Lebensräume 2025” (Living Spaces 2025) initiative

In his welcoming speech, Bern councillor Christoph Ammann underlined the fact that BKW has always been at the forefront of progress and that its growth over 125 years has been impressive. In particular, Christoph Ammann is delighted that BKW is launching the “Lebensräume 2025” (Living Spaces 2025) initiative in its anniversary year, as the topic of bringing spaces to life is currently very much in vogue: “I wish you much success in this interactive experiment. I am delighted that you continue to be highly motivated in assuming responsibility for society, people and the environment.”

In fact, at the anniversary event, BKW not only looked back at its history, but above all also looked ahead to an exciting future. It launched the “Lebensräume 2025” (Living Spaces 2025) initiative for bringing spaces to life: the relevant stakeholders from the fields of economics, politics and society can only tackle the challenges resulting from climate change, digitalisation and urbanisation if they work together. Representatives from these groups discussed and developed ideas and solutions for bringing spaces to life as part of breakout sessions. Three workshops have come about as a result of these discussions, which, above and beyond the event in Hagneck, deal with three key issues for ensuring a sustainable and liveable future ([Atelier Energiesysteme \(energy systems workshop\)](#), [Atelier Klimawende \(climate change workshop\)](#), [Atelier Lebenswerte Quartiere \(liveable accommodation workshop\)](#)). Anyone who is interested can take part in the workshops – register via the website.

Note: The open house event at the Hagneck hydroelectric power plant takes place the day after tomorrow, on Saturday, 8 July 2023. Visitors can expect a free programme packed with variety for the whole family – food will be provided. You can find further information (in German) on our [website](#).

How did BKW come into being? When was the BKW head office at Viktoriaplatz Bern built? Other than the year they were founded, what connects the BSC Young Boys football club and BKW? What has BKW got to do with electric commercial vehicles in 1920? Where is BKW's highest construction site at the moment? These five and 120 other questions – some of which were asked by employees – will be answered gradually until the end of the year on the [BKW website](#) to celebrate BKW's 125th anniversary.

BKW

The BKW Group is a Bern-based international energy and infrastructure company, which employs over 11,500 people. Its company network and innovative technologies enable it to offer customers a full range of skills in the areas of infrastructure, buildings and energy. The Group plans, builds and operates infrastructure to produce and supply energy to businesses, households and the public sector, and offers digital business models for renewable energies. Today, the BKW Group portfolio includes everything from engineering consultancy and planning for energy, infrastructure and environmental projects to integrated services in the field of building technology, as well as the construction, servicing and maintenance of energy, telecommunications, transport and water utility networks. With its trailblazing solutions, the BKW Group brings spaces to life.