

DOMUS ANTIQUA HELVETICA

Energy and historic houses | Our Position

Energy issues are currently the subject of intense public, media and political debate. The obligation to install solar panels on all roofs and the easing of restrictions in protected, conservation and core zones are also under discussion. Replacing fossil fuels and reducing energy consumption are challenges that every homeowner must face. Wherever possible, it is important to move away from oil and gas - for political, ecological and economic reasons. It is about reducing dependencies as well as protecting the climate and your wallet.

DOMUS ANTIQUA HELVETICA (DAH) supports the national energy strategy, is committed to the goal of a climate-neutral Switzerland by 2050 and advocates the promotion and use of alternative energies. DAH is a member of the " Climate Campaign for Baukultur " with the following attitude: « Protected buildings are an inspiration for sustainability in practice. They deserve respect and tailor-made solutions. » The proportion of protected buildings in the building stock is less than 5%. At the same time, their energy balance is significantly more positive than that of demolition and new construction due to the building materials used and when viewed over the entire life cycle. Considering this limited energy-saving potential, energy measures must not jeopardize the cultural heritage of buildings.

With this in mind, in recent months DAH has published a special brochure in German and French entitled " Energie und historische Wohnhäuser " | " Énergie et demeures historiques " (Energy and historic houses), which offers a range of solutions. In summary, DAH recommends to owners customized solutions for the energy-efficient refurbishment of protected residential buildings or those worthy of protection **with the following three main areas of action:**

1. **Optimization of the heating system:** wherever possible and economically viable, switch to sustainable solutions: District heating, heat pumps, wood heating (objective: decarbonization).
2. **Effective thermal insulation:** implement everything that is justifiable in terms of building technology and monument preservation (objective: reduction of energy consumption).
3. **Use of solar energy:** Aim for community photovoltaic solutions in which the owners of historic buildings can participate. This approach is preferable from the point of view of heritage conservation and is also more efficient as it involves larger, professionally maintained systems. Further information is available from the energy supplier or on the following website: www.vese.ch/solarge-nosenschaften. Where there are not yet any joint solutions, we refer you to the cantonal environmental authorities - the range is constantly being expanded. We recommend great care and consideration for individual solar installations on historic buildings. From this point of view, a photovoltaic obligation on all roofs or relaxation in protection, conservation and core zones should be rejected.

With every renovation, it is important to preserve the architectural quality and the "soul of the house". For a comprehensive description, please refer to the special issue "Energy and historic houses". DAH would like to offer its members and all interested parties practical information and support - we want to be part of the solution. At the same time, we are politically committed to tailor-made solutions for our unique and unrecoverable architectural heritage in Switzerland.

On behalf of the DAH Board

Lukas Alioth, President

André Locher, Vice President

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Schweizerische Vereinigung der Eigentümer Historischer Wohnbauten | Association Suisse des Propriétaires de Demeures Historiques
Associazione Svizzera dei Proprietari di Dimore Storiche | Associazion Svizra dals Proprietaris da Dimoras Istoricas

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