Short description of the ecological development of Basel and Freiburg

Basel
Located in the northwest of Switzerland on the river Rhine, Basel is known for its 2000-watt-society and its vision for sustainable energy use i.e. a reduction in primary energy consumption in Switzerland by a factor of three from the current 6000 watt per person, to 2000 watts. In 2001 a pilot region was launched in Basel, where the vision would be made reality (the Basel pilot region is a cooperative project (public-private partnership) between Novatlantis, the Department of Building for the Canton of Basel-Stadt, the University of Applied Sciences for both Cantons of Basel, and the University of Basel). Since the launch of the Basel pilot region in 2001, urban development and mobility issues have formed the focal point of applied research, and expertise in sustainable development has been used to enhance urban design in Basel. The focus of the building sector shifted in 2004 from large urban development projects to the implementation of new building technologies in individual building projects, with selected building investors. Basel has also successfully implemented the integration of green roofs with new development. The city has been constructing green roofs since the 1970s, and in 2002 the Building and Construction Law was amended requiring all new buildings with flat roofs to have green roofs. This success has been achieved by close cooperation between the local authority and nature conservation experts, as well as architects, construction and landscape planners, green roof companies and contractors.

Green roofs in Basel

• Inhabitants: 167,365 (December 2008)
• Density: 7,357km²
• Area: 22.75km²
• Located where the Swiss, French and German borders meet – with 830,000 inhabitants in the tri-national metropolitan area as of 2004, Basel is Switzerland’s second-largest urban area
• Main function: major industrial centre for chemical and pharmaceutical industry
• Known for the 1989 Basel Convention – aim of preventing the export of hazardous waste from wealthy to developing nations for disposal
• Airport: EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg; but also a rail hub and has an extensive public transport network of local trams and buses.
• Reputation as one of the most important cultural cities in Europe, with many carnivals and festivals taking place here
• Boasts of the highest densities of green roofs in the world – approximately 20% of Basel’s flat roof area is green roof