



KANTON AARGAU

STATE CHANCELLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

Electricity and gas shortage: Government Council decides on measures for the cantonal administration

Energy-saving measures in all cantonal buildings

From 19 September 2022, a package of measures will be implemented in connection with the impending electricity and gas shortage in order to reduce energy consumption in the cantonal administration and cantonal buildings and to increase energy efficiency. Among other things, this includes lowering the heating temperature in the cantonal buildings by 3 degrees. In addition, non-security-relevant exterior and building lighting, such as lock lighting, will be switched off. At present, contingency plans are being drawn up in the task force on security of supply, which could come into play in the event of a quota system or temporary grid shutdowns. The Government Council has also decided to join the national Energy Saving Alliance (see box).

On 14 September 2022, the Government Council decided on various immediate measures for the cantonal administration to save energy and increase energy efficiency. In doing so, it is following the recommendations of the national Energy Saving Alliance, which invites the public sector to act as a role model. If necessary, they will be adapted to the further development of the situation or future directives/recommendations of the federal government.

The measures decided by the Government Council affect all cantonal-owned properties as well as properties and facilities rented by the canton for exclusive use. The immediate measures will be implemented as quickly as possible from 19 September 2022 and will apply until further notice.

Every kilowatt hour counts: The energy canton of Aargau serves as a role model

The measures decided by the Government Council apply to level 1 as defined by the federal government for an electricity and gas shortage (energy-saving measures with immediate effect). All cantonal properties will continue to be accessible and usable; however, employees and visitors will have to accept certain restrictions in comfort. "For the Government Council, it goes without saying that the energy canton of Aargau will support the federal government's savings campaign 'Energy is scarce. Let's not waste it. Let's not waste it. In addition, the Canton of Aargau will become a member of the federal government's Energy Saving Alliance," said Government Councillor Dr. Markus Dieth, who is responsible for cantonal real estate. "In order for us to reach the savings target of 15 percent, every kilowatt hour counts. With the measures that apply to the cantonal administration with immediate effect, we, as the energy canton of Aargau, are fulfilling our exemplary function and making a valuable contribution to reducing the impending electricity and gas shortage."

These measures apply to all cantonal properties

As of 19 September, the following measures to save energy will be implemented as quickly as possible in all cantonally owned properties and those rented for exclusive use. The measures will apply until further notice and will be adapted to the situation as necessary:

- During the heating season, the room temperature in all cantonal buildings is reduced by 3 degrees to 18-20 degrees. Reducing the room temperature lowers heating energy consumption by around 6 per cent per degree.
- All comfort-oriented room air-conditioning systems will be shut down from October to May 2023. Units that control the indoor climate of special rooms (for example, computing centres, storage rooms of sensitive goods and so on) are exempt.
- All non-safety-relevant exterior and building lighting in public buildings (e.g. logos, lighting to highlight buildings such as castle lighting) is dispensed with, as are lighting events.
- Plug-in electrical appliances for heating or comfort cooling of rooms are not permitted in the buildings of the canton.
- All standard electricity-saving measures are consistently implemented in the cantonal buildings. These include, in particular, the abandonment of stand-by operation by completely switching off electrical appliances and room lighting.
- Hot water heating is reduced to 60 degrees in cantonal properties, provided that it can be guaranteed for

hygienic and health reasons that the temperature at the tapping points is at least 50 degrees.

Implementation of the measures by the real estate coordinators in the departments

The implementation of the proposed measures is carried out decentrally on behalf of the Government Council by the departmental coordinators responsible for real estate issues and the real estate specialist group. Immobilien Aargau is responsible for coordination and provides advice. The aim is to implement the measures successively from 19 September 2022.

Raising awareness among employees

In order to achieve a sustainable savings effect, the canton of Aargau regularly raises awareness among its more than 5,000 employees on the cantonal intranet about energy-saving opportunities and also draws attention to the federal campaign. Dieth is convinced that saving energy in a spirit of solidarity is worthwhile for everyone in every respect. Because: "Every Aargauer can save energy. Every measure and every reduction action now contributes to coping with this extraordinary situation as unscathed as possible. The individual contribution may seem small at first glance, but in sum they can make the decisive difference."

Aargau prepares further precautionary measures in the event of an incident

In mid-August 2022, the Government Council set up a Cantonal Supply Security Task Force, in which all departments, the State Chancellery (SC) and the Cantonal Command Staff (CCS) are represented. It systematically and comprehensively addresses the possible effects of an impending electricity and gas shortage on the canton of Aargau and prepares corresponding contingency plans.

Under the leadership of the Department of Construction, Transport and Environment (CTE) and the State Chancellery (SC), the task force analyses the challenges, issues and problems associated with electricity and gas shortages and draws up proposals for the attention of the Government Council for planning, precautions, preparations and cantonal crisis management in the individual phases. The cantonal business associations and employee organisations, the municipalities and their regional management bodies (RFO), the canton's energy supply companies and other important stakeholders (e.g. from the health and education sectors, etc.) are also involved.

Among other things, the task force on security of supply is also taking precautions to ensure that the most important government and administrative activities can be carried out in the event of an incident (e.g. grid shutdowns). To this end, an emergency plan is being drawn up that provides for the

gradual closure of buildings, the relocation of work to home offices and the maintenance of locations that are indispensable for the fulfilment of the canton's core tasks.

Canton Aargau joins the Energy Saving Alliance

As a traditional energy canton, Aargau also sees itself as having a special responsibility in its efforts to save energy and wants to act as a role model. The canton of Aargau is therefore joining the Energy Saving Alliance and actively supporting the campaign launched by the federal government with business organisations and associations by implementing immediate measures in the cantonal properties and the courts (see press release above) in order to be able to achieve the targeted savings target of 15 percent.

In addition to the economical use of energy, efficiency measures on the building, heating systems with renewable energies and own electricity production are of great importance. Investments in such measures pay off in the long term and must be planned at an early stage. energieberatungAARGAU supports private individuals, companies and organisations in this process.

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