

## Smart City Hub Switzerland

### *The association for Swiss Smart Cities*

**Smart City stands for a holistic, forward-looking development concept that aims to make our cities more efficient, technologically advanced, greener and more socially inclusive. Various cities in Switzerland are currently developing strategies and implementing projects in cooperation with other partners.**

Smart City Hub Switzerland promotes cooperation and knowledge sharing among Swiss cities and other important partners. The association serves as a facilitator for collaboration on topics and projects of common interest in the field of Smart City.

It is the declared aim of the association to enhance cooperation and the exchange of knowledge in the field of Smart City between cities and their businesses, nationwide service providers as well as federal agencies and research. It encourages its members to take advantage of synergies and to share knowledge and skills. Its main task to support the implementation of projects in order to save time and costs. Further activities of the association include the promotion of dialogue and cooperation, the development of innovative and citizen- resp. customer-oriented solutions as well as the exploitation of economies of scale.

The association is based in St. Gallen.

For further information on membership, ongoing projects, news, benefits and articles, please refer to:

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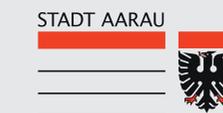


*Fact Sheet*

## City of Aarau



Stand 20.09.21, Design: www.smiroka.ch



## Basic facts Aarau

<b>Canton</b>	Aargau
<b>Spoken language</b>	German
<b>Inhabitants</b>	21'700 (as from 2020)
<b>Digital Infrastructure and Layer</b>	<b>LoRaWAN:</b> selective LoRaWAN infrastructure within the region, provided by municipal public services <b>FTTH:</b> selective fiber rollout to municipal infrastructure, business customers and private customers on demand <b>Free Wifi:</b> free Wifi within the city, provided by municipal public services

**Development:** The city of Aarau benefits strongly from its central geographical location in Switzerland. Its proximity to Zurich, Basel, Berne and Lucerne attracts skilled workers and companies from all over the country. Not only does Aarau plan carefully, it also emphasises highly diverse fields. It maintains a constant dialogue with its citizens and the region and offers its more than 21'000 inhabitants an excellent quality of life. Its proactive attitude benefits all generations as well as the economy equally. Furthermore, the Centre for Democracy in Aarau is an important partner for the city. Due to these conditions, Aarau is highly interested in activities related to participatory decision-making. In addition, the attractive city offers a wide range of cultural and sporting activities. In short, Aarau is a vibrant urban centre.

**SC Strategy:** In 2019, the city council initiated the „Smart City Aarau Strategy Development“. The strategy development is carried out with the participation of political, economic and social actors as well as technical experts. With the „Smart City Aarau Strategy“, the city is focusing on the future-oriented use of digital technologies in favour of ecologically more effective planning and action as well as on the more efficient inclusion of the needs of its inhabitants and the economy.

**Organisational approach for SC initiatives:** The organisational approach for SC initiatives was developed and finalised in 2019. The involvement of internal and external stakeholders in the drafting process of the strategy was of particular importance for a solid anchoring of the strategic orientation. Based on that strategy, a municipal action plan, including the city's particular role in individual projects, is established and implemented. The core team that constitutes and directs this process consists of the coordination office and group (i.e. representatives of municipal departments and of municipal public services). In general, SC initiatives are organized and led by an internal department or a suitable external stakeholder, like ENIWA. According to the participatory approach of smart cities, the involvement of expert knowledge and of relevant partners at an early stage is crucial for the successful implementation of SC initiatives. Furthermore, the city of Aarau is interested in building partnerships and cooperating with other cities as well.

## Specific projects

**Pilot project for district lighting:** The focus of this project is on optimally coordinating lighting of city districts and public spaces, taking into account the different requirements of times of day and weekdays. The project aims at finding the right scale for light intensity, energy consumption and light emission, while at the same time creating an inviting ambience in public spaces. With this in mind, the residents of the respective districts play an essential role in the design of the project - the vision is to jointly design public spaces. The findings gained from the pilot project will be used to set the strategic goals accordingly (e.g. conflicting objectives, unsuitable indicators).  
*Status: prototyp is completed; Partner: ENIWA; Budget for SC projects: yes*

**Carvelo2go:** In May 2018, the city of Aarau, in cooperation with the Mobility Academy, introduced a load-sharing system and provided Aarau's population and companies with easy and inexpensive access to electric loadbikes. Electric cargobikes make it possible to transport goods in a comfortable manner.  
*Status: Launched in 2018; Budget for SC projects: yes*

**Energy Promotion Programme:** In March 2018, the City of Aarau launched a funding programme aimed at motivating homeowners, tenants and SMEs to renovate their properties or to pay attention to energy efficiency when purchasing equipment. The funding programme is financed by a loan intended for the implementation of the city's energy and climate targets.  
*Status: Launched in 2018*

**Energy production in the city districts:** The districts supply themselves with energy through a combination of solar power, heat pumps, etc. That is an important step towards the 2000-watt society. For example, the heating is operated by a geothermal heat pump and can also be used for cooling in summer. In addition, photovoltaic systems cover the electricity consumption during the day. The combination of geothermal probe and solar energy enables the neighbourhood to generate most of the energy itself.  
*Status: Launched in 2016*

**Public charging stations for electric cars:** Electromobility requires a well-functioning infrastructure. It can only be truly sustainable if the vehicles are charged with clean electricity. With the support of the City of Aarau, ENIWA has installed 40 electric charging stations in public parking lots (for example Obere Schanz and Kettenbrücke). The charging stations deliver electricity from 100% renewable energy sources.  
*Status: Launched in 2017*

## Research activities

### Cooperation and participation in the Swiss Association of Cities and Towns

The cooperation with other cities as part of a project initiated by EBP that focuses on „Opportunities for smaller and medium-sized cities“ supports the strategic process of the City of Aarau. Small and medium-sized Swiss cities serve as a basis and reference for the identification of suitable questions and topics as well as for the development of own Smart City concepts and the implementation of Smart City projects. In cooperation with other cities, the framework conditions necessary for cities to provide valuable support for Smart City projects are discussed. In return for the city's inputs, the cooperative exchange will support the strategy development for Smart City Aarau.

Since 2019, the Smart City coordinator is taking part in the consortium of the Smart City Hub Switzerland, focusing on the exchange of „best practice“ regarding Open Data and participatory projects.

### Specific city excellency

The city of Aarau acts sustainably, innovatively and exemplarily in the field of energy. In 2017, it was certified with the European Energy Award Gold - a quality label awarded as part of a cross-border European initiative in which the Association Energiestadt checks and confirms the prestigious quality label every four years. The Energiestadt-approach covers a wide range of fields, including awareness-raising campaigns, energy supply and waste disposal.

## Ongoing Partnerships

- » City Baden, SC projects and joint IT department since 2019
- » ETH Zürich, Smart Agora platform:
  - enables a district decision through digital participation (research proposal underway)

## Sources

- » [www.aarau.ch](http://www.aarau.ch)
- » [www.aarau.ch/leben/natur-und-umwelt/projekte.html/460](http://www.aarau.ch/leben/natur-und-umwelt/projekte.html/460)
- » [www.aarau.ch/public/upload/assets/11905/AarauSmartCity\\_Umsetzungsplan2020.pdf](http://www.aarau.ch/public/upload/assets/11905/AarauSmartCity_Umsetzungsplan2020.pdf)