



PRESS RELEASE

Saint-Saphorin (Lavaux) adopts the Innergia-Primeo model and commits to the energy of the future.

A symbol of a region listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Saint-Saphorin (VD) joins the ranks of municipalities choosing independence and local resources to achieve their energy transition.

Saint-Saphorin (Lavaux)/Payerne, 20 November 2025. In the heart of the Lavaux vineyards, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its unique cultural landscape, the Vaud municipality of Saint-Saphorin has become the first locality in a listed site to join the energy solution developed by Innergia and Primeo Energie, presented to the public in June 2025.

This decentralized economic model enables each municipality to produce and distribute its own energy — both thermal and electrical — locally from renewable resources available in its area (solar, biomass, aqua thermal energy, etc.). Energy becomes a self-financing municipal public service offered at a stable and competitive price, while remaining locally managed.

With this decision, Saint-Saphorin is sending a strong message: the energy transition can be achieved without disrupting the balance between humans and nature that has prevailed there for more than 800 years. The Mayor, **Gérald Vallélian** emphasizes the significance of this choice: *“Being recognized by UNESCO as a living cultural landscape does not mean locking our territory into the past. On the contrary, this recognition forces us to innovate. It is in this spirit that we have chosen to collaborate with Innergia and Primeo Energie to strengthen our energy independence while respecting what makes our village unique.”*

For **Frédéric James Gentizon**, Executive Chairman of Innergia, the example of Saint-Saphorin marks a key milestone: *“Innergia wants to take part in the transformation of the national energy landscape, brick by brick, municipality by municipality. Achieving this here, in this symbol of harmony between culture, landscape, and sustainability, demonstrates that this goal is possible everywhere.”*

Swati Rastogi Mayor, Board Director and CEO of Innergia, highlights the technical aspect of the project: *“The complexity of a site such as Saint-Saphorin requires extreme sensitivity to heritage issues — the historic village, for example, is excluded from any intervention. But this requirement is also a source of inspiration. The integration of the Innergia model into such a context is real evidence of the maturity of our approach.”*

On behalf of the **Primeo Energie** group, **Cédric Christmann**, CEO, is delighted with this new collaboration: *“Primeo Energie is proud to be working together with Innergia to support the municipality of Saint-Saphorin in its energy transition. This project illustrates our shared commitment to combining innovation, sustainability, and the preservation of living heritage.”*

Finally, **André Hoffmann**, world-renowned environmentalist and a major shareholder in Innergia, points out that the decision is part of the emergence of a new business model: *“In the heart of the UNESCO Heritage Site of the Lavaux vineyard terraces, the municipality of Saint-Saphorin is committed to joining the growing community of the Innergia-Primeo Energie model. In doing so, it is demonstrating its sense of responsibility in terms of managing economic, social, and environmental realities. Sustainable and resilient growth facilitated by innovation while respecting the limits of the planet.”*

About Innergia

Innergia, based in Payerne, offers a concrete, self-financed turnkey solution to public authorities for achieving their energy transition. The model, developed by Innergia, enables municipalities to achieve energy independence using the renewable resources available in their area. The thermal and electrical energy produced locally is then offered to all residents of the municipality at competitive prices and on a shared basis. A private municipal industrial services company, controlled by the municipality and its citizens, enables the necessary infrastructure to be built and financed through bond issues subscribed via our partner Vontobel. Since 2022, André Hoffmann, Vice President of Roche and a world-renowned environmentalist, has been one of the company's main shareholders.

About Primeo Energie

The current Primeo Energie was founded in 1897 under the name Elektra Birseck Cooperative (EBM). Its headquarters are in Münchenstein, Switzerland. With assets of CHF 3 billion, it reliably supplies energy to private and commercial customers in Switzerland and France via more than 220,000 control points. Under the motto “Let's join forces,” the company focuses on decarbonizing the energy supply and offers smart solutions in the areas of smart homes, sustainable mobility, and energy efficiency. These solutions are aimed at private and commercial customers, energy supply companies, and cities and municipalities. With nearly 700 employees, Primeo Energie operates across the entire value chain, from production and procurement to distribution, trading, and storage. It is also committed to passing on knowledge to children and young people and supports more than 300 local projects and public service events in its service area every year.

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