

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by Switzerland

Country: Switzerland, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Title:

Support of a national resource efficiency network for Small and Medium Enterprises to promote resource efficiency in their products and production processes

Focus area 5 and 1: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital

Description of the action: Support of SMEs through a national resource efficiency network forged by the government, companies and the scientific community. Reffnet.ch provides analytical tools to assess resource efficiency – especially material efficiency - and to realize the recognized potentials with practical measures inducing a positive impact on the level of environment and resource protection in companies. Furthermore, it initiates innovation projects to increase resource efficiency.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: The network Reffnet.ch was founded in 2014 and will be supported within a performance mandate for 5 years. The impact of the action and the cost-benefit ratio will be evaluated in 2018. Based on this evaluation the Federal Office for the Environment will decide about a future financial support.

Type of action: information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments

Economic sectors: economy-wide / manufacturing

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: <http://www.reffnet.ch/de/home>
(available in German, French and Italian)

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: improvement of companies' resource-efficiency, reduction of material use, energy and costs, social benefits with improvement of occupational safety and health

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: 9.4, 12.1, 12.2

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: no recommendations

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Measurement of the environmental impact in eco-points (UBP: Umweltbelastungspunkte, see <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01750/index.html?lang=en>)

Partners: private companies, municipalities, consultant companies, universities

Contact points:

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