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# Good practice from Haute-Savoie

## Virtual study visit on the incentives citizens' project

### MATERIAL / CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

The structural frame of the house and the roof truss are made out of wood coming from Haute-Savoie forest. The straw filling the walls was grown in a close village. For coating plus protecting the straw walls and to create inertia, clay was used which derived from the foundation setting of the house. What works best: the wooden and straw floor on which the calcic

screed was poured without any thermal bridge. Solar inputs are very well captured and the ground is always warm without heating. What works less: the sound-proofing between the different floors of the house. A screed would have reinforced inertia which would have better cut the air sounds (voices, music) as well as sounds from the vibration on solid structure (for instance walking on the upper floor).



### IMPRINT

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EnercitEE

European networks, experience and recommendations helping cities and citizens to become Energy Efficient

# Good practice from Haute-Savoie

## THE INCENTIVES CITIZENS' PROJECT

This good practice example of Haute-Savoie shows the great possibility to use a construction site as a medium for advocacy, information and training for people.

First of all the idea arose to build an energy efficient house with natural materials coming from the region of Haute-Savoie. The second intention was that the experience gained during the self-construction process was shared in order to spread the fact that building an energy efficient house would be feasible.

Wood, straw and clay have been chosen to meet these requirements. These are materials with a very low grey energy, and with interesting and constructive qualities ensuring an easy implementation suitable for self-construction and unskilled labor.

For sharing this experience, different phases of construction have been well identified and 3 participatory workshops were prepared and organised – first the wooden frame, second the straw bales installation and third the earthen plasters. Local organizations have published and disseminated the information and asked for volunteers who wanted to learn more about the construction techniques. The same associations have organized visits and training sessions for which the building was used as support. After all 18 trainees came to participate in the workshops.



Workshop on straw bales installation

### What is EnercitEE?

**EnercitEE** is a European project that will contribute to the improvement of local and regional policies and provide assistance in the transfer of knowledge on energy efficiency and sustainable transport.

**EnercitEE** will identify and analyse good practices, foster the exchange of experience and carry out light pilot implementation to increase the level of energy efficiency of local authorities and their citizens as the new target group.

## SHARING THE EXPERIENCE

Several newspapers and the local television have used the building to report about the self-construction with natural materials.

Local primary schools and technical high schools dedicated some of their lessons to the topic and came to visit the house, too.

Further the local energy agency Prioriterre together with the city of Vaulx organized a half day training on energy efficiency importance and a visit to the unfinished building for the inhabitants.

Coating the straw walls



## Facts and Figures

Location: Vaulx, Haute-Savoie, France  
Surface: 160 m<sup>2</sup> utiles  
Consumption: 60 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/y (heating, hot water, ventilation, lighting only)

Heating: wood burning stove: 4 m<sup>3</sup>  
Costs: 145,000 € (without field)  
Grants: 12,000 € for thermic solar and photovoltaic electricity (16 m<sup>2</sup>)

Materials:  
Wood: 40 m<sup>3</sup> from HSA  
Straw: 1100 straw bales from HSA  
Earth: 30 m<sup>3</sup> from the foundations

People: 120 different people worked on this construction