

# Jet d'eau: The Geneva fountain is seen less frequently this winter - The Switzerland Times

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3-4 minutes



## power shortage

### Energy guzzler Jet d'eau: Now the operation of the Geneva super fountain is reduced

Because the water jet requires as much electricity as 1,000 households, the city's landmark is the target of energy-saving efforts. This also causes critical reactions.

## **The jet d'eau will be seen less often this winter.**

It attracts tourists in droves and fills the Genevans with pride: the Jet d'eau is without question the symbol of the Rhone city. The water from Lake Geneva shoots up around 140 meters – every day.

For the water jet with a speed of 200 km/h, however, a lot of energy is required. According to the operator, the industrial company SIG, the fountain requires around three gigawatt hours of electricity per year. This corresponds to the annual energy consumption of 1,000 average Geneva households.

So it's no wonder that the jet d'eau is now the target of energy-saving efforts due to the impending lack of electricity. As the daily newspaper "Le Temps" reported on Tuesday, the Geneva cantonal government is planning to limit the operating hours of the fountain this winter.

"We actually brought the question of the Jet d'Eau to the table, because its consumption is not insignificant," confirmed the responsible Green State Councilor Antonio Hodgers. An agreement was reached on reducing the operating times – in winter the water jet usually runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exact modalities are now being worked out by the operating company.

### **"Wasn't there a less symbolic measure?"**

The fact that Geneva's landmark will be seen less frequently in the near future is not well received by everyone. This is what Vincent Subilia, general director of the cantonal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said to "Le Temps":

“Everyone has to make an effort, and we can live with this effort. But was there no less symbolic measure than the partial waiver of the canton's flagship?”

After all, the people of Geneva should have gotten used to having to do without the jet d'eau at times. Because of the corona pandemic, the fountain was completely shut down for a total of 92 days in spring and autumn 2020 – as a signal to the population to limit social contacts.

Meanwhile, wells are also becoming the target of energy-saving efforts elsewhere in Switzerland. The city of Zurich recently announced that it would drain a quarter of its 1,200 wells. In this way, up to 300,000 kilowatt hours can be saved per year, which corresponds to the average annual consumption of around 200 two-person households in Zurich. The figures are not directly comparable with those of Geneva because the electricity consumption of an average household differs from region to region.

Vincent Subilia et la CCIG ont également été cités dans les articles suivants de la presse étrangère :

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