



## MOVING MOUNTAINS FORUM

### Press release

#### Successful 12th Moving Mountains Forum: energy at the heart of the debate

**The Moving Mountains Forum brought together almost 200 participants over two days in Les Diablerets (VD). Energy models for mountain communities were the subject of in-depth descriptions and impassioned debates, with the participation of two Vaud State Councillors and numerous experts.**

**Les Diablerets, 24 August 2023.** Under the radiant sunshine of Les Diablerets, the question of the energy models available to mountain communities to ensure their sustainable transition was at the heart of the work of the 12th Moving Mountains Forum. Attended by almost 200 participants over two days, this rich event provided an opportunity to look in detail at the often complementary and sometimes contradictory solutions that exist to enable Alpine villages to achieve carbon neutrality, while retaining room for manoeuvre in their decision-making. Two Vaud State Councillors, Isabelle Moret (Economy) and Vassilis Venizelos (Environment), provided a wealth of details on the tools that have been put in place to accelerate this sustainable transition, in the fields of tourism, economic activities and energy.

The development prospects for the Grengiols solar power plant in the Upper Valais, which will face a decisive autumn with two votes (cantonal and then communal) and which local authority president Armin Zeiter came to present and defend with conviction, and the local wood-fired district heating system in Rossinière, the progress of which was described by local authority syndic Jean-Pierre Neff, seem very different. They are part of a context in which the relationship between population and energy is being called into question, particularly in mountain regions where renewable energy sources abound. What will tomorrow's new balance between energy-producing regions and major energy-consuming urban centres look like? And how will we finance the targets set by law and voted for by the people, with deadlines that allow for neither delay nor bad choices?

Faced with these fundamental questions, many specialists and players in the field came to provide concrete and encouraging answers. Innovative technologies, social organisation, political will and the revitalisation of the concept of a public energy service were the main themes of the discussions.

Debates on the sustainability of ski lifts, on sustainable transition through culture and education, and on promoting a gentler, less consumerist relationship with the mountains rounded out the 12th edition of the forum, which brings together best practice in all areas, in the context of mountain communities.

The 13th Moving Mountains Forum will take place on 21 and 22 August 2024. It will focus on the following theme: "Are the mountains ready for the great climate exodus? See you in a year's time in Les Diablerets!"

**Media contact:**

Thierry Meyer, Chairman of the Moving Mountains Forum, [tme@movingmountainsforum.com](mailto:tme@movingmountainsforum.com), +41 79 785 35 81