



“OUR ROOFS ARE SYNONYMOUS
WITH SOLIDITY, SIMPLICITY, BEAUTY
AND SUSTAINABILITY.”



Myriam Bellion, CEO Solarwood Folkendange

Just installing some solar panels above a roof is nonsense, and an eyesore to boot, according to Myriam Bellion, CEO of Solarwood Folkendange, who presents her company’s integrated solar roofs to us.

SOLAR ROOFS: PERFORMANCE MEETS AESTHETICS!

What does Solarwood Folkendange do in a nutshell?

We market the integrated, customised solar roofs without frames of the Meyer Burger Group (Switzerland), the European leader in the sector, exclusively for the BeNeLux and the Great Region, for renovation and construction. Instead of installing a traditional roof (tiles, slates) with solar panels “on the roof,” our panels replace the entire structure. They are integrated “in the roof,” and can cover entirely any shape of roof: rectangular, square, triangular, etc. We have “blind” modules in fact (without solar sensors) to fill an area in an aesthetic manner and thus cover all (100%) of the surface. The range includes the MegaSlate® modules (photovoltaic for generating electricity; thermal for hot water; and roof windows), hybrid modules for a flat roof, and façade modules.

Do you think that the compatibility with an architectural approach gives you a competitive advantage?

Absolutely. In addition to their excellent energy performance, our solar panels have an aesthetic aim as well. It suffices to go around the Grand Duchy to note that photovoltaic panels have an uglifying effect in general. That is why they are rejected by architects... They spoil their work. Their creations are often impaired by these large mosaics which disrupt or even break the harmony of a building. Our alternative combines utility with appearance: it proves that it is possible to generate green energy without sacrificing the beauty of the building. All our modules are integrated so that they cannot be distinguished from each other, so without shocking interruption or contrast. Everything is installed flush with the roof... Nothing sticks out. This requires great precision in the design.

How do you explain the success of MegaSlate® roofs throughout Europe and beyond?

The upmarket character of their design attracts customers who are sensitive to their sustainable development aspect and their appearance. As a result, all architectural dreams can become reality with respect for the surroundings. Produced in Switzerland, these modules are guaranteed for 10 years in particular for their resistance to the wind and loads due to snow (400 or even 800 kg per m²) and ice (hailstones up to 5 cm in diameter) and for 25 years for 80% efficiency. They are installed more rapidly than a traditional roof, like a construction game where modules and rails intended to get water to flow in gutters are inter-slotted. Furthermore, the absence of a frame prevents any encrustation, making the roof self-cleaning with the rain, and requiring no maintenance.

Solarwood, a pioneer launched in 2004, was revived in 2014. What are the highlights of this adventure?

In 2004, my husband and I became keenly interested in renewable sources of energy. We therefore created Solarwood Folkendange, a company geared to designing the largest photovoltaic stock of solar trackers in Luxembourg. This project was set aside, because the building permits were blocked and delayed by certain authorities. In parallel, we founded Solarwood Technologies, which made integrated roofing modules, already at that time under the MegaSlate® licence of the Meyer Burger Group. In 2009, when my husband died, I was forced to sell that company, which will go down in the annals as having been the only production line of solar modules once present in the Grand Duchy. In 2014, with 5 years of hindsight, I was still keen to promote solar energy and still had the energy to give substance to my commitment. We have a common responsibility to hand down a healthier and more sustainable planet to future generations and I intend to contribute to that goal as much as I can! I naturally turned again to the Meyer Burger Group, with whom we had established a relationship of trust and confidence. Today, rather than produce their MegaSlate® panels, I sell and distribute them exclusively in the BeNeLux and in the Great Region. We have requests even from other countries, such as Italy and Sweden.

What do you say to disgruntled people who “do not believe” in the use of solar energy?

The arguments are legion! I shall cite two. First, a MegaSlate® integrated solar roof maximises the generation of electricity free of charge (the sun does not send an invoice and shines even when it is not visible) and sustainably (Stephen Hawking estimates that it will continue to shine for another 2.7 billion years). What a great difference compared with fossil fuels, where everyone agrees that their reserves will be exhausted in 80 years at most, as will be the reserves of uranium needed to operate (dangerous) nuclear power stations. Then, at the end of April, Tesla, the electric vehicle manufacturer, put on the market PowerWall, a domestic battery that stores electricity supplied by solar panels. (USD 3000 and USD 3500 for a capacity of 7 KW and 10 KW respectively). This is a small revolution because it means we can now consume the electricity we generate when we need it, and thus be completely independent of the traditional electricity grid.

The world is in a state of agitation thanks to the progress in sustainable technologies. We are taking part in that process and are proud to note that the continued interest elicited by MegaSlate® roofs worldwide is confirmed on our own market!



Siège Solarwood Folkendange

Exclusive sales and distribution for BeNeLux



MegaSlate® solar roof system
Maximum aesthetics with highest performance

We support

