



**“The great advantage of Allevo is that its decentralized approach allows us to spread the workload among many people.”**

Stephan Mücher,  
Head of Controlling at  
Energie Wasser Bern

# Allevo at Energie Wasser Bern

## Cost center planning at Energie Wasser Bern (ewb)

Energie Wasser Bern is an independent public enterprise owned by the city of Bern and one of the five largest municipal energy suppliers in Switzerland. Its customers include around 70,000 households, 8,000 small and medium-sized enterprises and 100 large customers. The company is committed to sustainability and to a corporate management strategy that balances economic, ecological and social concerns. The company's mission is to provide energy that is economically viable, customer-driven and secure over the long term, and with the smallest possible ecological footprint. Energie Wasser Bern has over 600 employees, generates annual sales of more than CHF 400 million and is a partner of Swisspower.

Since 2007, ewb has used Allevo to plan between 500 and 1,000 objects per year from more than 110 financial managers in the budget process. These objects are used to plan ewb's operating costs.

## Decentralized budget planning directly in the individual departments

Before Allevo was introduced in 2007, the cost center managers in the individual departments at ewb (such as Energy Management) had no way to independently enter their planning data. "You can't expect anyone who doesn't work with SAP on a daily basis to understand the SAP planning transactions," explains Stephan Mücher, Head of Controlling at Energie Wasser Bern. For that reason, only the Controlling department would enter planning data. The result was a single process in which important information from the individual departments frequently got lost. Thanks to Allevo, everything has changed. Since then, the cost center managers in the individual departments have been able to independently enter planning data, provide important information using the comment functions in Allevo, and make this information transparent for everyone involved.

## 110 cost center managers, one Allevo training session per year

The Allevo planning tool offers the 110 cost center managers at ewb an intuitive user interface that enables them to work independently. A single internal

training session per year is sufficient to ensure that all managers are up to date with the latest information. "Once a year we hold a training session for the budget process, where we show the planning managers how the tool works," says Stephan Mücher. "We've been providing this training for years and we've seen that the planning managers get on well with Allevo. There are some managers who attended the training once and are able to recall the knowledge year after year. Others come to the training every year, then briefly ask whether there are any changes compared to the previous year or whether they need to look at something specific."

### **Versatile, transparent and up-to-date Excel interface with SAP integration**

Because of the varied and specific applications at ewb, it was important to have a data entry interface for planning that was both versatile and transparent. Thanks to Allevo's satellite function, this is no longer a problem. This function enables planning managers to create different detailed plans and then to integrate them, including comments, into a single front end. "We have satellites for IT and consultant costs, among others. The corresponding daily rate, the number of consultant days and the service provider can be stored in the satellite. This gives us a higher density of information and means we have to ask fewer questions of the managers." Because all data from the Excel front end is directly integrated in SAP, the SAP system is always up to date. "The most important thing for me is the Allevo integration in SAP, where we can use up-to-date master and transaction data from SAP. This enables us to save planning data in SAP without having to switch media."

### **Customizable Excel front end: the Allevo Master**

Thanks to the detailed training that the Controlling department received when Allevo was introduced, the managers can now work independently with the Excel user interface, the Allevo Master. "In the beginning, of course, it took a bit of time to set up the Master, but we now have a very good handle on it and know where the possible pitfalls are," remarked Stephan Mücher. "We're usually able to do the necessary annual updates ourselves, or even make small improvements to the interface, because we know how the Master works." The Controlling department at ewb can make adjustments to the Allevo user interface as required and create an Excel front end that is tailored to the users. "If we do receive error messages in Allevo that we can't solve ourselves, we get help from

**"Allevo is a simple but powerful and extremely versatile tool for planning in SAP."**

*Stephan Mücher,  
Head of Controlling at  
Energie Wasser Bern*

**“Now that we use Allevo for our planning at ewb, we can't live without it. With all the benefits it provides, it's a really, really excellent tool.”**

*Stephan Mücher,  
Head of Controlling at  
Energie Wasser Bern*

Kern AG's consultants very quickly. So far this has worked very well." In other words, there's nothing to prevent the various managers from working independently with the planning interface. "I think most users find the software quite intuitive," says Stephan Mücher, Head of Controlling at Energie Wasser Bern.

#### **Benefits:**

- ✓ Comment function for transferring knowledge from the individual departments
- ✓ Facilitates independent working
- ✓ Little training required
- ✓ Customizable and intuitive Excel interface
- ✓ Excel integration directly in SAP