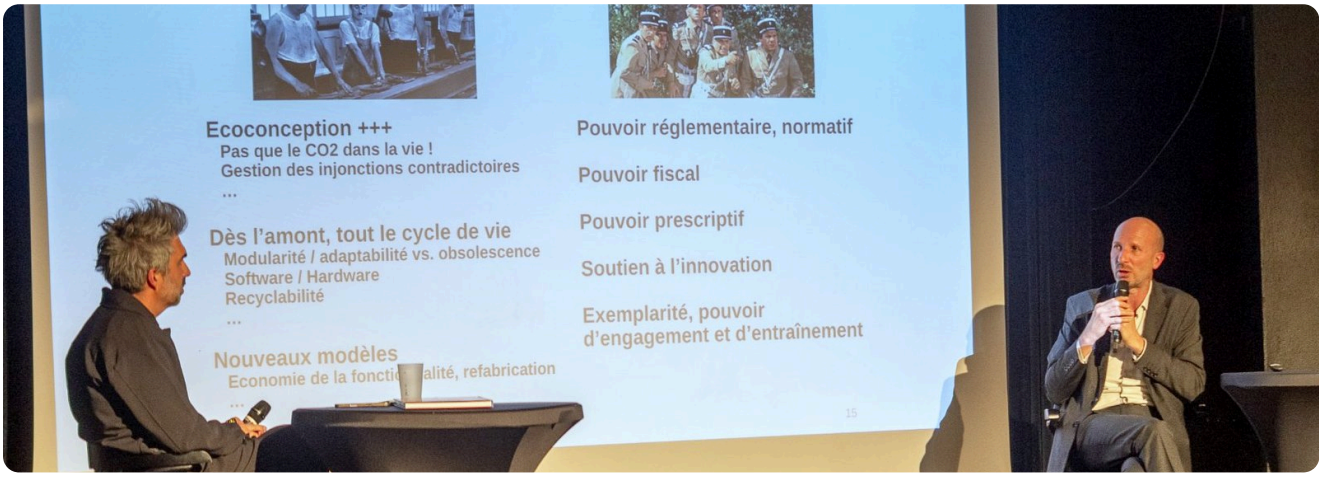
Press release

Lausanne, 23 November 2026

WILL BEE Innovation Award 2026: a third edition that delivered on its promise

On 16 November 2026, the Casino de Montbenon in Lausanne hosted the final of the third edition of the WILL BEE Innovation Award, led by the WOOD BEE association. Four prizes, worth CHF 12,000 in total, recognised sustainable construction projects drawn from 20 submissions from Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom.

A keynote on saving resources



From left to right: Frédéric Dreyer, Head of Innovation and Partnerships at EPFL, moderator, and Philippe Bihouix, Chief Executive Officer of AREP.

The evening opened with a keynote by Philippe Bihouix, Chief Executive Officer of AREP, on the question “Why and how should we save resources?”. The discussion was moderated by Frédéric Dreyer, Head of Innovation and Partnerships at EPFL.

From materials to completed projects, up to neighbourhood scale

Eleven finalists presented their project in 180 seconds to the jury and the audience. This edition confirms a shift in the submissions. New materials remain well represented: rice straw panels bound with mycelium, furniture made of sawdust bound with potato starch, and an urban tree pit in a bio-based composite containing coffee grounds. They are now joined by completed projects that put these innovations into practice, such as a neighbourhood centre in Lausanne, bus shelters in solid local timber and solid timber slabs that make use of crisis wood and bark beetle-damaged wood. Some candidates also worked at neighbourhood scale, with a governance and funding model for adaptable, low-carbon neighbourhoods.

Low-tech and high-tech projects shared the same stage. Construction in raw earth, lime-hemp and Vaud spruce, the reuse of glued laminated timber beams and dismountable, reusable tiling were presented alongside digital tools linking geometry, costs and life cycle assessment, and a robotic construction assistant for reclaimed timber and sawmill offcuts.

The 2026 winners

Development category	**Maison de quartier de la Louve**, Plaines-du-Loup, Lausanne Joud Beaudoin Architectes Presented by David Lenoir, City of Lausanne, jury member
Launch category	**ABEBAO**, dismountable and reusable tiling Sirak Aron Presented by Katell Bosser, Canton of Vaud (SPEI), jury member
Special Health prize	**SEED**, making living systems the raw material of an adaptable, low-carbon neighbourhood Sarah Schalles Presented by Séverine Vuilleumier, HES-SO La Source, jury member
Public's Favourite Award	**CBS CBT**, Dalle O'Portune KLIMA Jean-Luc Sandoz Presented by Claude Truffer, BCV, jury member

Three prizes were awarded by the juries. The Public's Favourite Award was decided by the public, through an online vote open to all 20 submitted projects from 3 to 16 November 2026. WOOD BEE thanks all the candidates for the quality of their submissions.

About WOOD BEE

Wood bee is a collaborative platform: a place for debate, training and exchange, a social network and a dynamic, interactive source of information. The association runs the WILL BEE Sustainable Innovation Award, dedicated to wood and bio- and geo-sourced materials.

Press contact

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Results and photos: www.woodbee.ch/en/willbee/results