

Pellets



Pellets for District Heating in Alpine Village and Resort

Central Europe's largest pellet based district heating (DH) plant has now fired-up in the Swiss Alpine village of Anzère. The German company Mann Naturenergie from Langenbach, Bavaria, commissioned the plant in October. With an installed capacity of 6.5 MW it is the largest such facility in Central Europe.

The Swiss Valais resort near the village is also connected to this environmentally friendly DH system. The entire system with two boilers, 1.7 km piping, household connections and heat exchangers cost 8.7 million Swiss francs, about 7 million Euro.

In the first phase approximately 600 apartments in 15 buildings are supplied with green heat. The next step is to connect another two hotels and a new wellness center with swimming pool to the DH network.

Passion

The CEO Mark Mann, a bioenergy pioneer in Germany and long time homeowner in this Swiss resort, has put lots of personal passion into the project.

The idea was born when it was necessary to replace many of the old oil boilers in the village.

Mark Mann brought a pellet-fired district heating system as an option to the discussions and

gained acceptance from the other homeowners. So a pellet-fired district heating system for the whole village at 1500 meters altitude became a reality.

Partners in this project were Albert Bétrisey from Ayent, the Swiss company CBA SA, and Bois Chauffage from the village. The two 3.5 MW boilers are from Weiss GmbH and the two km long pipe network from Brugg-Rohrsysteme. Responsible for the project was Mann Naturenergie GmbH & Co. KG

On a hillside

The DH plant is located about 350 meters from the village set in the hillside below an access road.

The fuel is delivered from the access road and tipped into one of the two pellet silos which can take 200 tons of pellets each. Using gravity the pellets are fed into the two boilers.

240 000 m³ water

The outgoing water is heated to between 80 to

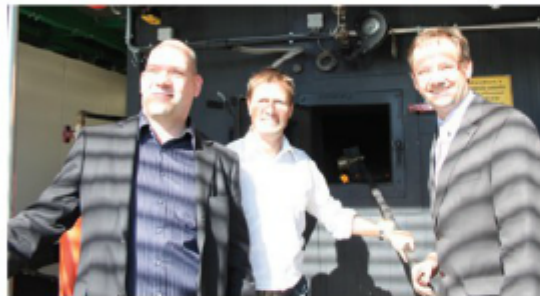
95 degrees°C and then pumped via the network to the various buildings. After transferring the heat via heat exchangers at the recipients, the return has a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees. The total volume of water circulating in the entire system is almost quarter of a million cubic metres.

Sustainable profile

The plant has a clear sustainable profile designed to be environmentally friendly in every respect, particularly important in a modern tourist resort.

The pellets are made from renewable wood, and transported from the Valley of Sion, located only 16 kilometers away.

The fuel cost is only half that of heating oil. Overall, the whole neighborhood is saving 1.8 million liters of oil. Both villagers and tourists can enjoy the pleasures of vacation with a clean environmental conscience and the area has become independent of fossil fuels.



Jean-Albert Ferrez (Kantons-Präsident), Albert Bétrisey (Co-Partner, MANN Energie Suisse), Markus Mann



Financing

53 percent of the shares belongs to Mann Naturenergie, the other 47 percent are in the hands of the house and flat owners themselves according to the motto "Energy supply in public hands".

The foundation for it has been already created in this Swiss village.

Based on a press release translated by Markku Björkman edited by Lennart Ljungblom

B155/2799/LLj

Maine's Jackson Laboratory installs biomass energy plant

The Jackson Laboratory, a genetics research facility in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA, has installed a new biomass energy center producing power from wood powder.

The \$4.4 million project was financed by the laboratory with the help of a \$1 million grant from the Efficiency Maine Trust.

It uses a powder technology developed by the Swedish company Petrokraft and is compatible with existing oil-fired boilers.

The wood pellets are milled into dust and fired in a similar fashion to liquid fuel.

The laboratory will store wood pellets on-site to be used as needed and converted into powder using a hammermill.

The system is expected to use about 11,000 tons of wood pellets per year.

The Petrokraft system is compatible with the laboratory's newly installed Babcock & Wilcox 1 MW boiler.

The boiler operates in parallel with the laboratory's existing energy plant.

The energy center will generate 2.2 million kWh of electricity at approximately 3 cents per kilowatt hour from wood powder. A total of 8 percent of the laboratory's annual electricity needs will be generated by the biomass facility.

B155/2736/LLj