

New “Clean Energy St. Moritz/Engadine” - Project (III):

Celerina heats with geothermal power

The comprehensive energy project, “Clean Energy Engadine/St Moritz” is being expanded.

This has encouraged the local company, Testa Group, to change to renewable energy sources. As a first measure, Nicol Hartmann AG, the construction division of the family-run company, has purchased a special drill to tap into and harness the natural heat located far below the earth’s surface. In keeping with the ecological goals of the project, the drill will be powered by bio-oil and fitted with a particle filter.

But this is just the beginning. Whenever possible, all building projects - property to be used as primary or secondary residences and rental units - will in future be heated with geothermal pumps. Both the contractor and property owners are convinced of the system’s potential since it does not rely on costly oil and drastically reduces carbon dioxide emissions. At present, geothermal heat pumps are used in eight apartment blocks and four single family dwellings in Celerina.

Around 200,000 litres of heating oil are being saved each year through the use of clean geothermal energy and locally-produced hydroelectricity at these few properties alone. Taking this kind of action will preserve the Engadine’s superior air quality and high living standards for future generations.

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