

New "Clean Energy St. Moritz/Engadine" - Project (I):

The lake's warm waters heat Badrutt's Palace Hotel St. Moritz

The world famous luxury hotel, Badrutt's Palace, and the neighbouring Grevas schoolhouse have entered a new, renewable energy partnership. Geothermal heat pumps are now being used to draw the warmth from Lake St. Moritz to heat the two buildings. The results are savings of up to 0.5 million litres of heating oil and an annual reduction of around 1,200 tons (-75%) of carbon dioxide emissions. Through the process, the lake loses 3% of its warmth, allowing it to freeze over earlier in the season. This benefits tourism since horse races, polo and cricket tournaments are held on the frozen lake each winter as they have been for decades.

The Energy Project scheme was drawn up in collaboration with the power company of the city of Zurich (ewz) which specialises in the planning, construction, execution and operation of such economical and ecological systems. Badrutt's Palace Hotel and St. Moritz consider environmental protection of the utmost importance and therefore it is their aim to preserve the superior air quality in the unique tourist region.

The innovative and ecological heating system is part of the comprehensive energy project "Clean Energy St. Moritz/Engadine" which promotes renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. St. Moritz is the highest place in Switzerland to have been awarded the government-supported label, Energiestadt (Energy City). Since it hosted the Alpine World Ski Championships in 2003, the resort has set new environmental and energy standards.

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