

Press release

Morges, 11th May 2023

Enerbois biomass plant

Romande Energie investing in a new pellet production line

Romande Energie will increase pellet production from September this year by investing CHF 2 million in a new pellet press within its existing Enerbois biomass plant. This is part of the Group's strategy to develop heat production and reflects wider plans to achieve net-zero for Western Switzerland.

The new production line for pellets will feature state-of-the-art technology for producing biomass feedstock. Thanks to these advanced processes, the production capacity of the Enerbois plant will be doubled. Romande Energie and the Zahnd sawmill forecast that output will rise from 19,000 to 22,000 tonnes annually in the initial stages. Thereafter, increases in tonnage will be limited solely by the volume of by-products from the sawmill.

Increasing capacity will help to meet the growing demand for pellets used in renewable heating systems, which was accelerated in 2022 by the threat of shortages and the rising price of gas. Compressed wood pellets offer an ecological and cost-effective alternative to fossil fuels such as gas and heating oil.

This project brings together a wide range of local stakeholders, both inside and outside the Group, including the plant operations team, the Romande Energie Services and Effitec subsidiaries, and local companies specialising in scaffolding, carpentry and materials handling. This project has been entrusted to engineers at Friedli for commissioning in September 2023.

Enerbois pellets fuelling the vital energy transition

Climate change requires that we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and end our dependence on fossil fuels. To expand domestic energy production, it is becoming increasingly urgent to develop renewable energy.

Romande Energie is committed to playing an active part in this vital transition to cleaner forms of energy. The expansion of the Enerbois plant is part of its overall strategy of investing in renewable heat production to reduce carbon emissions from heating installations in Western Switzerland.

Enerbois also demonstrates the principles of the circular economy by using wood by-products from the adjacent Zahnd sawmill to produce pellets, electricity and heat without the need for fossil fuels. To make pellets, sawdust is dried using the heat recovered from the combustion gases in the boiler. The process is powered by electricity supplied directly from the turbine. This distinguishes Enerbois pellets from others available on the market because they are made from local wood by-products and renewable electricity produced and used on site, resulting in a sustainable production chain that respects natural resources.

Enerbois is a tangible example of industrial ecology in action, storing energy and distributing it easily when needed. It reflects the environmental commitment of the business partners in this sustainable project.



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Romande Energie at a glance

The Romande Energie Group, the leading electricity supplier in Western Switzerland, is a mainstay in the domestic energy industry. It offers a range of sustainable solutions for the distribution and generation of electricity as well as energy services, including energy efficiency and e-mobility solutions.

All of its generation assets are powered by renewable energy sources. Through this, its innovative services and its sustainability policy, the Group is helping customers, investors and employees to achieve ever-improving standards of living. Romande Energie works every day to provide its customers with the high quality of service and security of supply they expect and to help them make the transition to more sustainable forms of energy to reduce the carbon intensity of Western Switzerland.

For more information, visit
www.romande-energie.ch