



## PRESS NOTE

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### ENGIE ITALIA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIELLA TOGETHER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK: BETTER AIR QUALITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Equivalent to the carbon dioxide absorbed by 200,000 trees, the CO<sub>2</sub> not emitted into the atmosphere in Biella thanks to the district heating network of ENGIE Italia.

ENGIE Italia, player in energy and services, which manages the plant in the city, is reaching more and more neighborhoods with the district network. The citizens served are now about one in two. "The advantages on the environmental side resulting from the extension of the network that, worksite by worksite, reaches more and more areas of the city are evident," explains the mayor Marco Cavicchioli. It is also thanks to this project that Biella has cleaner air than in the past".

The data, presented today, March 6 during a press conference at the Oropa Palace, also confirm the high quality of the air in Biella, also thanks to the project developed by ENGIE. In fact, in the first two months of 2019, the level of fine dust in the control unit in via Don Sturzo exceeded only for two days the ceiling value of 50 micrograms per cubic metre of daily average. And it happened in winter, with the heating systems in operation that notoriously worsen the quality of the air, and moreover in a period of dry weather. "There is no doubt," says Environment Councillor Diego Presa, "that district heating is one of the factors that have contributed to the improvement of these data.

The boilers of condominiums and buildings that have been switched off thanks to the spread of the district heating network are 240, half methane gas and half diesel or other fuel oil. Of these, 78% are residential users, but the list of public buildings reached by the pipelines is constantly increasing: the municipal offices of Palazzo Oropa and Palazzo Pella, the Biblioteca Civica and the Biblioteca Ragazzi, Villa Schneider, the Museo del Territorio, the secondary schools Salvemini and Marconi, the primary schools of the Village la Marmora, Pietro Micca, Gromo Cridis and Collodi, various kindergartens and nurseries, the Belletti Bona, the La Marmora-Pozzo stadium, the sports hall in Via Paietta, the Basilica of San Sebastiano.

The network is expanding in these days in the area between Via Pietro Micca and Piazza Martiri and Via Gramsci, the Sports Village and the San Paolo district. "These are interventions that require deep geological excavations," recalls Sergio Leone, Councillor for Public Works. "And for this reason it is necessary to limit the circulation to cars even for long periods. But in the face of the discomfort, we have an advantage for users and for the whole city from the environmental point of view. As for the digging, ENGIE will also take care of restoring the road surface to a state of the art, once the land will be consolidated under the temporary patch. This is the process that has occurred, for example, in recent





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months in the area of Via Arnulfo, first the subject of excavations and then resurfaced from top to bottom. Now it's like a new one".

*"We are committed to two different fronts: the fight against climate change and the impact that pollution has on health," said Matthieu Bonvoisin, Director of District Heating and Cogeneration ENGIE Italy. "Technologies and innovations come to our aid and among these, district heating which, by using advanced systems more efficient than traditional ones, improves the quality of the air in cities. For Biella, we expect an annual reduction in CO2 emissions into the atmosphere of 25%," said Bonvoisin. "By the end of the year, 50% of the city's population will be connected to our district heating network and those who have chosen to join will benefit, not only from the economic savings provided by the reduction in the cost of energy, but also from a safer service, available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day."*

Supporting companies and the community in their climate challenge is ENGIE's 2019 - 2021 strategy, driven by the ambition to be a leader in the zero carbon transition.

As a local architect, ENGIE in Italy has carried out energy efficiency projects in about 10,000 buildings including 3,500 schools and 21 universities. It operates in over 300 municipalities and manages more than 450,000 lighting points, 12 district heating networks and 20 cogeneration plants. ENGIE guarantees advanced services and digital technologies to help people to consume less and better. ENGIE offers families, condominiums and SMEs 100% green energy.

#### **ENGIE**

ENGIE, a global player in energy and services, operates through three main activities: the production of electricity from sources with low carbon dioxide emissions (in particular natural gas and renewable energy), energy infrastructure and customer solutions. ENGIE has the ambition to lead the zero carbon transition and addresses the major global challenges - combating global warming, access for all to energy, mobility - by offering public, corporate and private customers, energy production solutions and services that reconcile individual and collective interests. The Group's integrated, low-carbon, high-performance and sustainable offerings are based on the use of digital technologies. Moreover, ENGIE's solutions go beyond energy because they are able to promote new uses and new lifestyles and work styles. ENGIE's ambition is shared daily by the 160,000 employees working in 70 countries who, together with customers and partners, form a creative community of architects who imagine and build solutions for tomorrow today.

ENGIE in Italy offers comprehensive offers on the entire energy value chain, from supply to services, with particular attention to innovative products and solutions of energy efficiency and integrated management. With over 3,000 employees in more than 50 offices throughout the country, ENGIE in Italy is the first operator in energy services, the second in gas sales (wholesale market), the third operator in district heating and public lighting and fifth in electricity. ENGIE is present in all segments, from residential to tertiary, public and private, up to small and large industry. In Italy, ENGIE has 6 wind farms, 5 solar photovoltaic farms and 3 biomass plants, for a total of 175.8 MW. A capacity that ENGIE intends to increase more and more, through acquisitions and development of new projects.

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