

## The Energy Community Pilot Project - Primiero San Martino di Castrozza



The Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza decided to make the most of the peculiarities of this territory and tools, administrative and technical, already existing to create the Energy Community of Primiero-Vanoi. A network of interconnected actions, able to stimulate the attention and local interest and capable of creating an atmosphere of unity among the people involved in the system (businesses, communities, the political environment). Thanks to the participation of 10,000 citizens and the involvement of all of the Province of Trento, the Administration of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza proposed the creation of the Energy Community of Primiero-Vanoi, where in fact 12,000 electrical users (POD) and about 2,650 thermal users of individual real estate units are connected.

On the territory of the Community of Primiero Vanoi, to date, there are 8 hydroelectric plants (of which 4 are built on municipal aqueducts) for a total installed power of about 90 MW and an average annual production of about 330 GWh and 3 biomass district heating plants wood with a total thermal power of 35 MW and electricity from cogeneration of 1 MW, associated with thermal accumulators for a total power of 18.6 MW, producing approximately 42 GWh of thermal energy and 5 GWh of electricity from cogeneration per year. To these are added about 150 photovoltaic plants with a total installed power of over one MW (of which about 5 with storage). All this to satisfy approximately 45 GWh against an electricity production from renewable sources obtained with local plants equal to approximately 330.

This is joined by the project linked to the production of biogas produced from zootechnical waste aimed at reducing the use of fossil fuels for heating buildings. And the policies of promoting the installation of photovoltaic systems, now predominant, accompanied by a ban on the construction of "ground systems" in production areas, in order to limit the use of free land.

It should be noted that only 10% of the energy produced by the mix of renewable sources is used to meet the Community's electricity needs. The remainder is sold to the national network, contributing to the national mix. The energy system based on renewable sources has led over time to various advantages for the Municipality of Primiero San Martino di Castrozza, even before the start of experimentation by the Energy Community. These include the improvement of local air quality, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the reduction of fossil fuel costs and the reduction of bill costs. Collectivizing the energy system has led to a reduction in costs, for example those related to the maintenance of production plants. The future goal of the Administration is to transform the Primiero Valley from a laboratory to a real Energy Community in which all integrated social, environmental and cultural activities are developed.