In Stöckacker Süd, the city of Bern is building a development of great architectural standing and making a decisive contribution to the renewal of an urban neighbourhood. The developers’ goal is to build an ecological site that is commercially viable and socially responsible over the long term. Stockacker Süd meets the requirements of MINERGIE-P-ECO and the targets of the 2000-Watt Society. The new residential buildings are a model of high-density construction, which is increasingly the norm in urban residential areas. The 146 modern dwellings they offer – a mix of 32 apartments for the elderly, 26 town houses and 88 apartments – will replace a complex of 106 apartments dating from the 1940s and in need of renovation.

The site is being developed in line with the requirements of the 2000-Watt Society. Convincing features include a well-laid-out network of pathways for non-motorized traffic and excellent connections to the public transport system. The city will also arrange a dedicated car-sharing service for future tenants, in pursuit of a cost-effective, sustainable mobility concept: one shared car replaces up to nine privately owned vehicles and thereby also helps maintain precious green spaces. Since there is hardly any need for parking places, an attractive external environment can be created. Other features adding to the new site’s positive identity are diverse natural elements, actively designed gardens and possibilities for social interaction.

An outstanding example of modern urban development

Stockacker Süd is an innovative residential renewal site in the west of the city that constitutes an outstanding example of responsible modern urban development in the long-term. At the site, the city of Bern is once again acting as an independent contractor – by coincidence, in the same place where it last did so, about 70 years ago – replacing an entire existing residential area with a new one. The new range of classic and complimentary types of dwelling will house middle-class families, elderly people and people with an urban lifestyle. The city has also taken account of the needs of the physically impaired, and all the apartments are obstacle-free. In addition, most of the future one-and-half- to six-and-a-half-room apartments will be rented at moderate rates. Bern’s voters approved the project by a strong majority twice in 2012 (land use plan and building loan).
Status of the project

- In 2008 and 2009, the city of Bern ran an architectural competition. The detailed plans of the winning design were completed in 2011.
- A clear majority of Bern’s voters approved the land use plan and the building loan for Stöckacker Süd in two separate votes in 2012.
- The old site was demolished in 2013.
- Construction work on the new site started in the spring of 2014.
- The first apartments are expected to be ready for habitation in the spring of 2016.

Highlights

- The Stockacker Süd site is equipped exclusively with certified green energy and heating installations that use renewable energy.
- All new buildings are being constructed to comply with the MINERGIE-P-ECO standard.
- The city of Bern has also launched a research project, "Integrated Water and Biomass Use", with a view to developing new technologies and innovations for decentralized waste water management and for ecological site development.
- By developing the site by means of a participative and family-friendly process, the city of Bern is playing a pioneering role.

What does the ‘2,000-Watt Site’ certificate represent?

Certificates for ‘2,000-Watt Sites’ are awarded to housing developments that use resources sustainably in the construction, operation and renovation of their buildings, and in the traffic they generate.

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and the ‘Energiestadt’ association award this certificate in two stages, the first being for ‘Sites under development’. The next stage is reached when construction has progressed to the point that at least half of the total living space is in use. The development is then considered a ‘Site in operation’ and can apply for a new ‘2,000-Watt Site’ certificate. Actual operating values are then measured to determine whether the Site fulfils the necessary criteria for certification.

This certification was developed as part of the SwissEnergy programme, with which the SFOE promotes national energy policy implementation, specifically in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Through a sub-programme called SwissEnergy for municipalities, the SFOE systematically supports projects on a communal level.