A vision of town planning is becoming a reality in the Sihl valley at the foot of the Uetliberg, just a few minutes by train from Zurich city centre: Greencity is the first site in Zurich to have been developed consistently in line with the objectives of the 2000-Watt Society. In Greencity, the ways in which people live, work and engage in sustainable environmentally aware action have blended to create a new form of urban lifestyle. Apartments for singles, couples, families and senior citizens, plenty of shops and a school, in combination with attractive service buildings, all serve to bring about an inspiring and future-oriented site.

All of the buildings are being constructed by Losinger Marazzi AG to the very latest energy standards. The aim for residential buildings is the Minergie Renovation and Minergie(-P)-ECO label, and for offices, the label LEED Core & Shell in Platinum. Greencity is designed to run on 100% renewables. Rooftop photovoltaic modules will provide carbon-neutral power, including for residential and office buildings. This means that the sustainability targets will be met long after construction is finished, when the buildings become operational. A listed spinning mill bears witness to the site’s past.

In terms of mobility, Greencity also provides a perfect combination of environmentally aware lifestyle and convenience. Trains departing from the on-site commuter train station whisk travellers to the city centre in just 5 minutes, and to Zurich's main railway station in only 8 minutes. Greencity is a model and an example for the city of the future, one which will have a ripple effect reaching far beyond the city limits. In the autumn of 2012, Greencity was certified as Switzerland’s first ‘2000-Watt Site’ by the ‘Energiestadt’ association. It received a second distinction in 2015.

Losinger Marazzi AG’s objective is to carry out only projects that strive to earn the latest and most demanding labels in the field of sustainable construction. In addition, we advocate the development of sites on the basis of the 2000-Watt Society. The Greencity project has set a benchmark and become a reference model for sustainable and forward-looking site development across Switzerland. The specifications for the 2000-Watt Society were incorporated into the overall development of Greencity at a very early stage, making Greencity a pilot project for the label. At the same time, it stands as a successful example of cooperative development and urban planning with the competent authorities, the city and the canton of Zurich.
Status of the project

In 2002, the cooperative development plan was concluded between the owners and the city of Zurich.

At the beginning of 2011, the site plan and the private design plan came into force, followed by the planning application in 2013.

The demolition work started in August 2014.

April 2015: Buildings permits were issued for all of the 731 apartments and for the three office and service buildings (Vergé and Pergamin I + II). Construction work began.

The target is to finish Greencity, by stages, by 2020.

Highlights

• Losinger Marazzi AG is constructing the residential buildings to the Minergie (Renovation) and Minergie(-P)-ECO standards; offices are being built to meet the requirements of the LEED Core & Shell in Platinum.

• Once completed, Greencity will be supplied 100% with renewable energy for heating and cooling.

• In order to make the possible use of waste heat, the site entered an innovative energy-contracting with the ewz.

• A central heating unit as well as groundwater well systems and fields of geothermal probes constitute the heart of the area’s energy supply.

• Photovoltaic installations produce 20% of electricity on site.

• Because it has its own bus and commuter train stops, Greencity is well integrated into the public transport system.

Results 2000-Watt set of criteria

The spider chart shows the percentage of Greencity’s potential that is being exploited. In order to obtain ‘2000-Watt Sites’ certification, at least 50% of the potential must be exploited.

In 2015, Greencity was exploiting 62% of its potential.

Certificates for ‘2000-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 ‘2000-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.

What does the ‘2000-Watt Site’ certificate represent?

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