



Press release  
14 December 2020

## **Biomass, a local and renewable energy source, comes just at the right time to heat the residents of Aurillac this winter!**

On 1st October, the new biomass boiler room for the town of Aurillac was put into operation by Aurillac Chaleur Bois, a 100% ENGIE Solutions subsidiary. With it, the town opens up a new chapter towards energy greening for Aurillac inhabitants, who now benefit from a network supplied with 85% renewable and local energy for their heating and domestic hot water. ENGIE Solutions teams are now pursuing a two-fold objective: to connect new buildings to this source of virtuous energy and roll out a new extension of the network.

### **A growing virtuous heating network**

Currently supplying 60 substations in Aurillac, the biomass boiler room can heat numerous strategic buildings, such as the Tronquières Medical Centre, the Qualipac industrial company, the Cantal Habitat leasing company, the building of the Sécurité Sociale and communal infrastructures such as the Jordane and Tivoli schools. In addition, over 70 apartment buildings have also been connected to the network. Connections in the Ponetie neighbourhood, the town centre and the station neighbourhood will be provided respectively by the end of 2020 and in Q1 2021.

Trials began in September. The first wood-fired boiler, with power a capacity of 3.5 MW, has been supplying the network since October. The second, with 6.5 MW, has been operational since the start of December and supplies all of the connected substations with green energy.

In parallel to these connections, Aurillac Chaleur Bois is continuing to develop the network and will build 36 additional substations, for a final network of 180 stations and covering a length of 22 km. In term, the equivalent of 4,400 housing units will be able to benefit from virtuous heating, both in economic and environmental terms.

### **Biomass: speeding up the transition to carbon neutrality**

Supplying the boiler room with biomass, a local and renewable resource, makes it possible to provide energy that will guarantee heat to network subscribers at a competitive and stable price, not subject to the price fluctuations of fossil energies. In addition, this energy choice brings about a reduction of 13,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year, i.e. the equivalent of 5,000 diesel vehicles.

Thus, the construction of this boiler room - a carbon-free solution that meets the challenges of the fight against global warming - allows the town of Aurillac to speed up its transition towards a carbon-neutral economy while supporting the creation of local jobs in the Cantal wood branch that cannot be relocated.

With strong financial backing from ADEME and ENGIE Solutions, the sum invested in this virtuous project is €17 M. The work will be carried out by companies in the Aurillac area to boost the local economy.

**[Watch the timelapse video of the boiler room's construction here!](#)**

**Key figures:**

- **17** jobs created in the wood branch
- **22** km of network
- **4,400** equivalent housing units supplied by the boiler room
- **85%** of heat produced by biomass
- **13,000** tonnes of CO2 avoided per year

**Press Contact:**

Cécile DE BENTZMANN – [cecile.de-bentzmann@engie.com](mailto:cecile.de-bentzmann@engie.com) – +33 (0)6 03 18 97 73

**About the town of Aurillac**

For many years, through its local Agenda 21 and the Sustainable Development Conferences it initiated, the Municipality of Aurillac has wanted to promote collective and concrete actions for the sustainable development of our territory.

With the creation of a wood-fired boiler room and the inherent heating network, the Municipality of Aurillac once again makes a commitment to the environment and to its citizens.

In fact, this project proposes a heating mode with social interest and that is more environmentally respectful: less costly and less polluting energy; reinforced Cantal wood branch; construction of the network and the boiler room by local companies.

The town of Aurillac is concerned about the quality of life of its inhabitants and makes a long-term commitment through protecting its environment.

**About Aurillac Chaleur Bois**

Aurillac Chaleur Bois (ACB) is a 100% subsidiary of ENGIE Solutions created in compliance with the specifications for the construction and operation of the heating network of the town of Aurillac, providing transparency and control of the heating network's operating costs.

**About ENGIE Solutions**

ENGIE Solutions supports cities, industries and tertiary sector companies by providing them with answers to the challenge of the energy transition through turnkey and tailor-made offers.

ENGIE Solutions' experts bring all their know-how to bear on achieving three goals: optimising the use of energy and resources; greening energy and reinventing living and working environments.

ENGIE Solutions is the promise of a single point of contact and a combination of complementary offers going beyond energy. Our 50,000 employees are committed to results and with 900 locations, they operate throughout France. They are capable of intervening in a wide range of fields ranging from design to operation of infrastructures & services, including financing, installation and maintenance.

ENGIE Solutions is part of the ENGIE group, a global industry leader in low-carbon energy and services, the ambition of which is to act to accelerate the transition to a carbon-neutral world. Turnover: 10 billion euros

Read more: <http://www.engie-solutions.com>

