Towards new forms of energy
A new energy scenario

The way energy is produced is changing. The development of renewable sources, the use of energy efficient solutions and increasingly widespread environmental awareness are bringing about a transformation of the entire energy sector. The traditional model, which saw energy being produced by large power stations, has been superseded by "distributed generation", in which renewable resource power plants, spread out across the country, play a crucial role. In a scenario where consumption is on the decline and the role of renewables is growing, the moment has come to think about the future of those thermal power stations which have either already ceased to play a role in the energy system or will soon do so.

Enel has chosen to take the lead in the transition towards a more sustainable model with Futur-e, a program to redevelop the sites of 23 thermal power stations that are no longer competitive on the domestic energy market, with approximately 13 GW of total installed power. The goal is to envision new uses for the sites of these power stations, finding solutions and projects that look beyond the limits of the energy sector and which fit the criteria of innovation and of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

Open Power, a new philosophy

This approach is in line with Enel’s new vision for OPEN POWER, which sees the company focusing on working together with local communities to give these stations new functions that can meet the concrete needs of local areas and their people. A process that creates shared value hinges on a willingness to listen, engage in dialogue and get involved. For Enel the time has come to breathe life into a new era, where energy is more of an open, shared element, interconnected with everything that surrounds it. This is the basis of Open Power, the new platform for development that combines the strength of the Group’s global organization with the opportunities of a world that is rapidly changing. This transformation – also expressed by a revitalized visual image – aims to make infrastructures more versatile in order to maximize the value of these assets for the benefit of people, partners and shareholders.
Thanks to their strategic positions and to the presence of structures, buildings, spaces and connections, Future sites represent an industrial heritage that can once again be developed. Enel’s project has been recognized as a best practice in the field of Circular Economy, including by international organizations such as the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Each plant is a piece of our heritage to be developed

Enel is working with local communities to give these power stations a sustainable future. A willingness to listen and engage in dialogue, combined with the principles of circular economy, forms the cornerstones of a process that creates shared value for the local area and its people.
International competitions, workshops, round-table discussions: the paths to bringing new life to these plants are many, but what they all have in common is the desire to identify, on a case-by-case basis, solutions that local communities can believe in.

**INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COMPETITION**

In order to seek out projects and the investors who are willing and ready to make them a reality, Enel has created a competition involving local institutions and technical partners. Potential investors present their proposals to purchase and redevelop sites. These are evaluated by a Jury composed of representatives of Enel, local institutions, and the university sphere. Only projects that meet the criteria of sustainability, innovation and circular economy – and which are considered a suitable fit for their local community’s needs – are allowed to move on to final negotiations for the sale of the site. The sites chosen to participate in the competition include Trino, Porto Tolle, Bastardo, Montalto di Castro and Rossano.
Meetings and round tables are held in Italy and abroad to engage in dialogue with institutions, experts and private individuals, each of whom can contribute to the success of this initiative, helping to build a path towards the redevelopment of these power stations. All of this is part of the Futur-e agenda. Working towards a shared goal is the key to transforming the potential problem represented by the rapid and radical change in the energy industry into an opportunity for everyone.

Today, Futur-e, launched in 2015, represents a concrete method for determining sustainable futures for power stations being decommissioned. The company has chosen to implement it at other sites as well, such as Santa Barbara, a former lignite mine on an area of approximately 1,600 hectares, close to the hills of Chianti and just a short distance from Florence. Here, research into the economic context, urban planning and the expectations of the local community will allow us to establish the development scenarios and action areas needed to launch the competition, which will involve specific areas, in a manner compatible and consolidated with pre-existing projects for the former mine.
For further information and to participate in the redevelopment process: futur-e.it