

at Palazzo Bandino we use chips as one and only power source

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Saturday, 05 January 2013 09:50 - Last Updated Wednesday, 09 January 2013 12:34



About one year ago, we started using woodchips as fuel for producing hot water for the bathrooms and for heating the farmhouse.

After a first period of adaptation during which we tested this new system, we bought a machinery to transform wood in chips, small woodchips to be burnt in a boiler.

Hence, the wood we gather by trimming the vineyard, the olive grove and the garden is put in the woodchipper together with the cleaning-up of the moats and the waste wood we have. First, the real success of our system is that we use material that otherwise would have been considered a waste and should have been disposed; furthermore, we produce such an amount of energy which widely meets the needs of the entire farm. And, the needs are many: hot water and heating for 9 apartments, 4 rooms and ours, besides the heating (at a mean temperature of 35 degrees) in the spa with 2 Jacuzzis of which one is in the outside at a mean temperature of 37.5 degrees.

The economic aspect of the management was absolutely satisfying: we consumed about 1.5 cubic metres of chips at day, unexpectedly saving more compared to the traditional power sources (gas, diesel oil and electricity).

Furthermore, we should consider the great satisfaction in using a natural and scented fuel, instead of an oil by-product, cause of fighting all over the world. Can this aspect be assessed in terms of money? About 2 square meters of chips (more or less the daily consumption of our structure). To chips, we have to add the (potential) production of 20 Kilowatts with solar panels. I'm less excited about this issue since I do not know much about the economic returns of a huge investment that potentially should be balanced in 7/8 years. It is a calculation made on financing gave by different bodies and I feel I don't like it.

The chips are stored in a room near the boiler, ready to be burnt.