AstaReal kickstarts heat recovery project

Algae cultivation provides energy for 2,000-2,500 households in Gustavsberg, Sweden

AstaReal, the global pioneer in natural astaxanthin production and related research, has elevated its sustainability efforts to the next level. Thanks to a cooperation with the energy utility Vattenfall, the company is now using excess heat from its facility in Gustavsberg, Sweden, to feed the local district heating network. As a result, the production of microalgae-derived astaxanthin, known for its scientifically proven health benefits, is now supplying heat for 2,000-2,500 households.

"We want to produce astaxanthin as sustainably as possible, and so utilising excess heat for the benefit of local residents takes us one step further towards this goal," says Peter Worsöe, CEO of AstaReal AB. In its facility in Gustavsberg, AstaReal cultivates the microalgae *Haematococcus pluvialis* from which it derives astaxanthin, one of the nature's most powerful antioxidants. The excess heat from algae cultivation can provide 20% of the annual heating needs of Gustavberg's residents, which equates to more than fifteen million kilowatt hours of heat per year. This heat has been harnessed with the help of Vattenfall, AstaReal's long-term partner for energy solutions, which has developed and installed the state-of-the-art heat recovery facility.

Resource-efficient indoor production

AstaReal processes its algae indoors under controlled hygienic conditions using specially designed photobioreactors that allow for optimal growth. The cultivation requires light and cooling, which in AstaReal's Gustavsberg plant is driven by fossil-free electricity from Vattenfall. The plant has also been recently equipped with a more climate-friendly refrigerant.

Choosing indoor over outdoor cultivation contributes to an efficient use of space and avoids plants being negatively impacted by weather conditions, animals or pollutants. In line with the company's sustainability goals, AstaReal continually monitors and improves energy efficiency in all its production facilities, including those in the USA and Japan. The plant in Moses Lake (USA), for example, uses renewable hydroelectric power from the Columbia River. Furthermore, AstaReal uses carbon accounting to record its greenhouse gas emissions within the boundaries set by The Greenhouse Protocol, and wants to become carbon neutral by March 2026.

For further information, please visit: **http://www.astareal.se**

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AstaReal AB is part of the AstaReal Group, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japanese pharmaceutical company Fuji Chemical Industries Co. Ltd. The Group uses AstaReal® as the global brand name for its natural algal astaxanthin products. As a worldwide pioneer and expert in natural astaxanthin production, R&D and clinical science, the company offers a variety of specialized astaxanthin formats to help meet customer requirements when developing dietary supplements, sports nutrition products, cosmetics and animal feed. AstaReal AB is ISO 9001, HACCP, FSSC 22000, Informed Ingredient, Kosher, and Halal certified, and carries the Vegan Trademark for its bulk products. The company's roots trace back to the prestigious Uppsala University, Sweden. Successfully proven benefits of natural astaxanthin for human health encouraged the scientists there to establish AstaReal's first production facility in Gustavsberg, Sweden, in the early 1990s. In 1995, AstaReal AB launched Astaxin® – the first human nutritional supplement containing a natural source of astaxanthin. Today, AstaReal produces natural astaxanthin at facilities in Sweden and the USA. AstaReal AB offers private labelling, and is open to co-branding and joint product development.
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