
A TOWN THAT PRODUCES ENERGY FROM DATA

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13 : 09 : 2018 Placemaking : Future Cities : Sustainability



The Spark by Snohetta

Norway – Now under construction near Bergen, the new town of Lyseparken will include a data centre whose excess heat will be redirected to warm surrounding businesses. ‘Our first goal was to make a self-sufficient area by using local, renewable resources,’ Fredrik Seliussen, project lead for the local municipality of Os, told Fast Company. ‘After we had theoretically solved this...we decided to go further to the next level. The goal was not to be carbon neutral—but it might be the result of our business model.’

An increasingly common site across the globe, such centres require huge amounts of electricity to cool their massed ranks of servers, the heat from which is usually simply vented into the atmosphere. Instead of using a traditional fanned-based cooling system, the Lyseparken centre will use liquid to transfer heat to nearby businesses, where it will be piped through the floor. The buildings that require the most heat will be located closest to the centre.

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