

Popularizing district heating with high shares of RES

Subject:	Popularize district heating with high shares of RES
Description:	Questionnaires and offer of consulting for district heating operators
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Document download:	www.solar-district-heating.eu/

Summary description of the instrument

Region: Styria (Austria)

Partners involved: AEE INTEC, Land Steiermark, SOLID

In the region of Styria, there are around 600 district heating plants. Some of them are operated by large companies, but the majority is owned and operated by small entities, e.g. farmer cooperatives. The latter don't have own engineering departments or employees who have know-how about planning of solar thermal plants. Therefore a cost free consultancy on integration of solar thermal plants will be offered. In order to advertise for this offer in a target-oriented way, project partner Regional Government of Styria will send out a questionnaire to all heating plant and heating grid operators.

Initial situation

Most Styrian district heating operators are aware of the theoretical option of solar district heating for their grids. But they lack knowledge about practical steps towards implementation.

Also, winters were quite warm in recent years and heat sales decreased. This impaired the willingness and ability of heating plant operators to invest in new facilities like solar plants.



Fig. 1: Eibiswald district heating plant, a solar thermal frontrunner in Styria



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Objectives

Increase the knowledge about solar district heating both in technical and economic terms, e.g. funding opportunities. And increase of willingness of district heating plant operators to invest in solar district heating plants.

Measures and actions

A survey among district heating operators is conducted including technical specifications of the plants. Also a broader and deeper consulting on solar thermal integration is offered. Thus the questionnaire raises the knowledge about solar thermal district heating among all recipients and those who answer and make use of the consulting offer may even end up with installing a solar thermal district heating system. The questionnaire was elaborated and there was a test trial with some persons. Mailing is planned for July 2017. A pre-feasibility study will be offered to all those who are interested in a solar thermal plant. The results will be explained in personal consultation. Also the investment subsidy of climate and energy funds will be explained. In addition there is a mailing to district heating operators and planners in cooperation with Austrian federal solar thermal industry association 'Austriasolar' for promoting the subsidy scheme 'Large scale solar thermal plants' of the Austrian Climate Fund in order to increase knowledge about the possibilities and procedures among heating plant operators. The subsidy scheme is also promoted via magazines and postings in order to inform about the possibility to install solar thermal plants for district heating.

Barriers and opportunities

The willingness of DH operators to answer questionnaires is limited as there was another survey already conducted some month before by the Austrian biomass federation.

Results

Available soon.

Lessons learned

Available soon.

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