

*Pinus sylvestris*  
143

Horicm

A

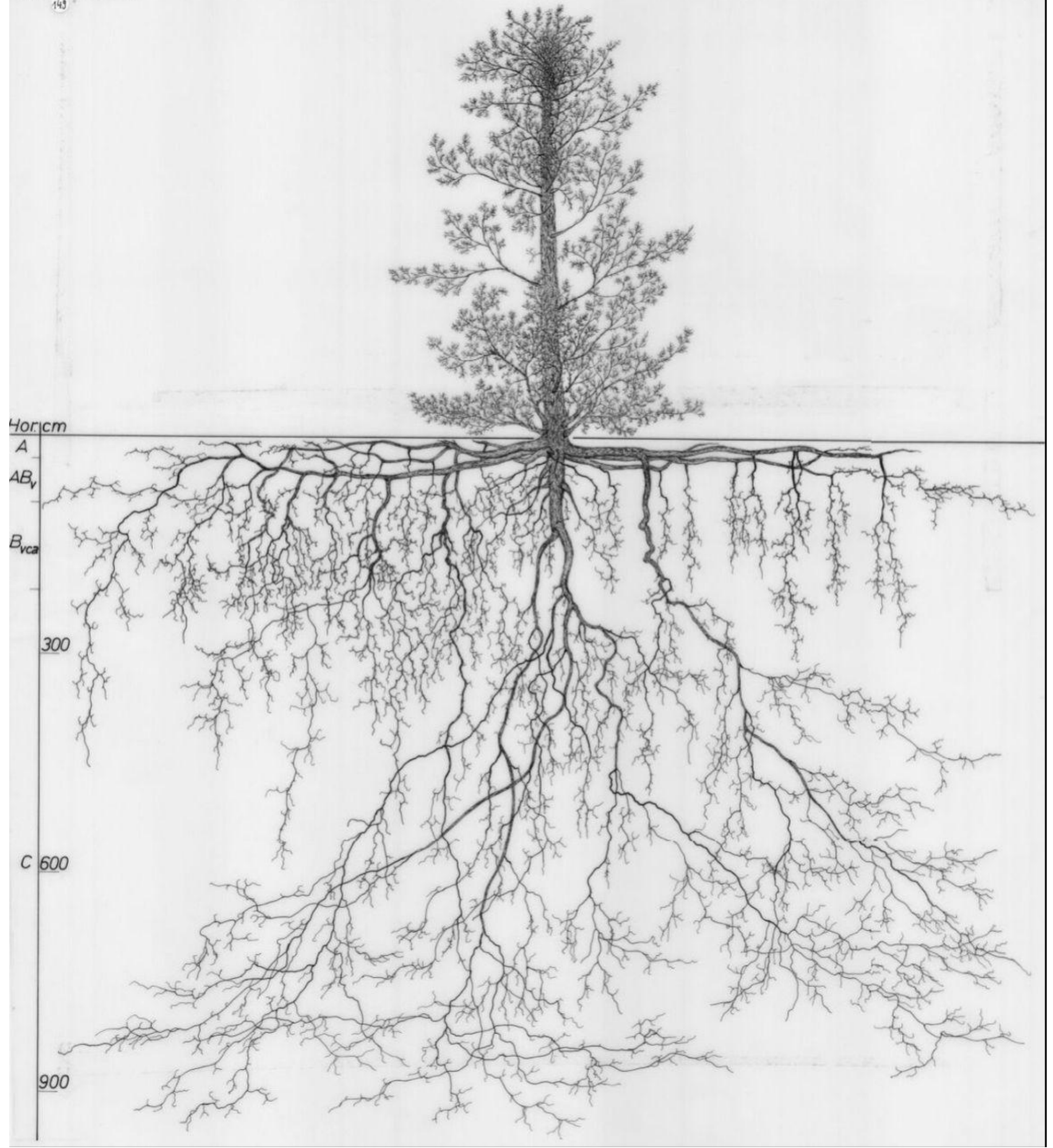
AB<sub>v</sub>

B<sub>vca</sub>

300

C 600

900



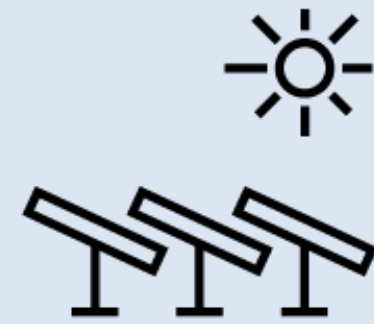
# Transformation of District Heating and Cooling Systems towards high share of renewables

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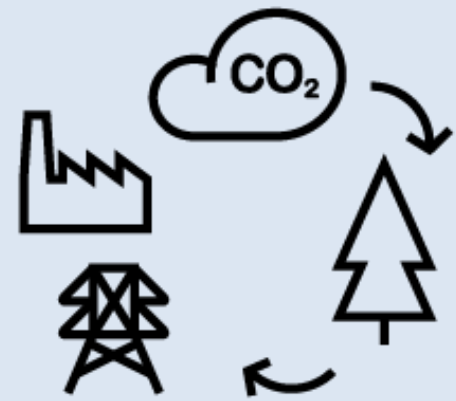
Thomas Pauschinger, Heiko Huther (AGFW, GER)  
Alice Dénarié (Politecnico di Milano, IT)  
Per-Alex Sörensen (Planenergi, DK)  
Michael Salzmann, Ingo Leusbrock (AEE INTEC, AUT)

# District heating as energy hub

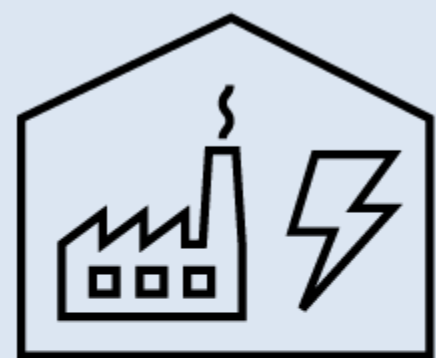
## Renewable heat sources



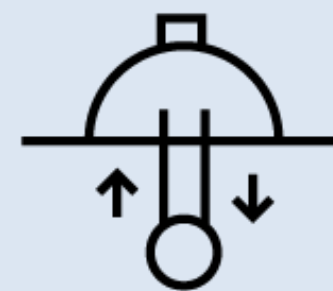
Solar Thermal Heat



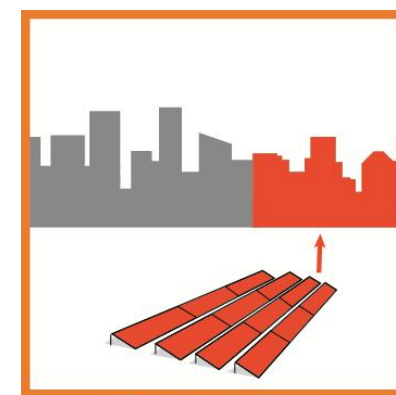
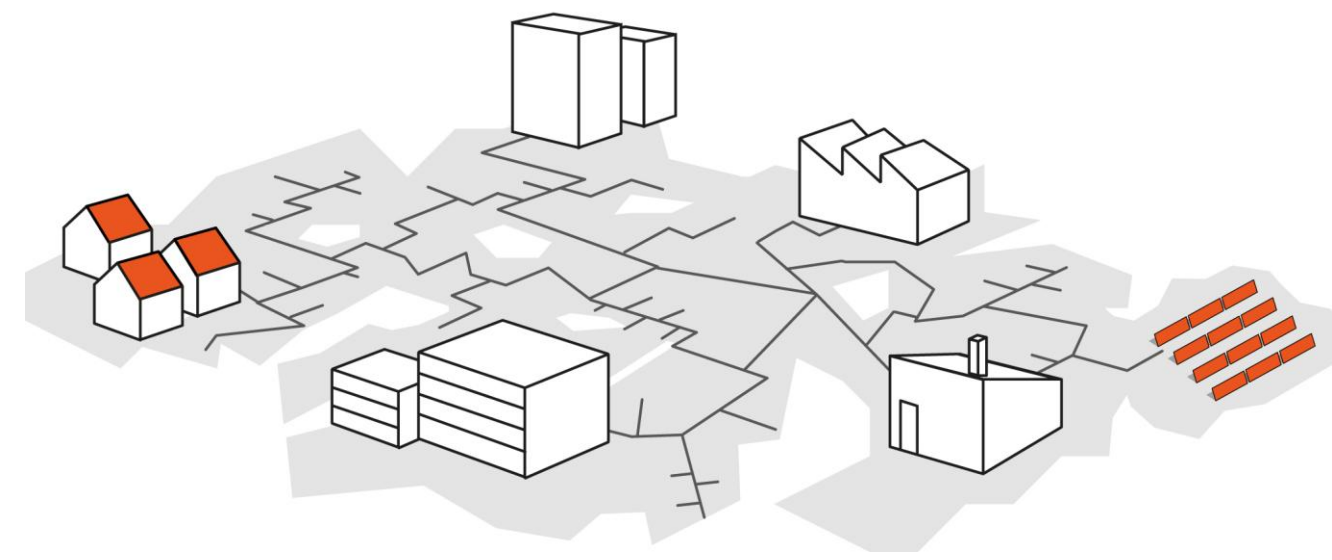
(Biomass) CHP Plant



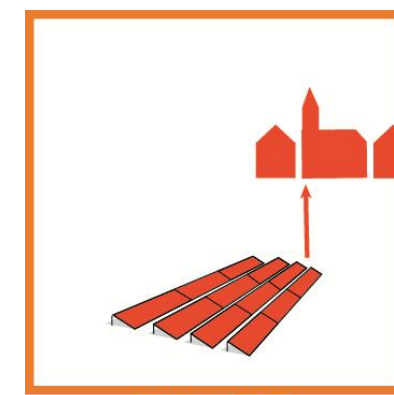
Biomass CHP  
(decentral)



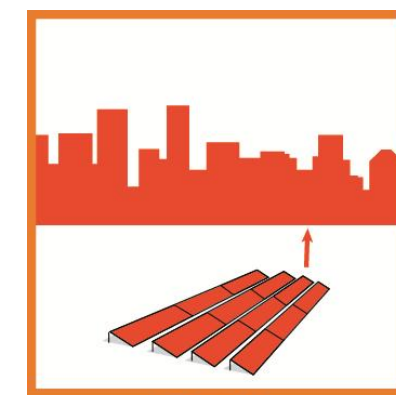
Deep Geothermal  
Heat



DISTRICT



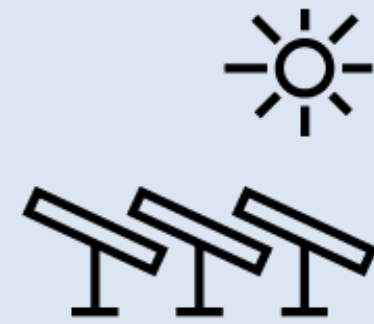
VILLAGE



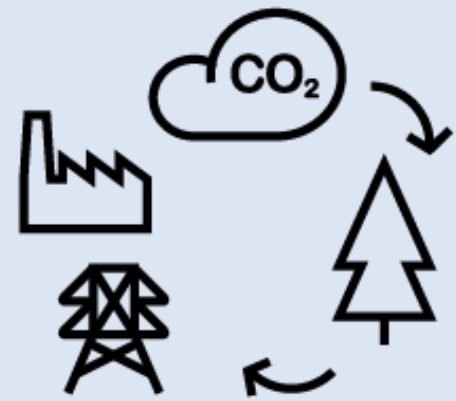
CITY

# District heating as energy hub as part of a larger and integrated energy system

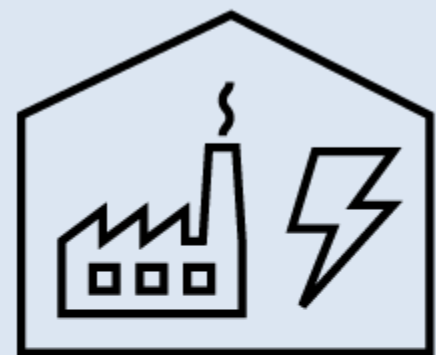
## Renewable heat sources



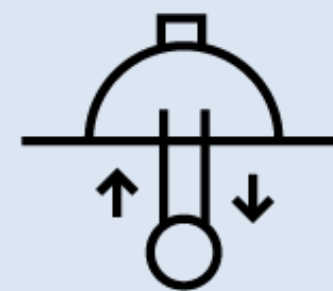
Solar Thermal Heat



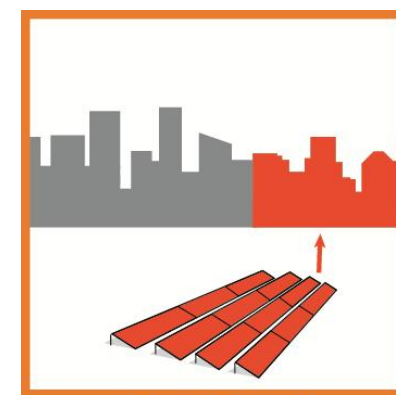
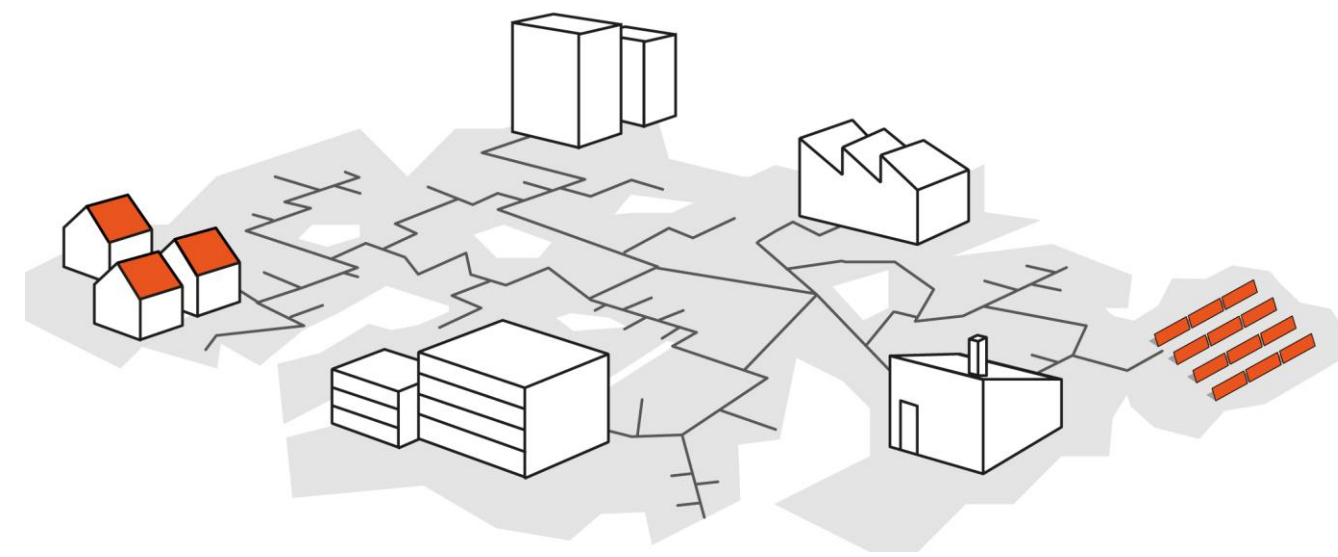
(Biomass) CHP Plant



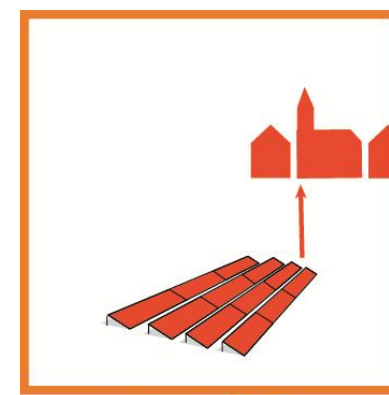
Biomass CHP (decentral)



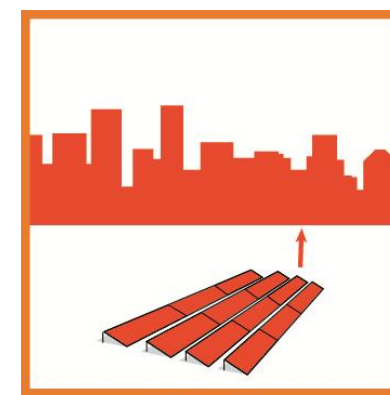
Deep Geothermal Heat



DISTRICT



VILLAGE

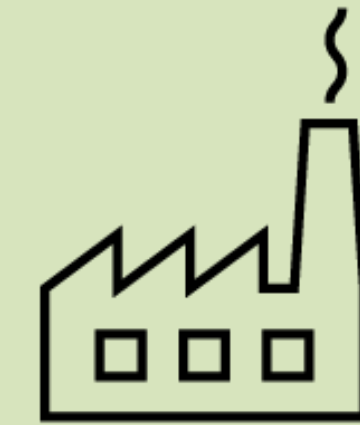


CITY

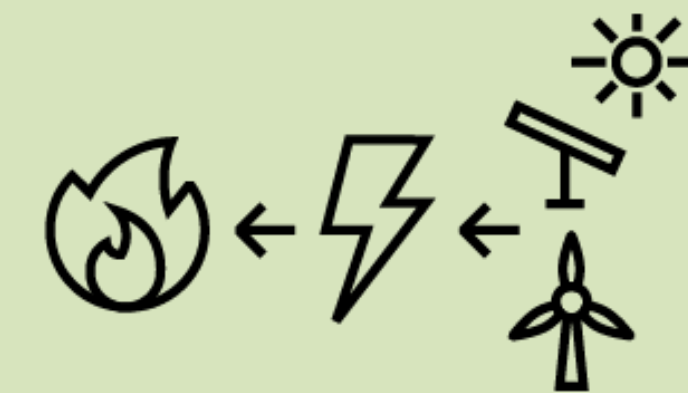
Large Thermal Energy Storage



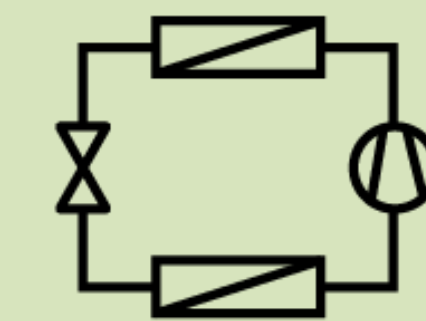
## Sector coupling



Industrial Waste Heat



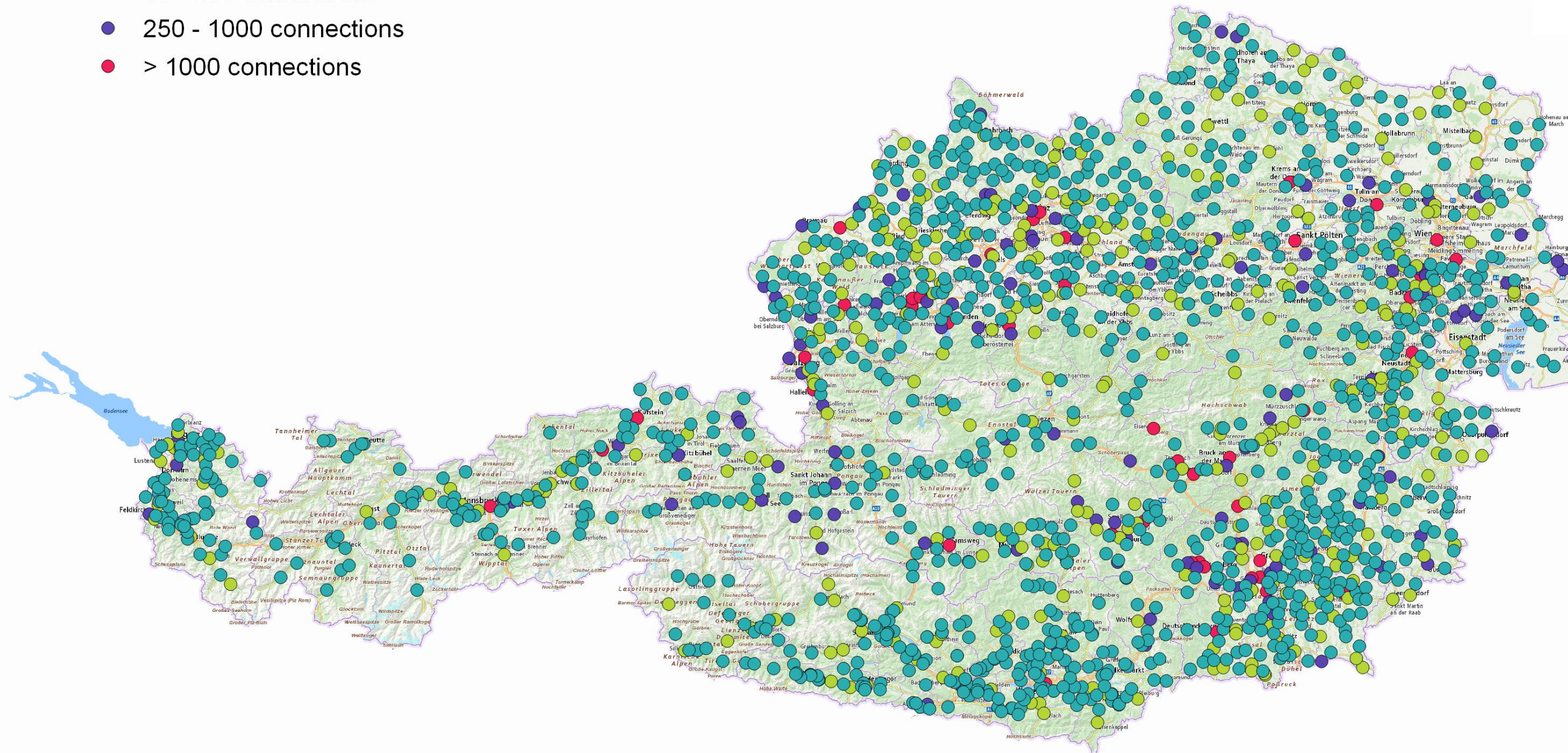
Power2Heat



Large Heat Pumps

# Current role of district heating in Austria

- < 50 connections
- 50 - 250 connections
- 250 - 1000 connections
- > 1000 connections



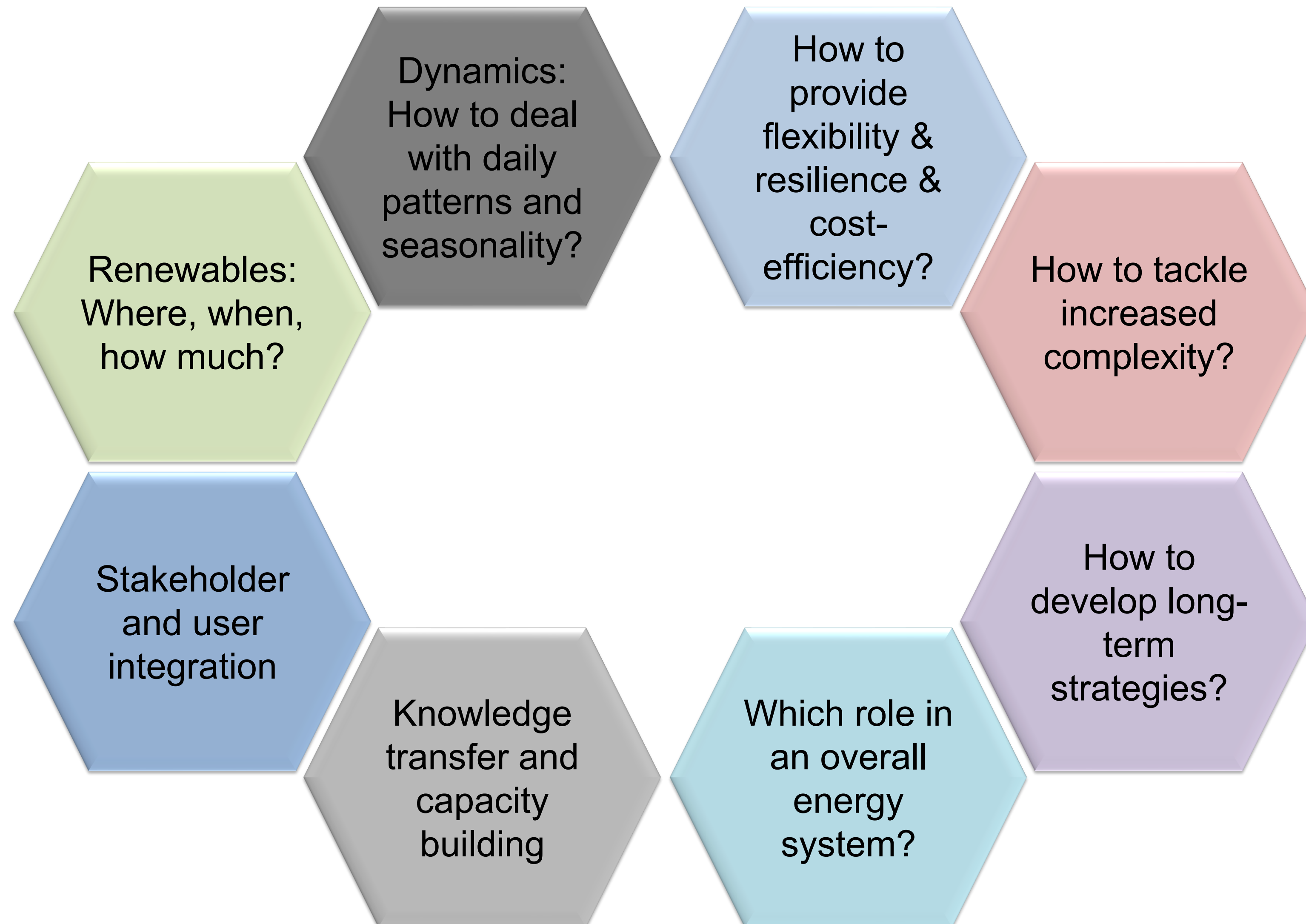
- 20% of total heating demand covered by DH
- ~50% share of renewables in DH
- Many smaller district heating systems → largely biomass-based
- Larger systems mainly fossil → gas CHP

Data sources: <http://www.austrian-heatmap.gv.at>

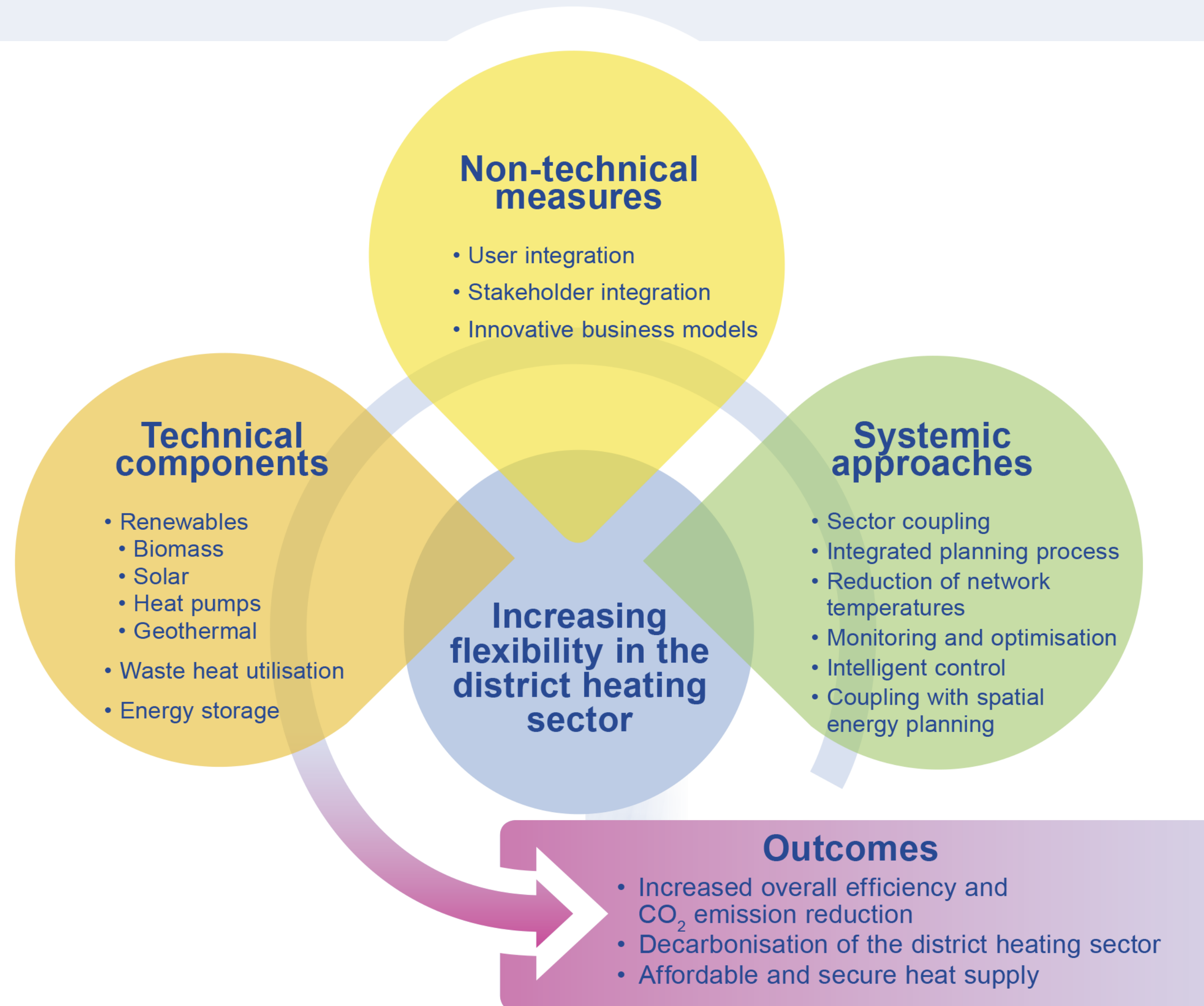
Map data © [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org)

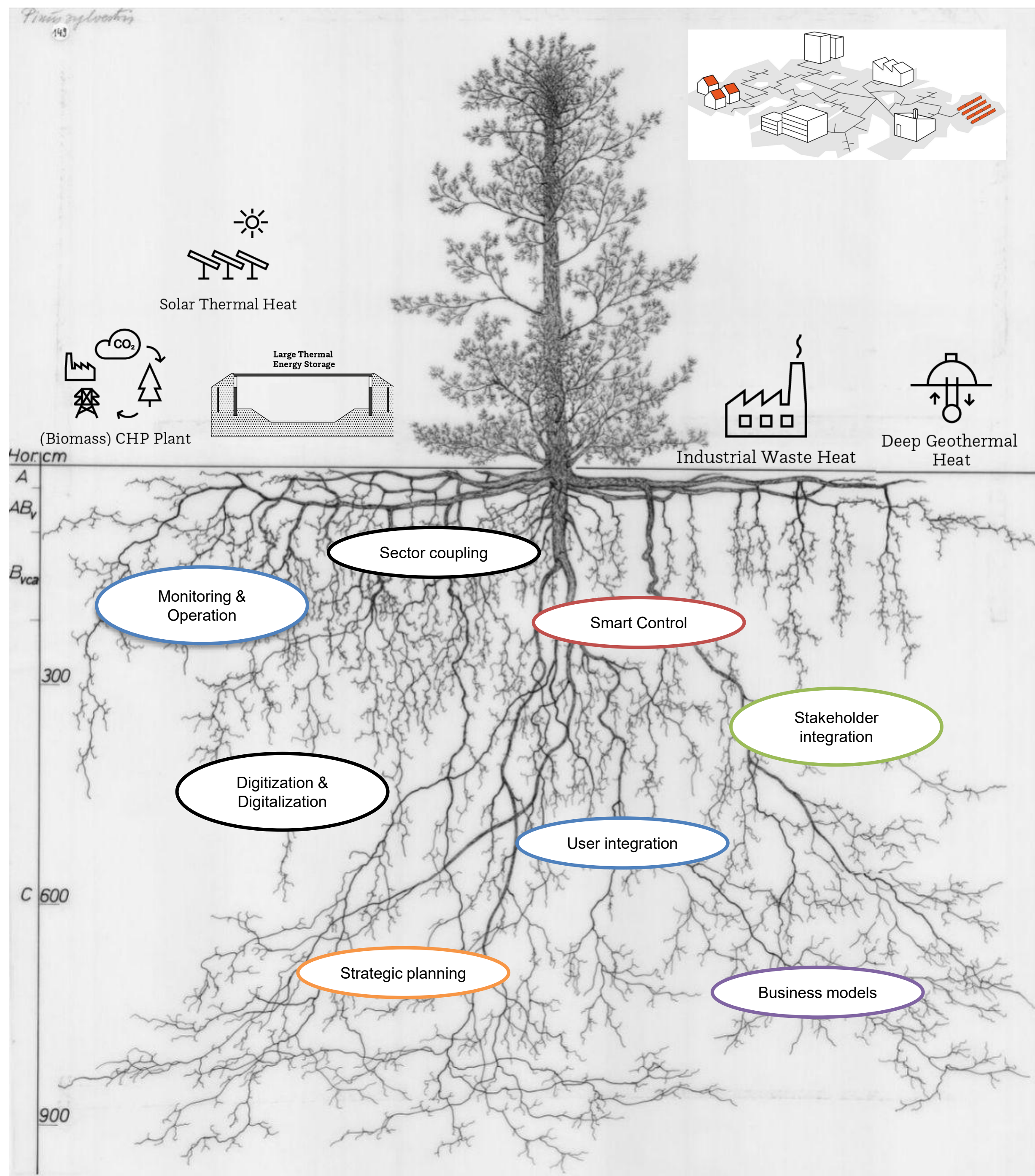
## Vision >2030: Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger

# Challenges for sustainable district heating as part of a larger energy system?



# Future district heating: More than just one thing





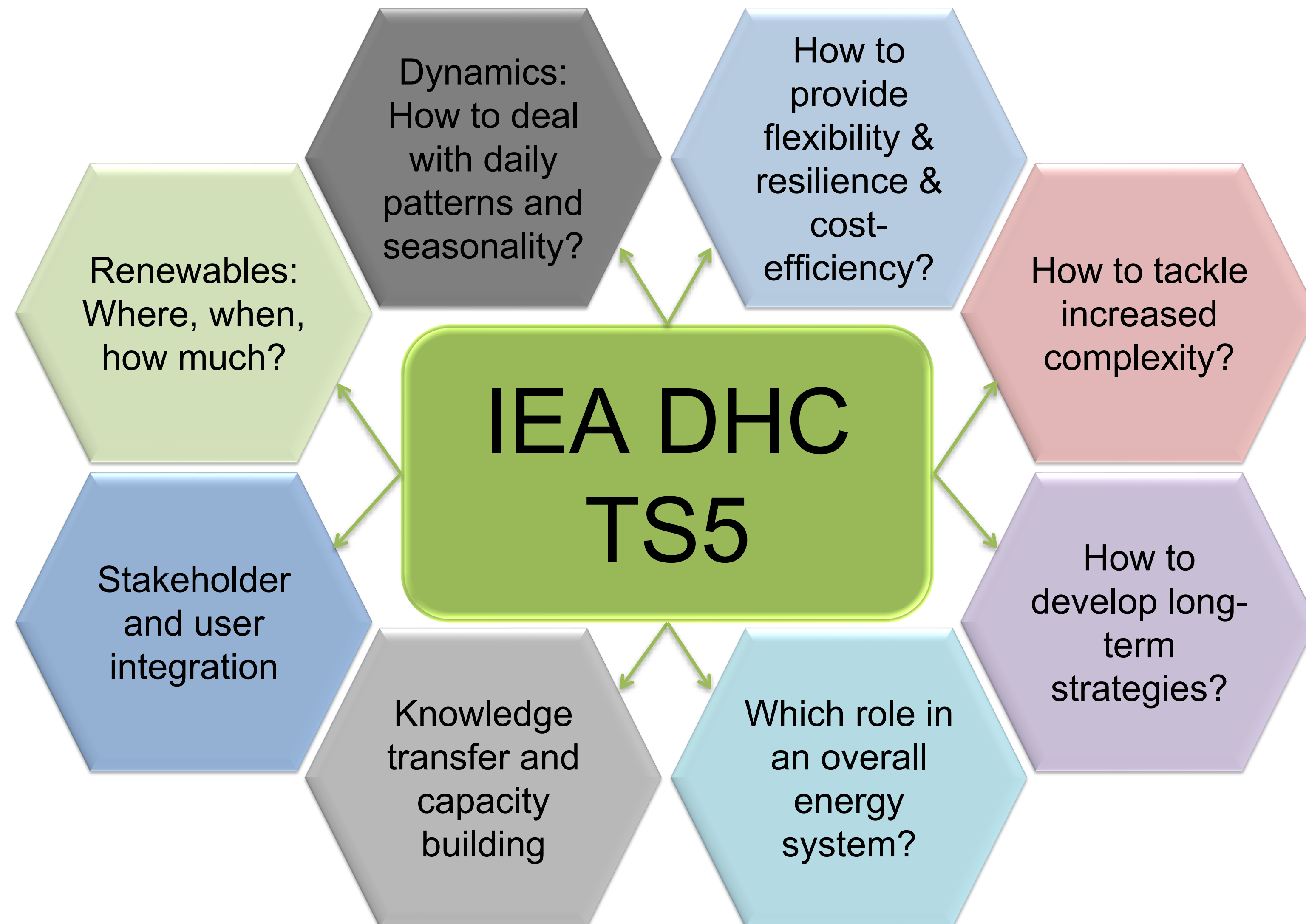
Regulatory framework

Financial incentives

Long-term security for planning

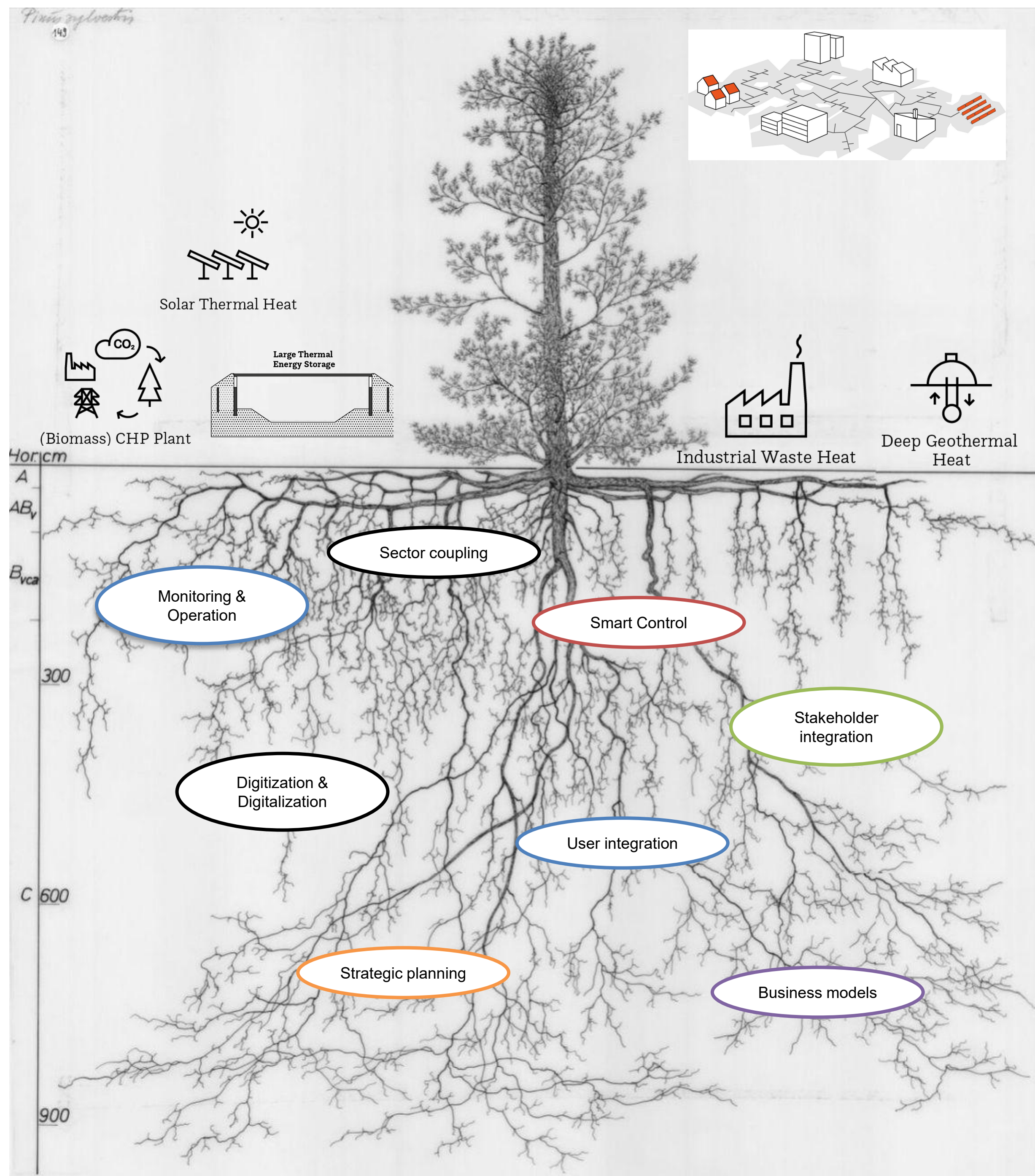
Level playing field for everyone

# IEA DHC TS5: Integration of Renewable Energy Sources into existing District Heating and Cooling Systems



# IEA DHC TS5: Integration of Renewable Energy Sources into existing District Heating and Cooling Systems

- Subtasks
  - Subtask A: RES technologies for DHC
  - Subtask B: Transformation of large DHC systems to high shares of RES
  - Subtask C: Decentral integration of RES into DHC systems
  - Subtask D: Non-technical framework: economics, life cycle analyses, legal framework, business models, area availability for RES
  
- Participating countries
  - GER, DK, IT, AT, SWE, UK, ROC, CN, FIN
- Operating agent
  - Thomas Pauschinger, AGFW, GER ([t.Pauschinger@agfw.de](mailto:t.Pauschinger@agfw.de))
- Website: <https://www.iea-dhc.org/2019-2024-annex-ts5>



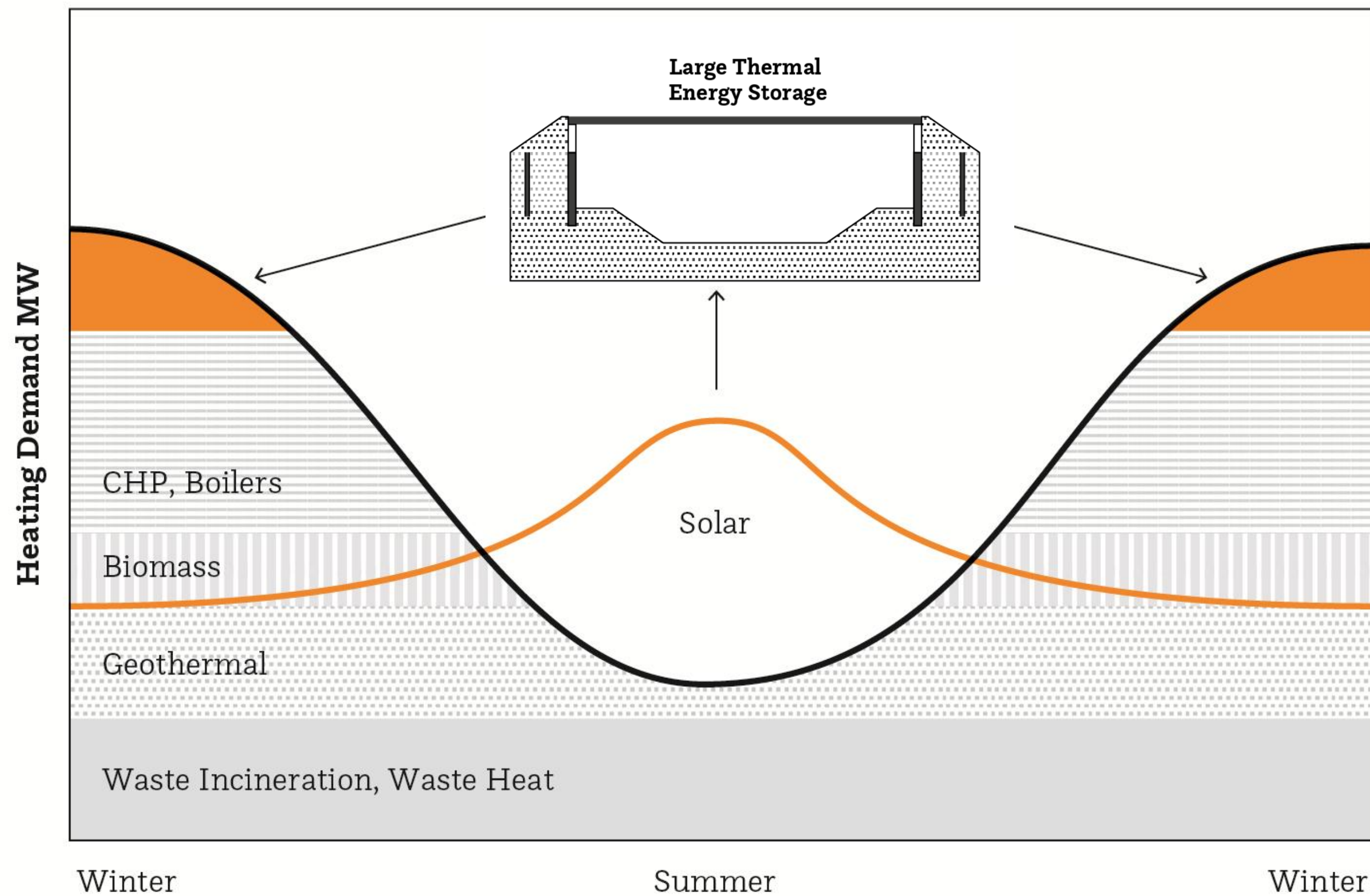
Regulatory framework

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Level playing field for everyone

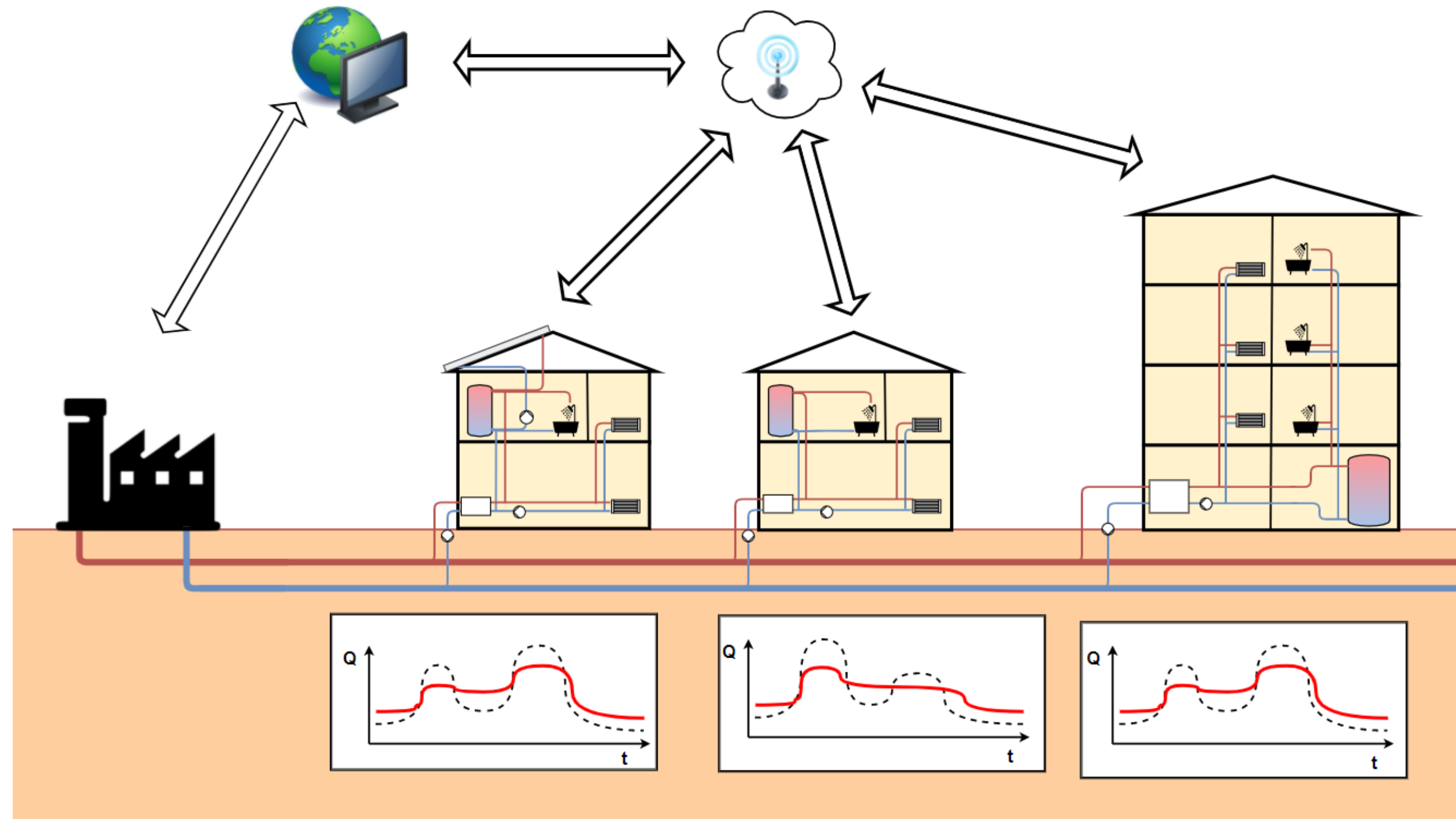
# Large-scale Storage



- DK storage as frontrunners for Pit Thermal Energy Storage
- First follow – ups in Germany
- Demonstrator to be built in Vienna, AUT
  
- More R&D and demonstration necessary, also for
  - Cavern storage
  - Aquifer thermal energy storage
  - ...

# Flexibility by Demand Side Management

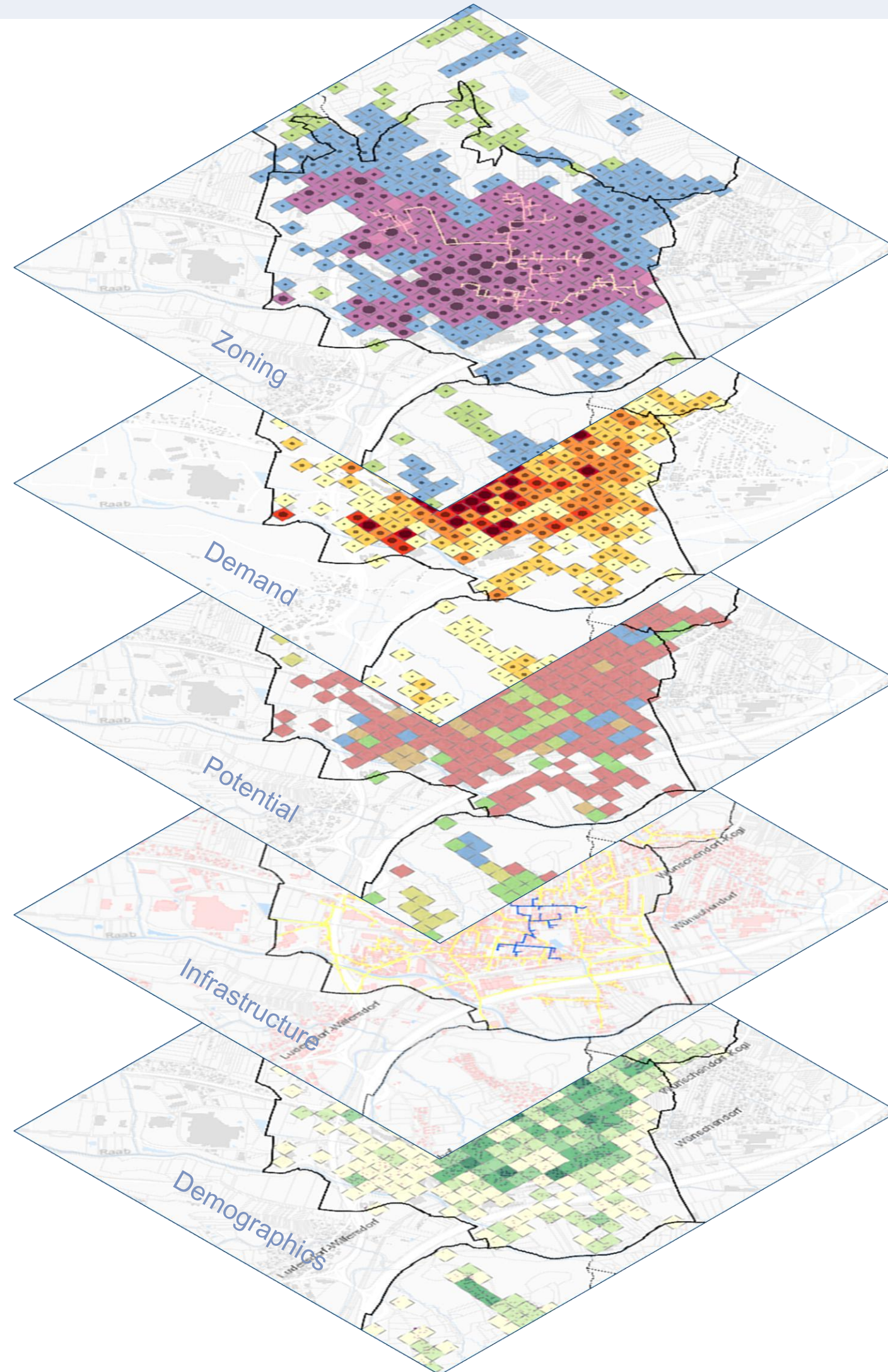
- Monitoring & Operation
- Smart Control
- Digitization & Digitalization
- Business models



- Requirements
  - „Smart thermal grid ready“ buildings
  - Digitized + digitalized DH system + buildings
  - Sophisticated monitoring & control scheme
  - Suitable business models

<https://annex84.iea-ebc.org/>

# Strategic planning of heat and cold supply



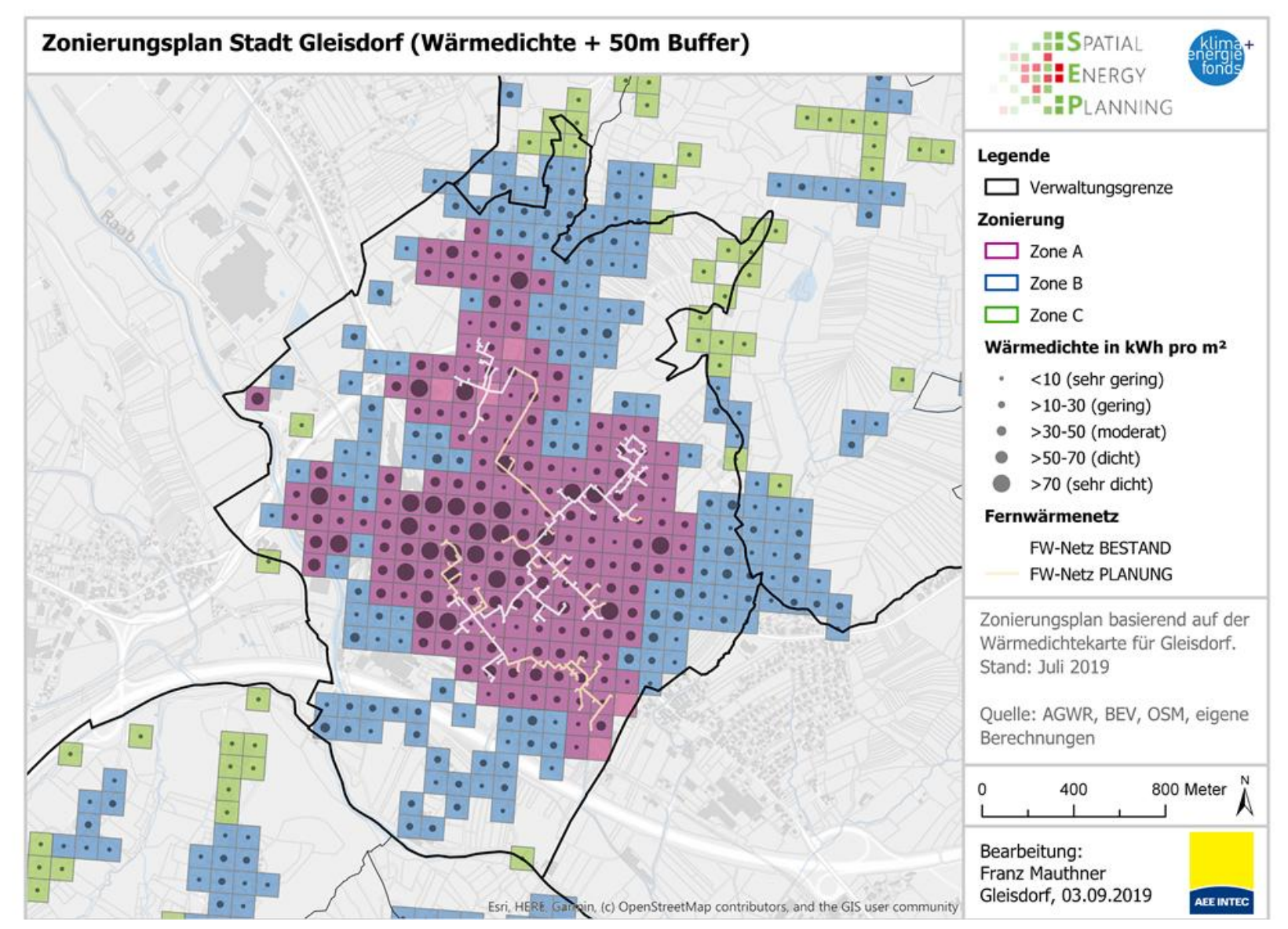
Long-term security for planning

Regulatory framework

Stakeholder integration

User integration

Strategic planning



# Integration of WWTPs: Potential & opportunities



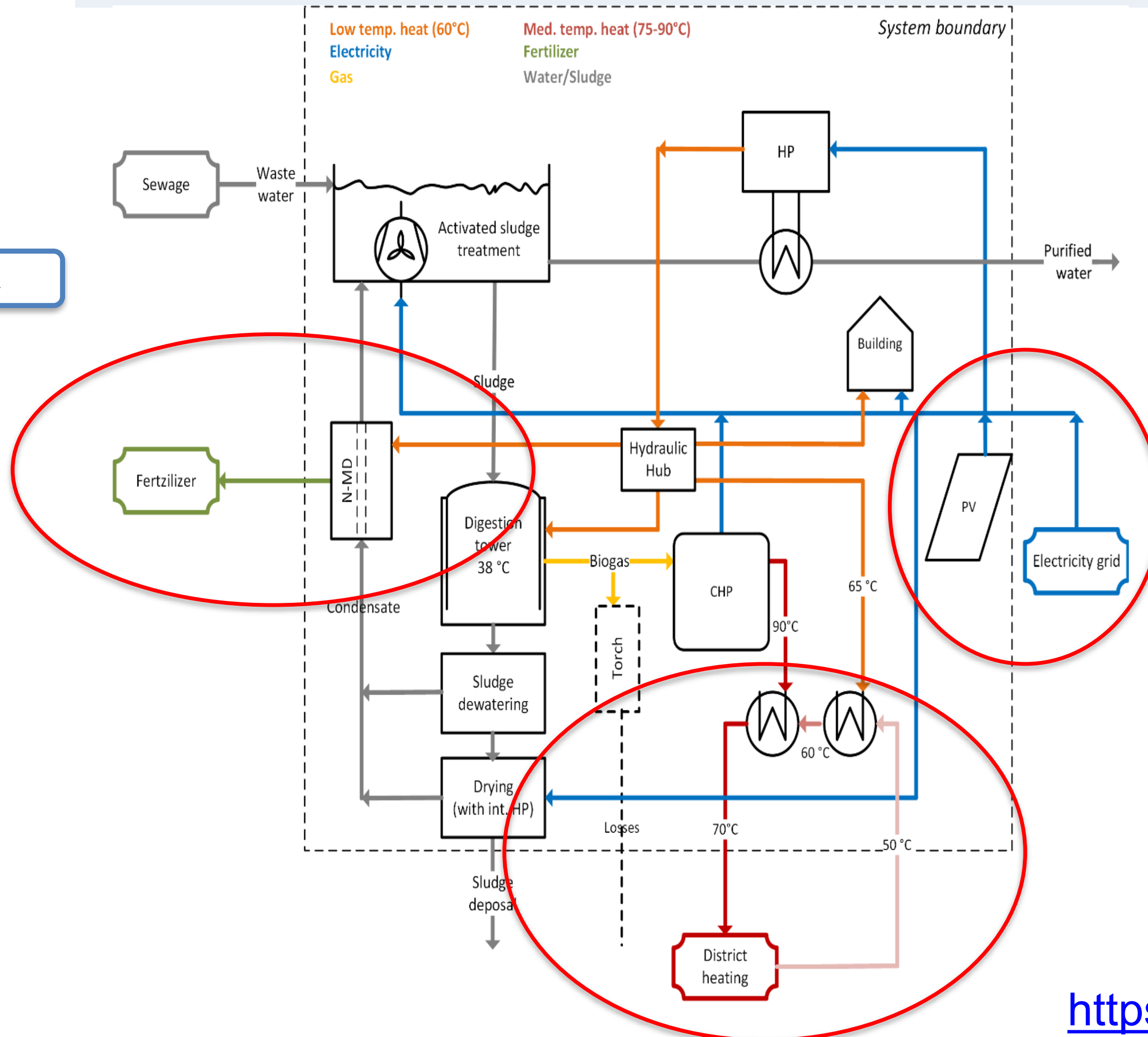
# Sector coupling and hybrid network at waste water treatment plant

Regulatory framework

Sector coupling

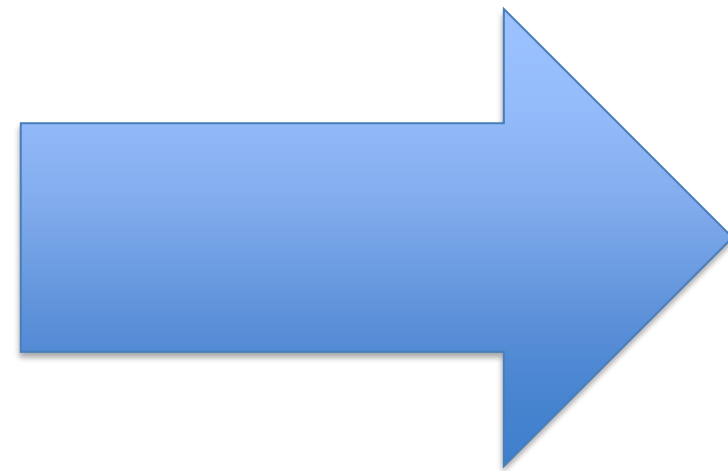
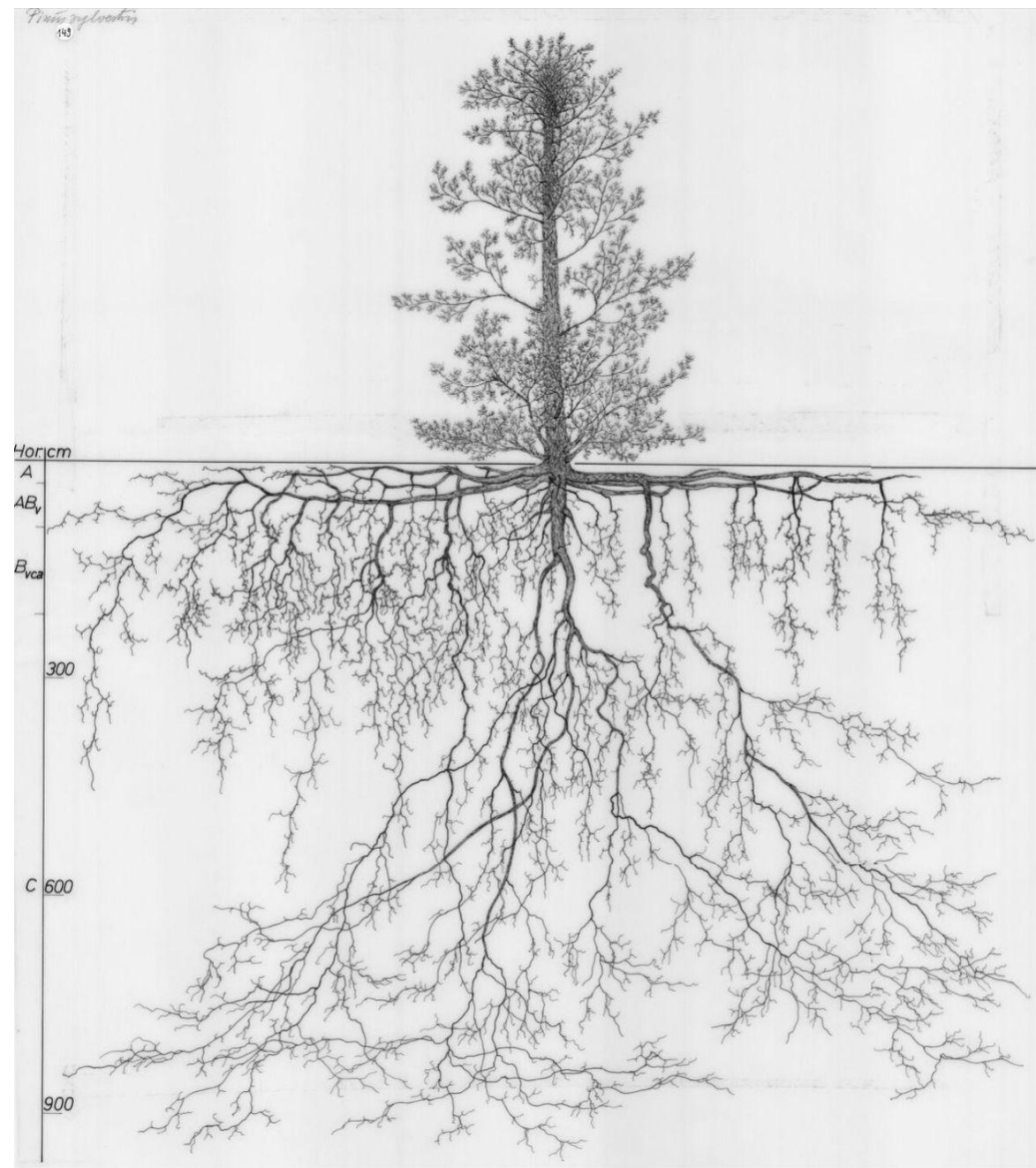
Strategic planning

Business models



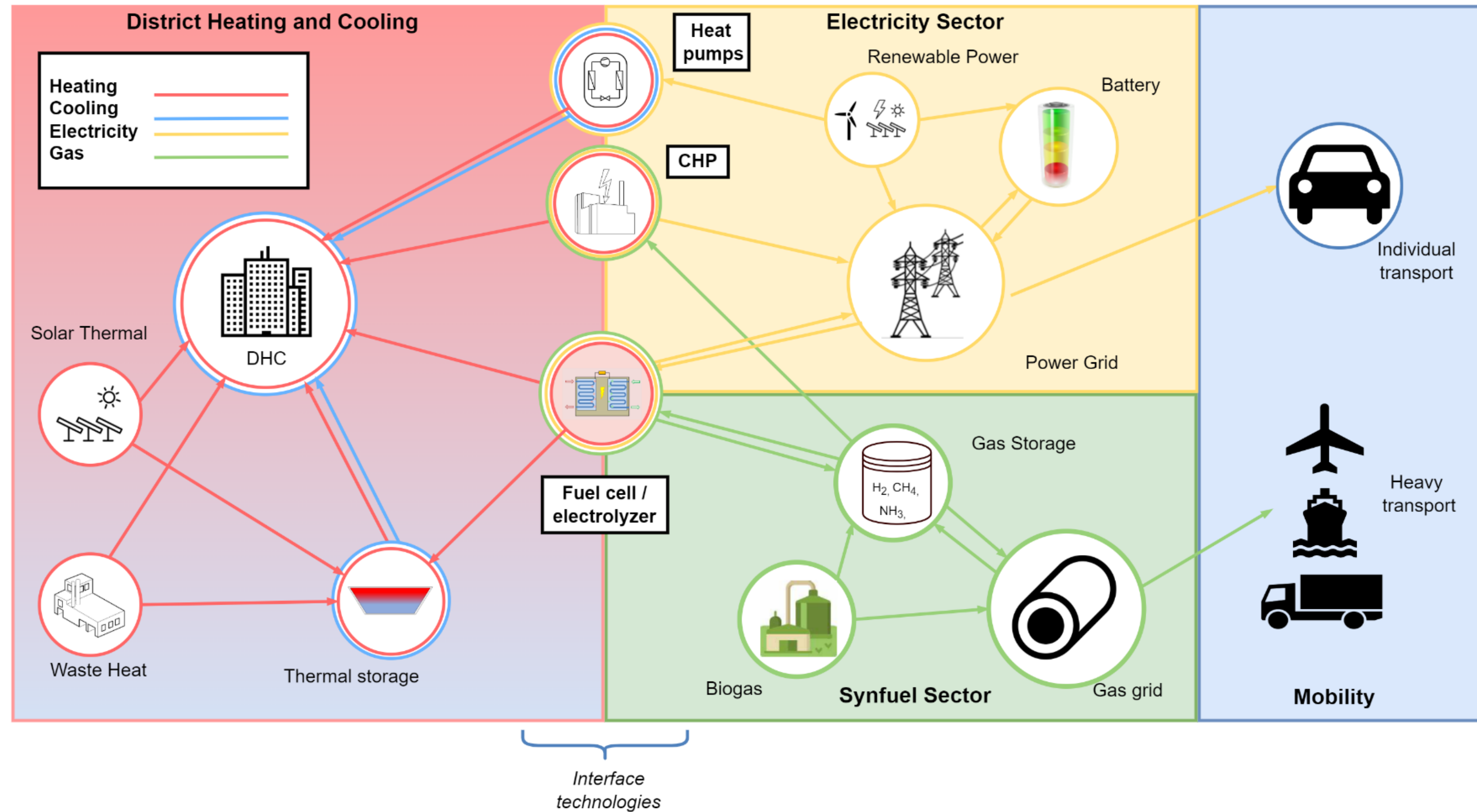
- Connection to district heating
- Connection to electricity grid
- Nutrient recovery via Membrane Distillation

<https://thermafex.greenenergylab.at/>



# Sector coupling: towards an integrated energy system

- Sector coupling
- Strategic planning
- Business models



# Stakeholder integration

Utilities

City



*Some R&D guys....*

- Talk early
- Talk with all stakeholders
- Talk often
- Be proactive
- Engage and involve

City council

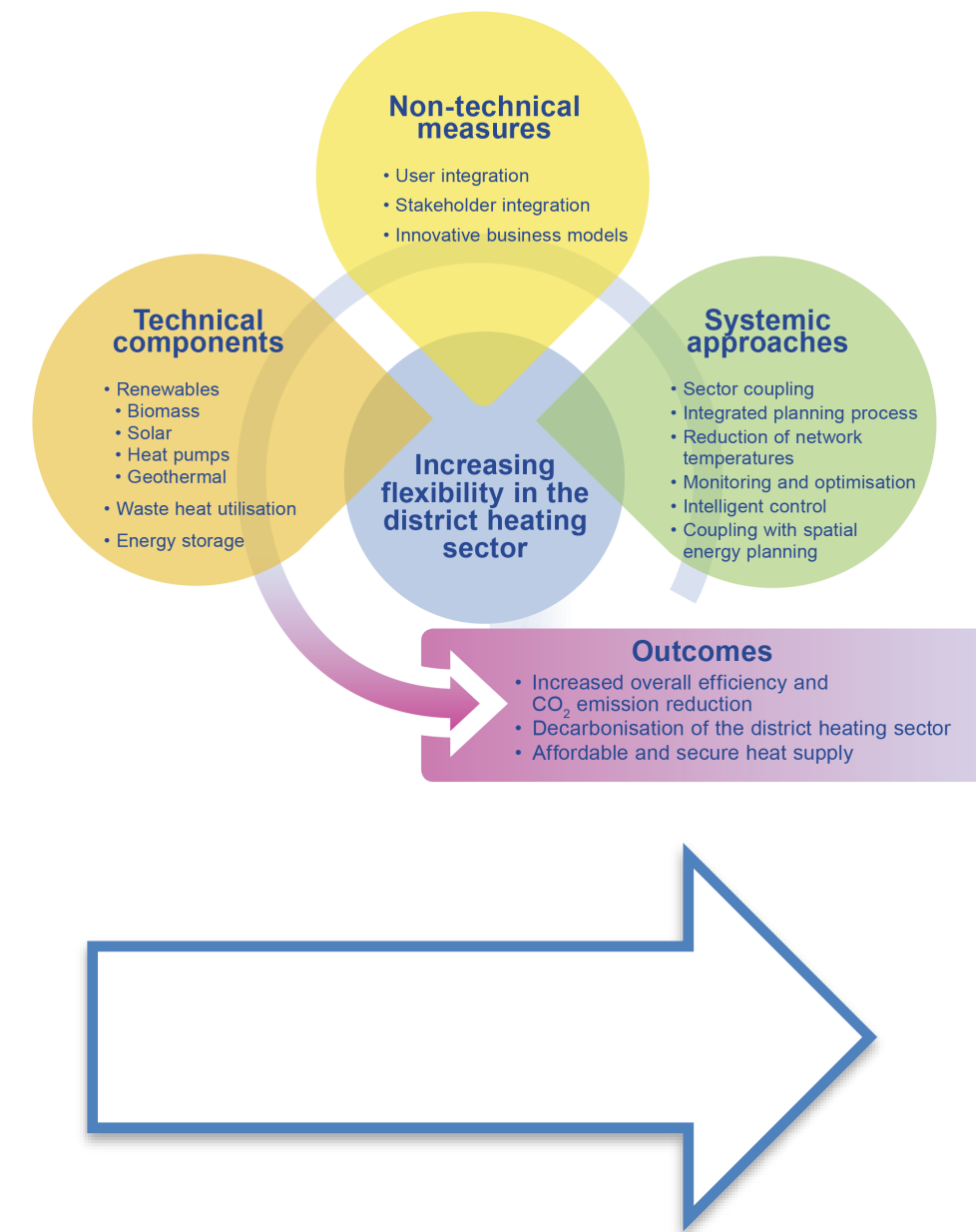
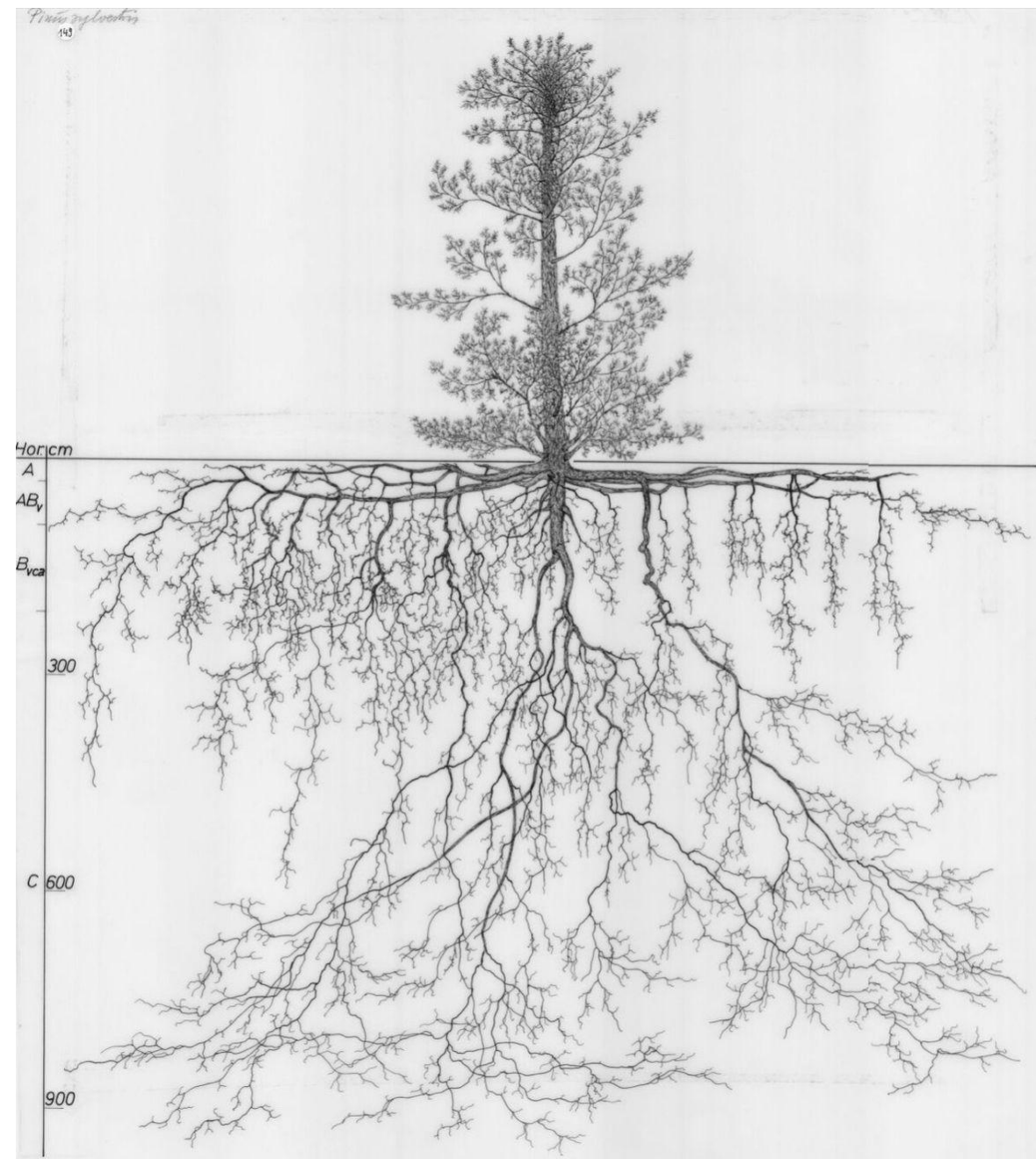
Mayor

Regional authorities

*Planners*

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-margie/2085155209>

# Future district heating: More than just one thing





**AEE INTEC**

**IDEA TO ACTION**

AEE – Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE INTEC)  
8200 Gleisdorf, Feldgasse 19, AUSTRIA

**Ingo Leusbrock**  
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Twitter: [@AEE\\_INTEC](https://twitter.com/AEE_INTEC)