



# Demonstration of successful modernisation and retrofitting in Austrian biomass-based district heating networks

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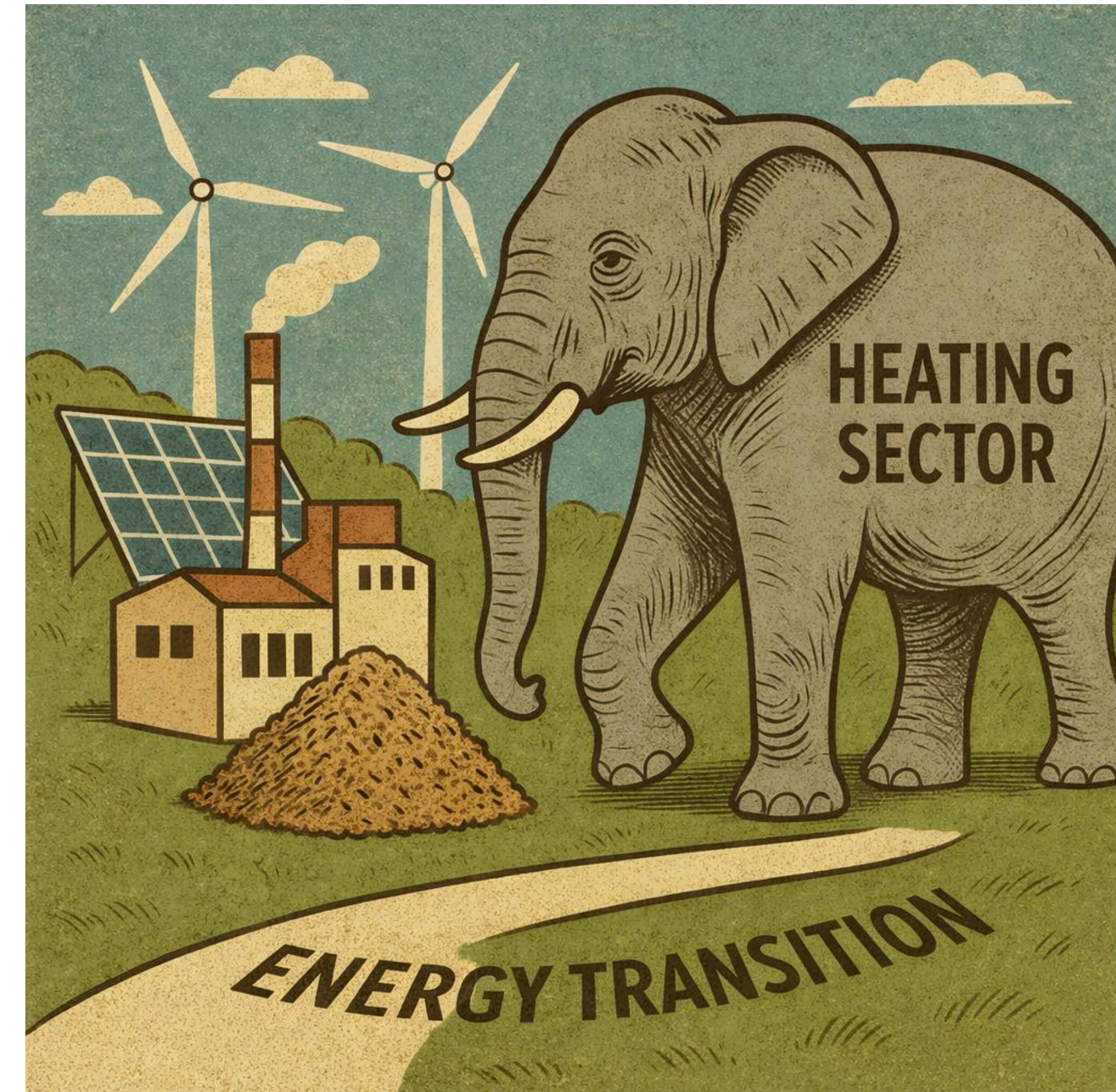
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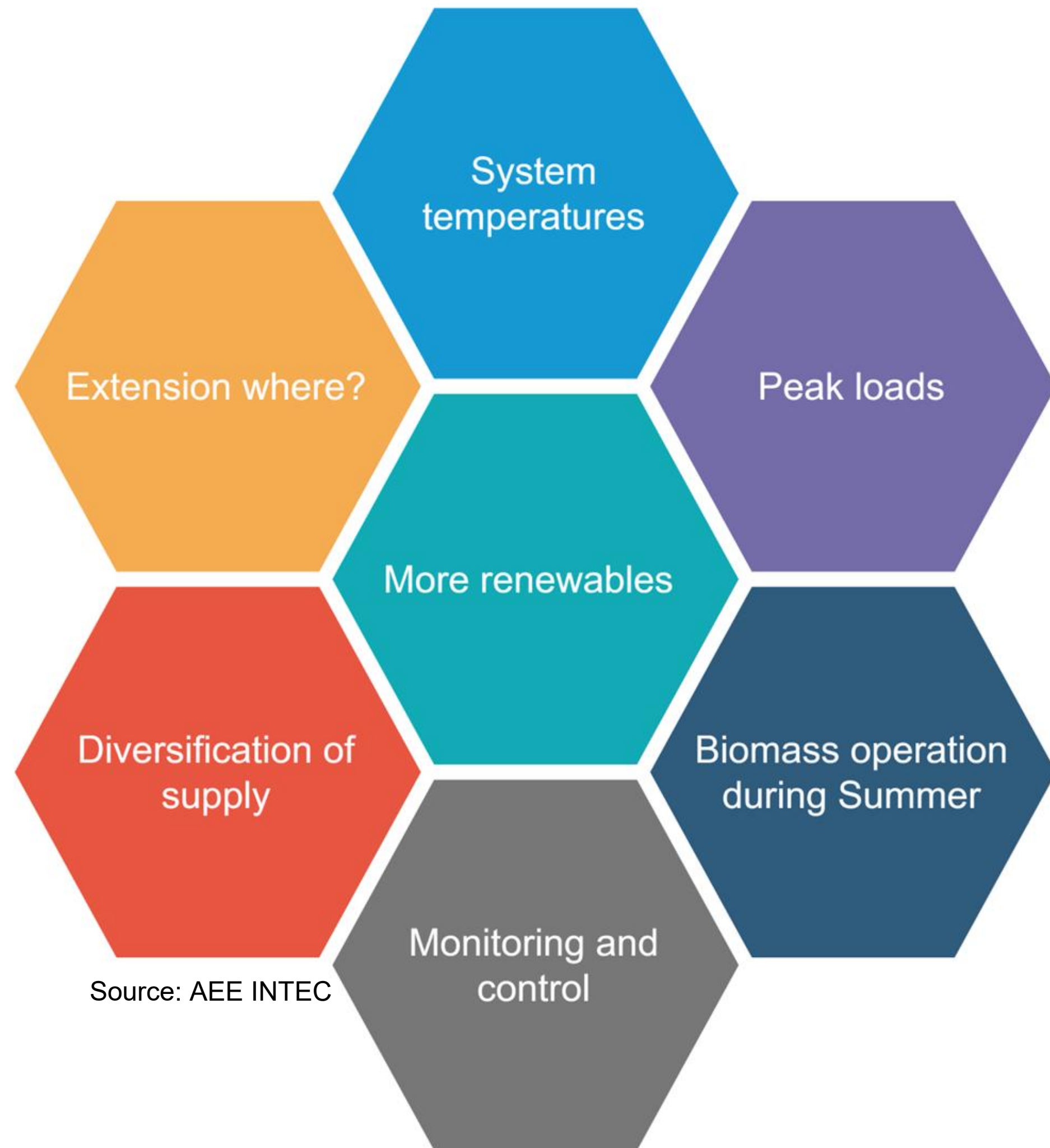
# Motivation and Background

- Heating, accounting for 50% of energy consumption, is the key driver of the energy transition
- A high number of biomass-based heating networks in regions and small towns with a high share of renewable heat supply
- Urgent need for retrofitting and modernisation to meet future challenges and requirements



Source: AI generated / AEE INTEC

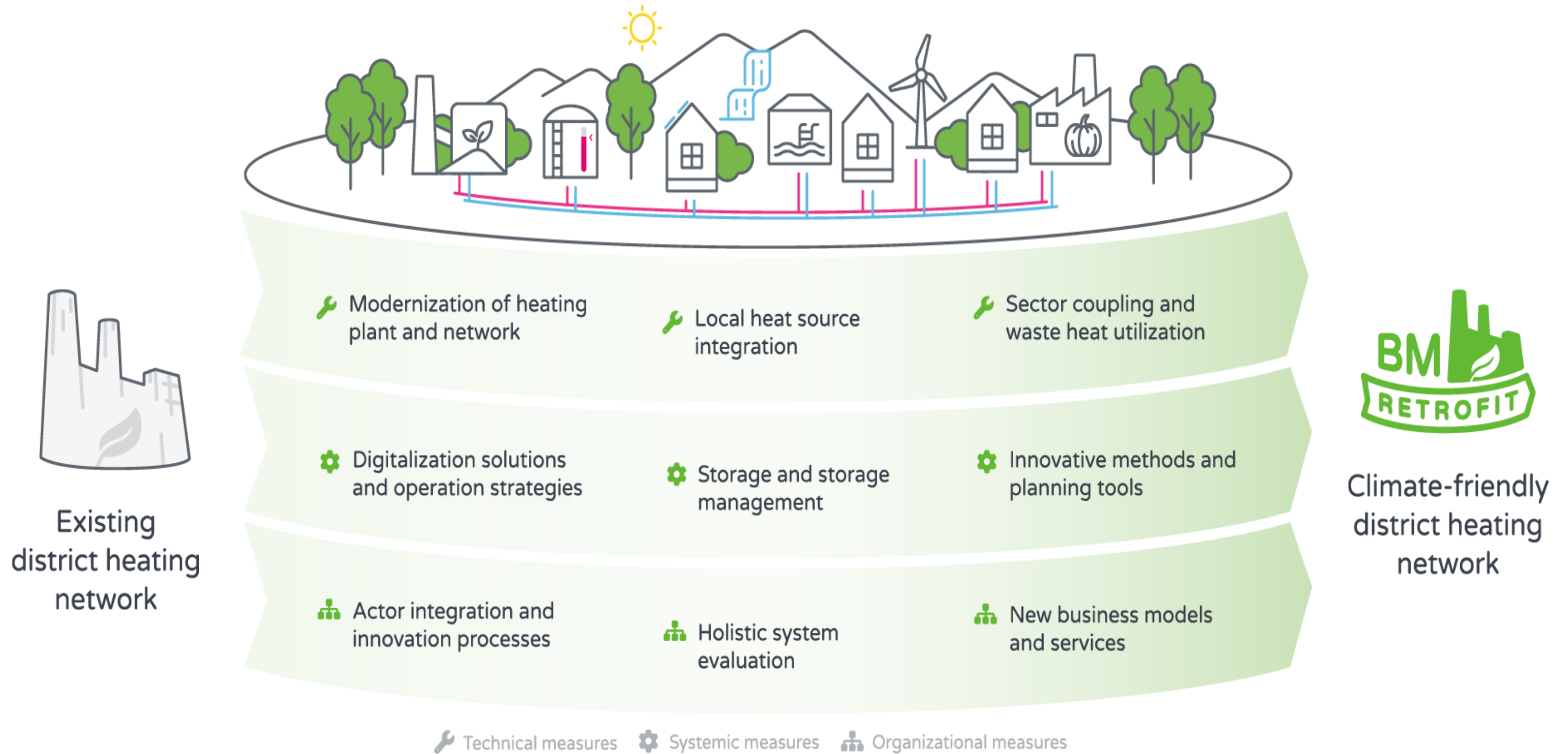
# Challenges and main goals



Source: AEE INTEC

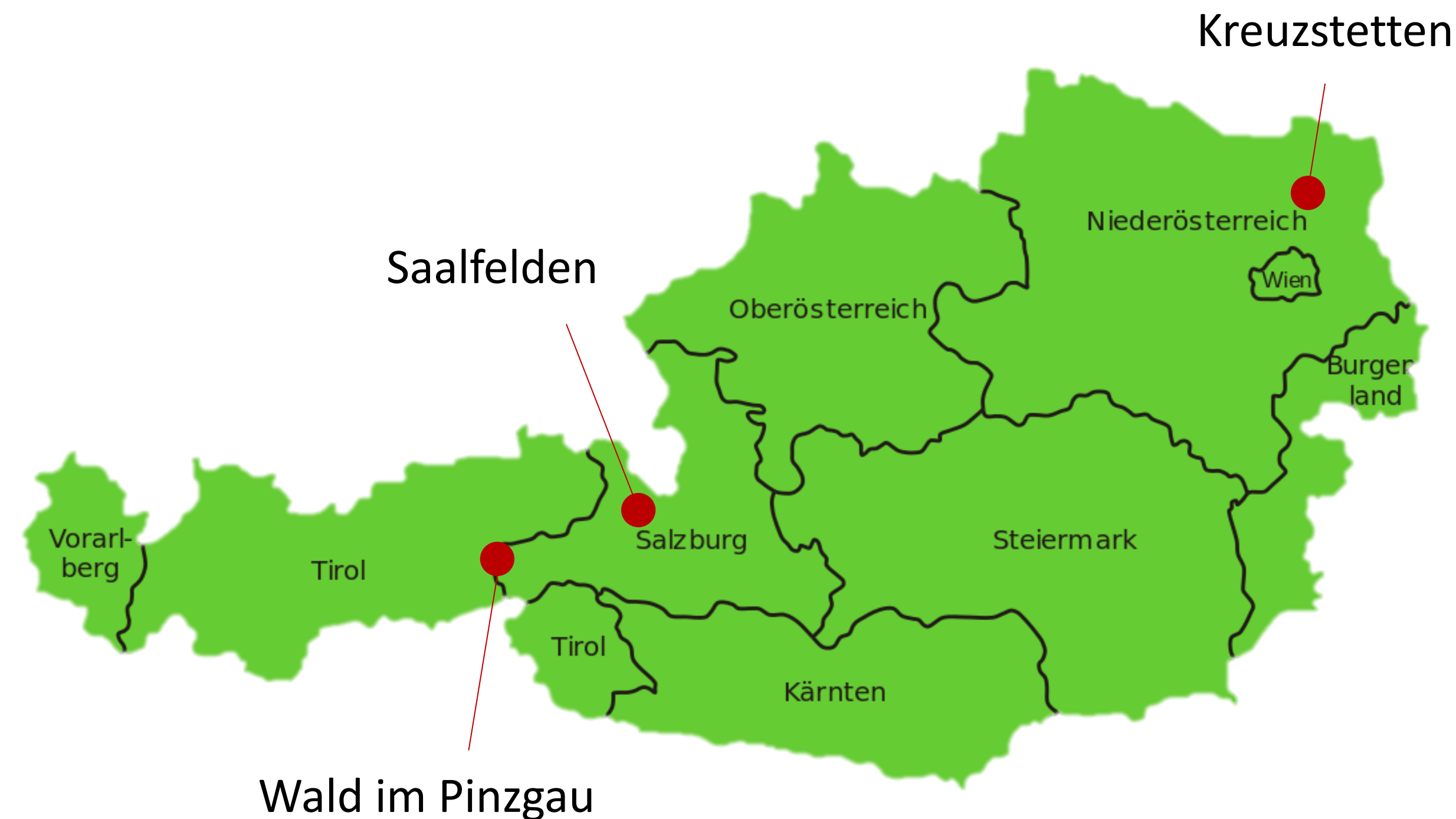
- Increasing flexibility and system efficiency
- Reducing the share of fossil fuels and utilising regional resources
- Expanding supply capacity and security of supply
- Efficient and sustainable provision of future heating requirements
- Ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks (EED III, RED III, EPBD)

# Main result: Holistic and systemic methodology



Source: Green Energy Lab

# Main result: Demonstration projects and solution approaches as blueprints



Source: AEE INTEC

- Wald im Pinzgau: Waste heat from nearby hydropower, P2H application, storage
- Saalfelden: Storage, flue gas condensation incl. heat pump cascade and control strategy (CO-lambda)
- Kreuzstetten: Improved operational management (boiler, storage, system temperatures) and strategic/economic measures
- Three solution approaches as “good practice” examples

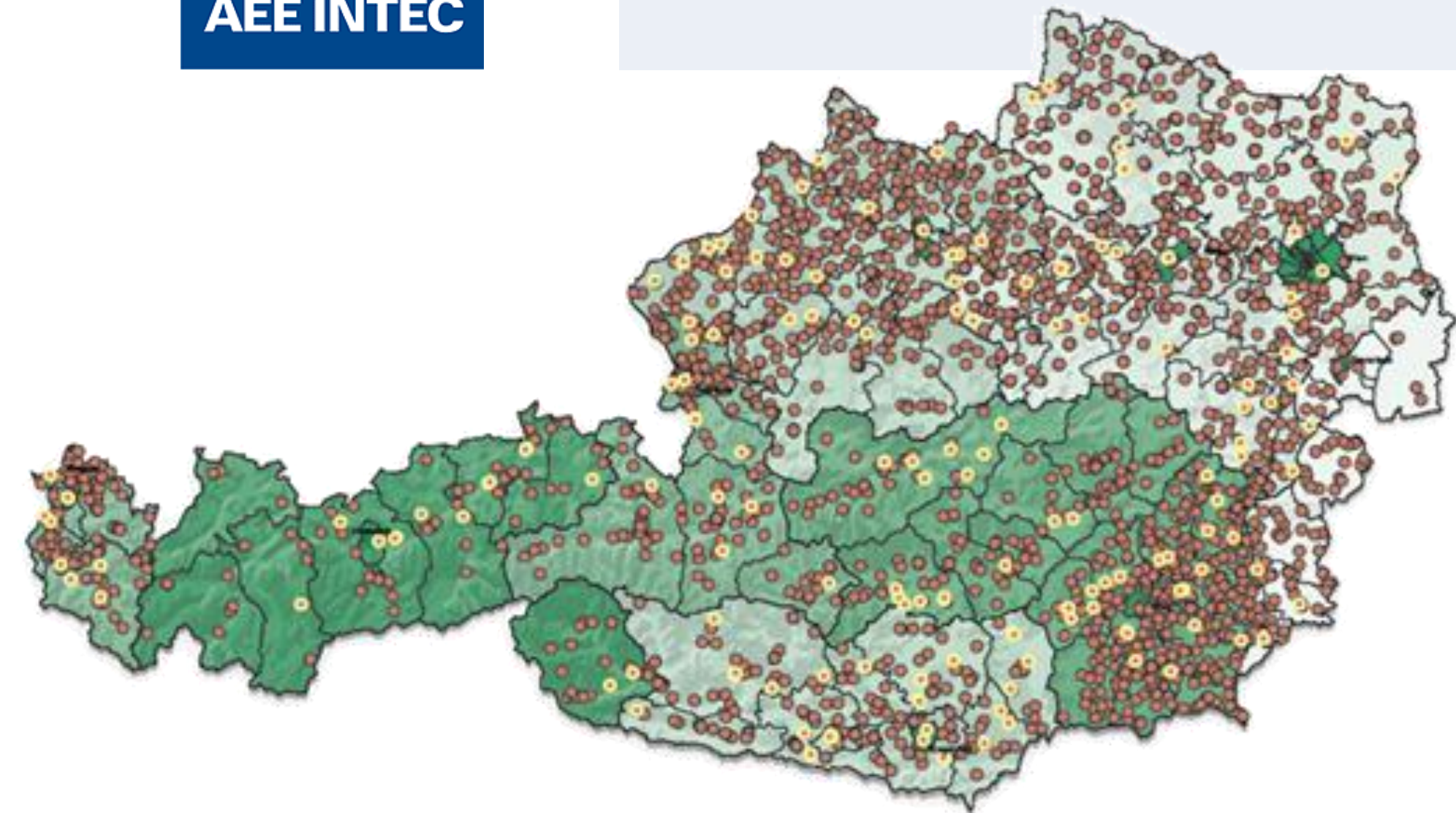
# Main result: USP and added value

- Conservation of biomass resources and reduction of local emissions
- Optimised use of available local/regional energy sources and waste heat
- Increased efficiency and flexibility to ensure cost-effective operation
- Exploitation of synergies and development of a future-proof energy system



Source: Klimafonds / Krobath

# Target group and market potential



Source: Austrian Biomass Association



Source: Joachim Kelz /  
AEE INTEC

- Operators of small and medium-sized district heating networks and municipal utilities  
→ strategic expansion of district heating
- Local authorities and regions  
→ spatial energy & municipal heat planning
- High scalability and multiplication potential  
→ 2,500 district heating networks in Austria

# Measures to foster market implementation



- Using demonstrators as showcases  
→ workshops, trainings, site visits
- Strengthening regional partnerships  
→ connecting local authorities, energy suppliers and relevant stakeholders
- Provision of practical planning tools
- Integrating holistic system assessments into funding schemes



Source: Klimafonds / Krobath

# Summary and take-home messages

- Development and implementation of retrofitting measures and continuous adaption is a vital and long-lasting process
- Stepwise and consequent reduction of system temperatures as a key measure → start as soon as possible
- Use all options (holistic view) for improving e.g.
  - Integration of locally available energy sources
  - Extension/densification of network → link to spatial energy planning
  - Synergies to other infrastructures or ongoing developments
- Bad actor and stakeholder integration and communication  
→ no appropriate retrofitting possible



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IDEA TO ACTION

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