

Best practices for energy-autonomous municipalities and regions – Austrian examples

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The Topic



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- **Energy-autonomy as a vision and a guiding principle** in local and regional planning
- **Specific examples** from Austria showing potentials and opportunities

The Challenge(s)



A set of interconnected challenges:

- Threats and dangers associated with climate change
- Dependence of oil and natural gas from different regions
- Highly fluctuating energy prices

Energy autonomy means:

- Climate protection and added co-benefits to employment, health and environment
- Higher security of energy supplies
- Locally added value

Energy-autonomy defined



Energy-autonomy is

- **aspirational** in its aims
- an **environmental** goal – no fossil fuels
- focused on **electricity, heat and transport** sectors

It therefore does not imply:

- A new form of protectionism
- That it is a goal that must be fully met. It is to **guide** political decision-making and local and regional planning

Action on Energy-autonomy in Austria



Climate and Energy Fund – www.klimafonds.gv.at

Supports ideas, concepts and projects in the areas of research and development, mobility, awareness raising, market penetration

klima:aktiv



klima:aktiv – www.klimaaktiv.at

Climate protection initiative of the Environment Ministry, common brand for a multitude of local and regional initiatives, supports ideas, networking, public relations, awareness raising

Domestic Environmental Subsidies – www.public-consulting.at

Seite 5

21.12.2009

Guessing - a paradigm example (1)



- A **small city** (approx. 4.000 inhabitants) in the east of Austria, province of **Burgenland**
- In **1990**, Guessing's local council formulated a goal: The city was to become fully energy-autonomous within the next 20 years.
- In **2001**, a biomass plant was built, biofuels production was added later

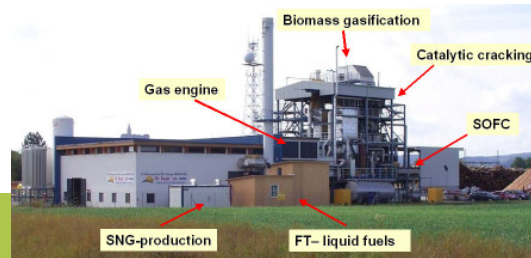


Seite 6

Guessing - a paradigm example (2)



- Since **2005**, Guessing is **100 percent energy-autonomous**
- In fact, the city produces more energy than it consumes
- This has led to **over 1.000 new green jobs** and to a cut in GHG emissions by more than **90 percent** from 1990 levels
- New „**eco-tourism**“: Up to 250 experts and politicians a week visit Guessing

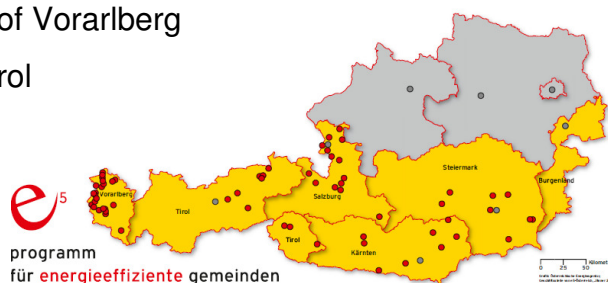


Seite 7

Other model municipalities in Austria



- **Gleisdorf** – the „solar city“, province of Styria
- **Kautzen**, province of Lower Austria
- **Koetschach-Mauthen**, province of Carinthia
- **Langenegg**, province of Vorarlberg
- **Virgen**, province of Tyrol
- And many more ...



Seite 8

21.12.2009



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Thank you for your attention!