

# Municipality of Braunau: together for a sustainable energy future



Braunau im Innviertel, an Upper Austrian municipality with around 17,000 inhabitants, started its energy transition in the year 2000 with the commissioning of Europe's largest cross-border geothermal project "Braunau-Simbach". In 2014, the municipality drew up a comprehensive energy strategy with the aim of progressively switching to renewable energy and reducing its overall energy consumption. Since then, a range of projects were implemented. Step-by-step, municipal buildings were converted to renewables (geothermal district heating, biomass, solar): 11 PV systems were installed on public buildings, 4 electric vehicles were added to the municipal fleet, and the street lighting was refurbished to environment-friendly LEDs. Braunau was awarded the Upper Austrian prize for sustainable energy projects "Energie-Star 2020" and is also an active partner municipality of the regional campaign "AdieuÖl" (Goodbye oil).



Photo: Siegfried Kerscher

## Energy concept at a glance

### Renewable energy

- geothermal energy, biomass heating and thermal solar systems for public buildings
- 11 PV installations on public buildings (total > 90 kWp)
- Upper Austrian "AdieuÖl" partner municipality

### Mobility

- 4 electric vehicles for the municipal technical service building
- municipal cycling coordinator
- activities in the context of the European Mobility Week

### LED street lighting

Ranshofen project:

- replacement of 280 mercury vapour lamps
- electricity savings: 45 %
- CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 5.5 tonnes/year

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## Energy transition in public buildings and private homes

Since 2000, the "Braunau-Simbach" geothermal district heating plant has been supplying many public buildings (offices, nursery schools, schools, hospitals, pools) and homes with renewable, CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral heat. When the heating grid was expanded in 2017, 4 additional public buildings were connected – saving alone around 185 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Overall, approx. 49 GWh of heat are generated annually and distributed to 810 buildings along the 40 km network. In buildings where a connection to district heating was not possible (e.g., the municipal technical service building, volunteer fire station, waste disposal centre), existing oil heating systems were replaced by biomass heating and thermal solar systems. In recent years, the municipality also installed PV systems on several public buildings including the recreational centre with outdoor and indoor swimming pools (64 kWp), 6 schools and 3 nursery schools (25 kWp total), and the local soccer club (5.3 kWp). Braunau not only sets a good example with its own buildings, but also actively motivates citizens to switch from oil through a wide variety of measures.

## Sustainable mobility

Braunau pays particular attention to climate protection when purchasing new vehicles for its fleet. In many cases, electric utility vehicles offer interesting advantages in urban areas (space conditions, stop & go). Two small e-trucks and two e-mopeds are in daily use since spring 2019. The municipality also supports and promotes sustainable mobility to its citizens (e.g., municipal cycling coordinator, activities in the context of the European mobility week).

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