

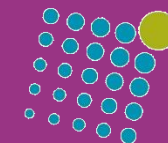
DISTRICT ENERGY **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE LAC 2025**



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**Success factors for district heating -
experiences from Europe**



DBDH

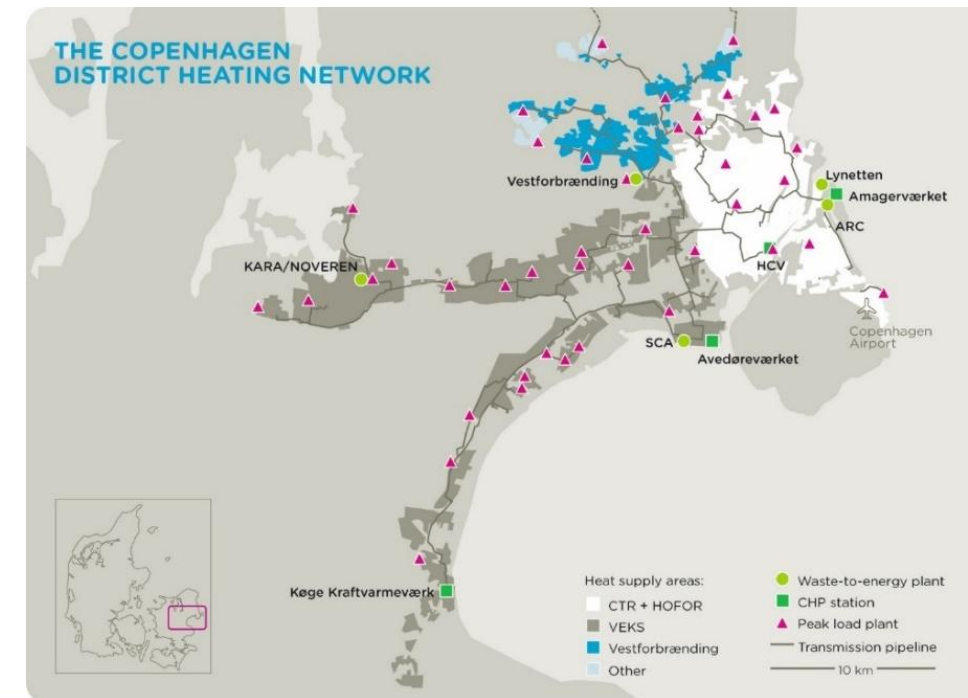
Create a Better World where People Companies, and Cities Benefit from Sustainable District Energy

- The Go-to-Partner
- Estab. 1978
- 80+ members
- Magazine HOT|COOL
- Seminars, training, exchanges of know-how, mentoring



District Heating in Denmark

- 70% of all households (1.982.623, 2025)
- 78+% renewable heat (2023)
- All homes in major cities
- ~350 DH companies (Consumer/municipal owned)
- 60.000 km of pipes (30k flow/return)
- 1.000.000.000 l of water
- Prices: Competitive



Why District Heating in Denmark

- **LOWEST PRICE!!!!**

- Renewable!
- Air pollution
- Stable prices
- No import
- Jobs
- Smart Energy
- And many more

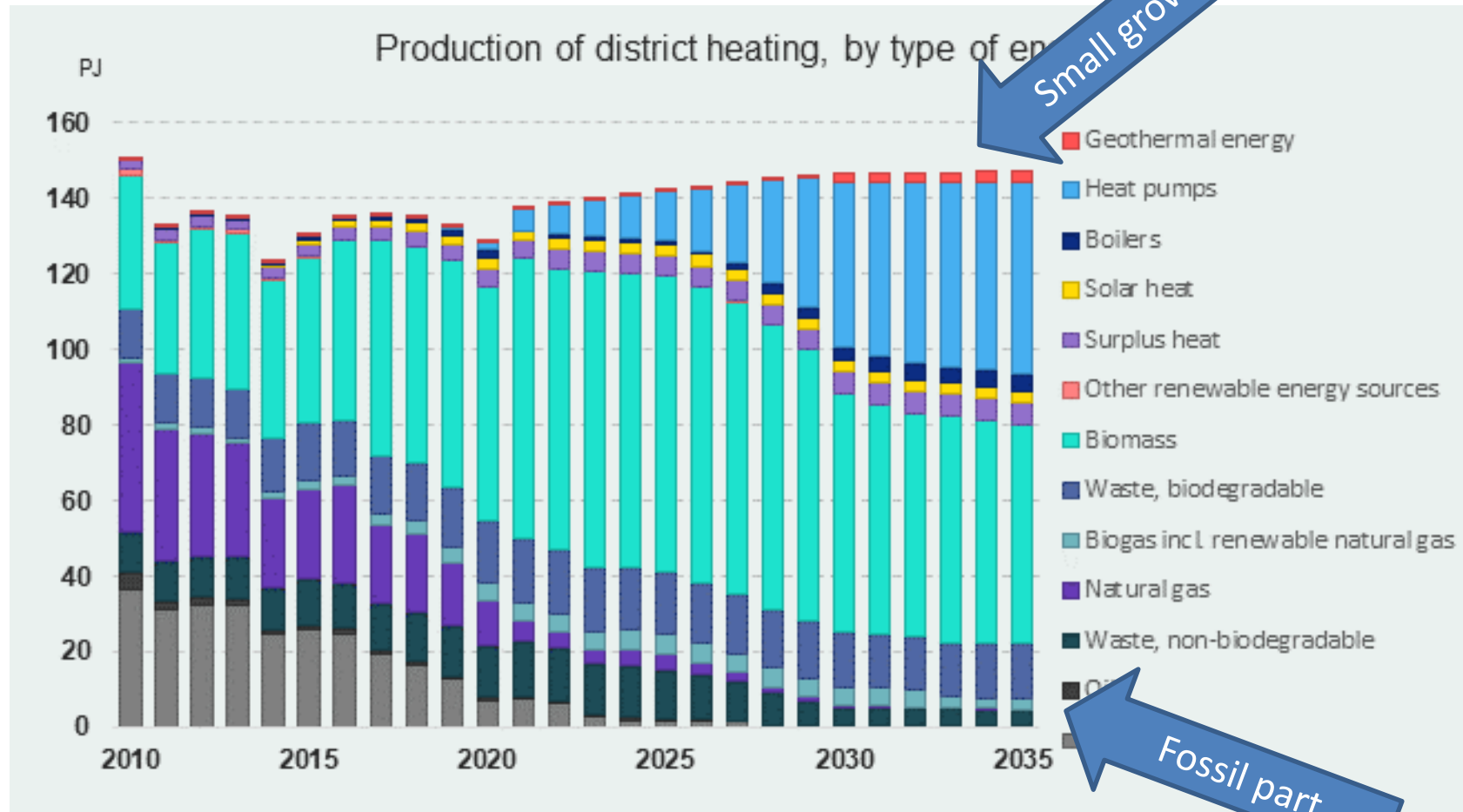
**LOWEST
PRICE!!!!**
& renewable!



DH development in Denmark

Year	% - DH	New heat sources	Comment
1903	0	Waste incineration	Municipal company
1960'ies	??	Low cost oil	Many co-operatives
1979	30%	Gas, coal	Lowest Price. Planning
1990'ies	50%	Biomass	Many new companies
2025	70%	Electrification	Integration to power
Soon	75%	Everything	Fully renewable (99,?%)

Sustainable Heat Sources



Why District Heating?

- Predictable, fair and lowest prices
- Green/sustainable
- For everyone
- Social and other benefits



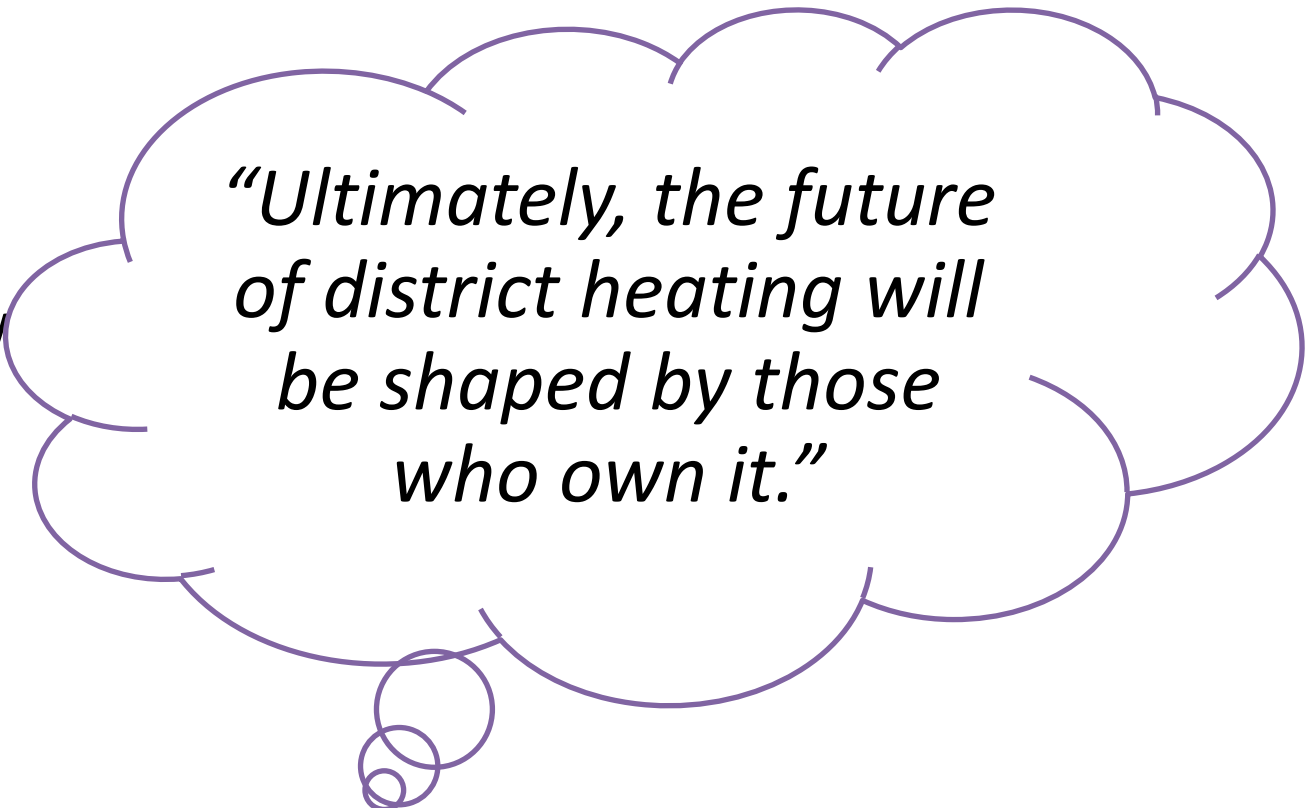
Key Success factors

- Municipal leadership
- Capital
- Stable framework conditions
- Consumer protection
- Ownership



Municipal Leadership

- “It is our village / town / city!”
- Heat Planning is key
- Success depends on local leadership.
- Municipalities must:
 - Lead and take ownership of the planning phase
 - Decide who should benefit and how
 - Decide when and how
 - Control the process



*“Ultimately, the future
of district heating will
be shaped by those
who own it.”*

Stable Framework conditions

- LONG TERM!
- Deal with the natural monopoly
- Protect:
 - Investment – the DH company
 - Consumer
 - Society
- Allows long term perspective and investment
- Financing is essential



Think very big

- DH should cover and benefit the entire city
- Act big in coordinated phases = planning



Consumer protection

- Clear stable heat law
- Clear price regulation
- Transparency
- Complaint system

Cases



The Netherlands



Germany



Amiens, France



Hamburg, Germany

Main ingredients

- Stable Framework conditions
- Municipal Leadership – heat planning
- Think very big – act in stages
- Forget the other non-existing solution: H2 etc.
- Allow many heat sources – be agnostic
- DH integrates the energy system
- Consumer protection
- We have no time! And the only thing we have is time.



Thank you!



GET THE PIPES IN
THE GROUND!

Relevant links

Sign up for Hot|Cool: <https://dbdh.org/newsletter-sign-up/>

<https://dbdh.org/duration-curves-and-how-they-should-influence-the-choice-of-heat-production-capacity/>

<https://dbdh.org/do-you-remember-this-card-game/>

<https://dbdh.org/internal-rate-of-return-and-how-it-affects-the-development-of-city-wide-dh-projects/>

<https://dbdh.org/motivation-tariff-a-key-tool-to-a-low-temperature-district-heating-network/>

<https://dbdh.org/digitalization-of-the-demand-side-how-does-the-end-users-behavior-influence-the-operating-temperatures-in-dhn/>

