

# Technical, Economical and Social Approaches in Energy Transition – Overview of Activities in Burgenland, Austria

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In order to alleviate the negative impacts of climate change a transition of our highly CO<sub>2</sub> emitting energy system is of utmost importance. Hence, renewable energy sources play an integral part in achieving this transition. However, the success of this energy transition relies on three different pillars: 1) Technical innovation, 2) Economical innovation, and 3) Social acceptance of the innovations. However, these three different pillars often follow different interests and, thus, a consensus is required to ensure a successful energy transition.

In the federal state of Burgenland, Austria, numerous research efforts are carried out investigating how these three aspects can be put together to build a sustainable and future-proof energy system. A major aspect of these efforts is the evaluation of different so-called sector coupling strategies, which combine different energy carriers, for example, the electricity sector with the heating sector.

Therefore, this work lays an emphasis on all three aforementioned pillars of energy transition: technical, economic and social aspects. We present recent research activities highlighting the technical challenges of coupling the electricity with the heating sector in different settings in Burgenland. Furthermore, various economical solutions, i.e., business models, are discussed and the influence of different policies and subsidies are analyzed. Finally, as the success of technical solutions and business models depends on their acceptance throughout all involved stakeholders, methods, approaches, and results obtained from different social research activities are presented.

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