

Recommendations from the INTREPIDH-Project

Affordable transition of industry and district heating through collaboration

Katharina Nau, International Cooperation, NRW.Energy4Climate



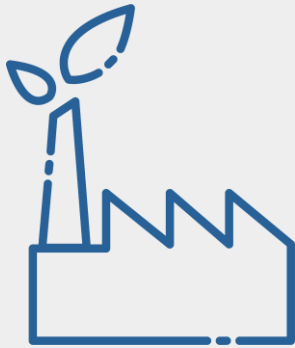
**NRW.ENERGY
4CLIMATE**

Landesgesellschaft
für Energie und Klimaschutz



15 September 2026

Our mission



NRW remains Germany's
No. 1 industrial location.



NRW will become completely
climate neutral as soon as
possible.



NRW takes the lead in the
energy transition.

#NRWisGoingClimateNeutral

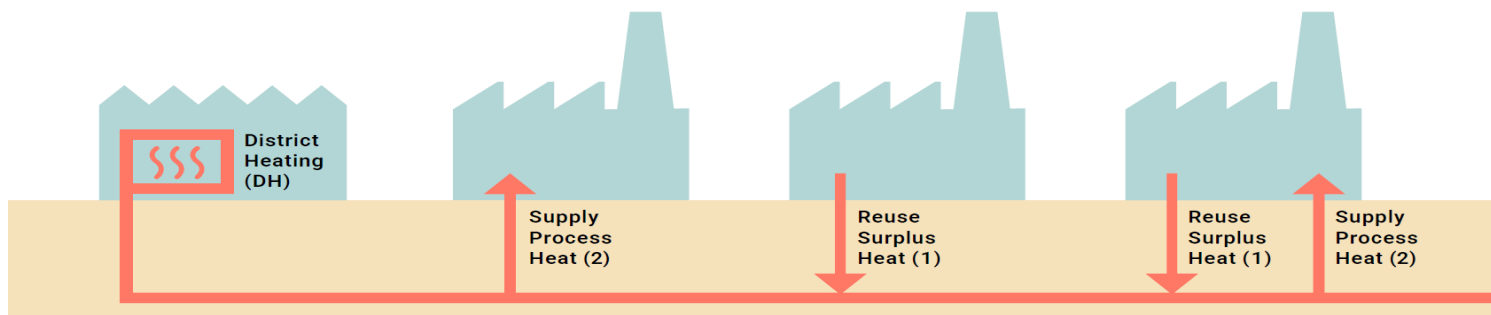
Results from the INTREPIDH-Project

Background and actors involved



Industrial Process Heat Supplied By District Heating

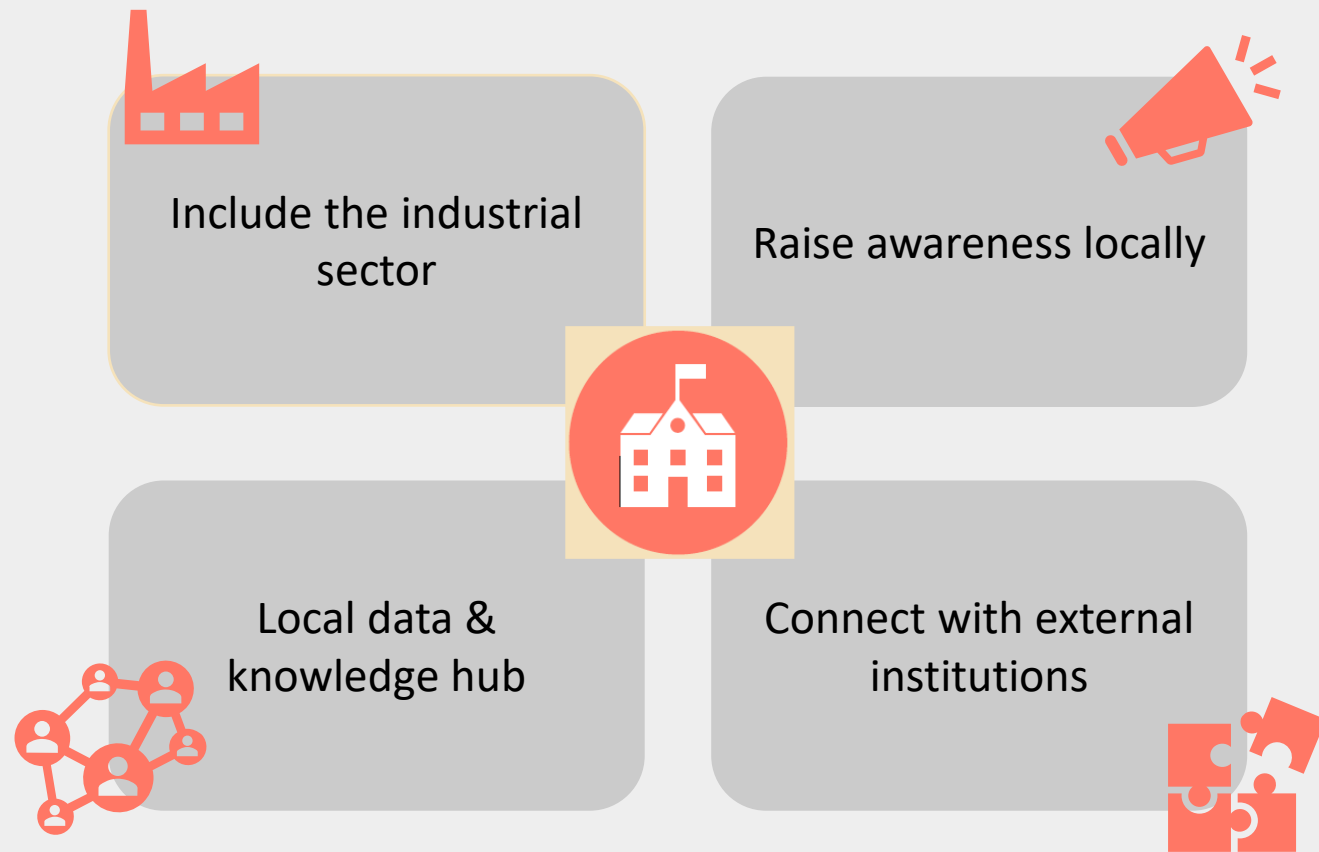
Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition



Source: Industrial Process Heat Supplied by District Heating: Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition

Results from the INTREPIDH-Project

Recommended actions: Municipalities



Source: Industrial Process Heat Supplied by District Heating: Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition



Industrial Process Heat Supplied By District Heating

Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition

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Municipalities have a key role and will benefit from being active. The collaboration of DH and Industry in urban areas boosts the local economy and can attract local employment. Accelerating the co-transition of industry and heating sector will help to achieve climate goals and increase acceptance of the heat plan.

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Industrial Process Heat Supplied By District Heating

Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition

Results from the INTREPIDH-Project Recommended actions: Energy Agencies



Act as facilitator and
first point of contact



Share information and
knowledge



Explore barriers and
potentials

Collaborate
(inter)nationally





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Politicians, industries and municipalities will reach out to the energy agencies for answers about potentials, cost effectiveness, energy savings, security of supply when combining process industry and district heating. Energy agencies hold a unique position to identify barriers, build knowledge and suggest solutions to unlock the synergies.

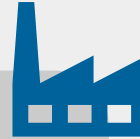
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Results from the INTREPIDH-Project

Recommended actions: District Heating Providers



Explore the opportunities



Reach out to the industry



Go for win-win solutions



Raise awareness about green solutions



Source: Industrial Process Heat Supplied by District Heating: Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition



Industrial Process Heat Supplied By District Heating

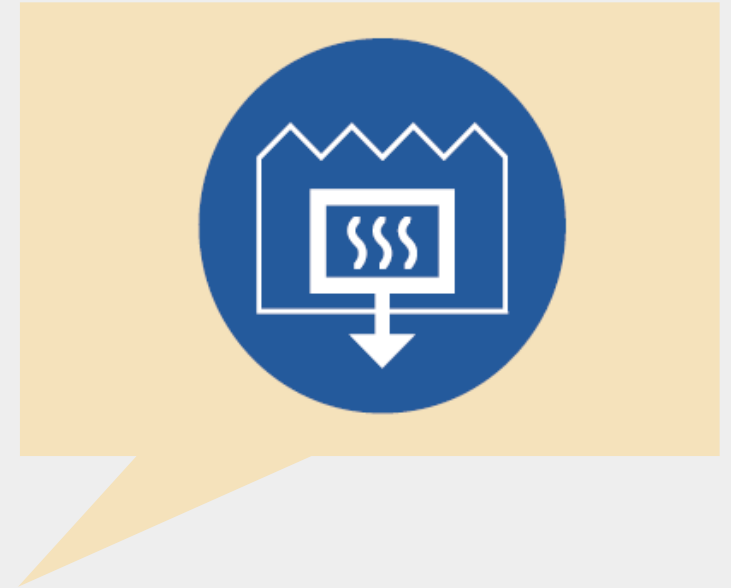
Recommendations for a more affordable energy transition

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The process industry is an attractive new type of customer and can help to make DH more robust and cost-effective. Delivering process heat to local industry leverages existing infrastructure and production capacity, especially during summer months. This can accelerate investments in additional low-carbon heat production.

By supporting local industry with affordable solutions, DH is gaining an ally for joint green solutions. This will increase the social acceptance for DH.

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Industrial Process Heat Supplied By District Heating

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Results from the INTREPIDH-Project Recommended actions: Industry



Reach out to local DH operator
about surplus heat and process
heat



Discuss potential benefits with
management and technical experts



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European industry is struggling with three challenges simultaneously: Energy efficiency, affordability, security of supply. A combined solution including sustainable district heating is more diversified and robust than a solution based on pure electrification.

It is worthwhile investigating when designing your green transition plan to assess the potentially lower investment costs and more stable heat prices.

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Results from the INTREPIDH-Project Key Take-Aways



1. Explore the opportunities
2. Reach out and talk to one another
3. Learn from best practices examples

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Thank you for your attention!

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