# Factsheet: Renewable Heat Supply in Honigsee, Germany

## Key facts

- **Location:** Honigsee, Schleswig-Holstein, southeast of Kiel.
- **Model:** Citizen-led cooperative, *Energieversorgung Honigsee eG*, founded in 2006. The cooperative operates a local district heating network, purchases surplus heat from two independently owned biogas CHP plants, and sells it to connected households.
- **Scale:** About 3.3 km of network supplies approximately 50 buildings; 85% of households in the village centre are connected.
- **Expansion potential:** The 2026 municipal heat plan identified the village centre as a district-heating network densification area, allowing additional nearby buildings to connect. However, there are buildings, particularly in the peripheral areas, where decentralized heat supply is prioritized.

## Governance

The initiative began in 2006 when two local farmers proposed using surplus heat from their biogas plants. After regional and municipal utilities rejected the project on cost grounds, residents formed a cooperative, developed the network themselves, and built support through public information meetings. The cooperative operates democratically, with one vote per member regardless of investment.

## Implementation

Construction started in June 2007. Volunteer labour, including trench works on private property, helped reduce total investment cost to approximately €630,000. Cooperative shares distributed costs among participants, while regular updates on construction, disruption, delays, and costs supported transparency and local trust.

## References


1. Amt Preetz-Land und GP JOULE Consult GmbH & Co. KG. *Kommunale Wärmeplanung: Abschlussbericht für das Barkauer Land (+)*. März 2026. https://www.amtpreetzland.de/verwaltung-politik/kommunalpolitik/kommunale-waermeplanung-im-barkauer-land
2. Amt Preetz-Land und GP JOULE Consult GmbH & Co. KG. *Gemeindespezifischer Bericht Gemeinde Honigsee* (Link see above)
3. Energieversorgung Honigsee eG: *Startseite*. Darstellung von Zielsetzung und Nutzen der Bürgergenossenschaft sowie der Wärmenutzung aus der Abwärme einer Biogasanlage. http://www.energieversorgung-honigsee.de
4. Energieversorgung Honigsee eG: *Idee – Bio-WärmeEnergie vor Ort: Neues Bürgermodell für die Trägerschaft eines Nahwärmenetzes im ländlichen Raum gespeist aus der Abwärme eines mit Biogas befeuerten Blockheizkraftwerks.* http://www.energieversorgung-honigsee.de/idee.php.