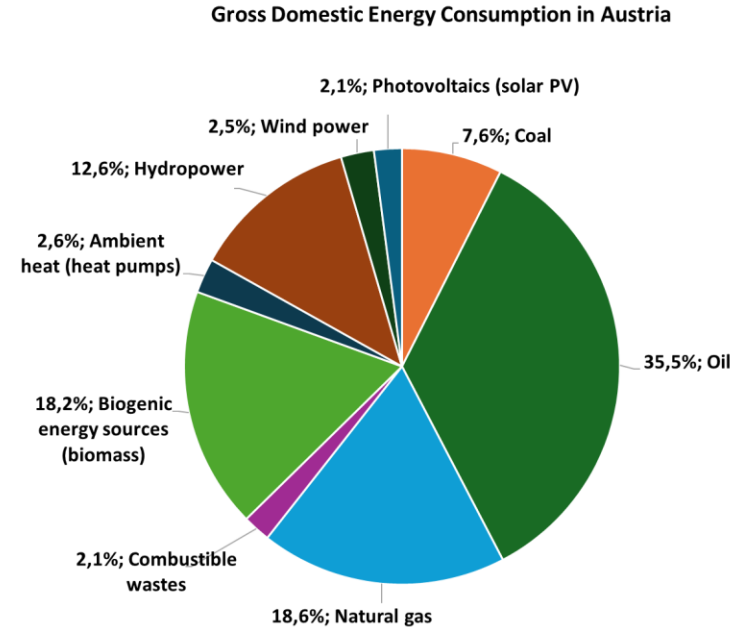


# The role of biomass in the Austrian energy mix

Bettina Bergauer  
BMWET, Department for  
Promoting the Energy Transition and Raising Awareness  
Prague, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Austria's Renewable Landscape

- 2023 renewables share:  
~**40.8%** of final energy consumption  
(Statistik Austria, 2024)
- Biomass = **largest renewable source**  
Dominant in **heat**,  
secondary in **electricity**
- Electricity mix: hydropower > wind >  
PV > biomass



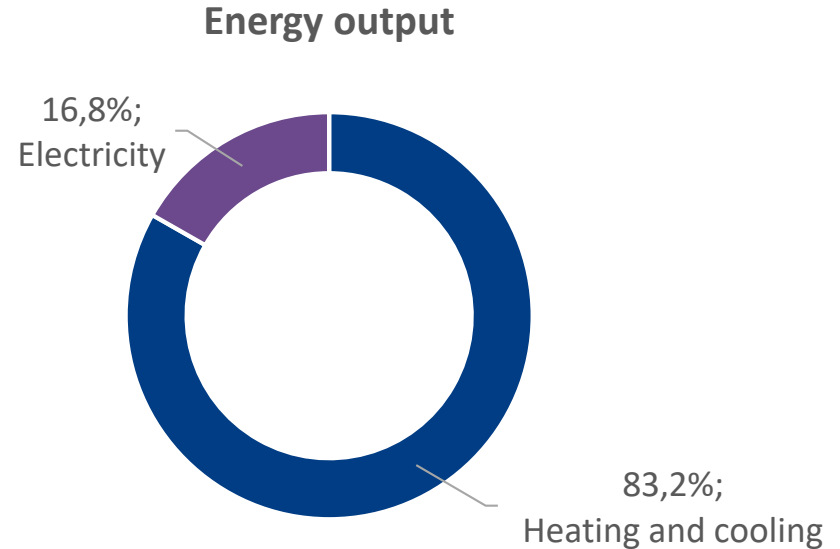
Source: BMWET; Energie in Österreich, Zahlen, Daten Fakten

## Biomass Resources in Austria

Forest cover: **~48%** of total land area

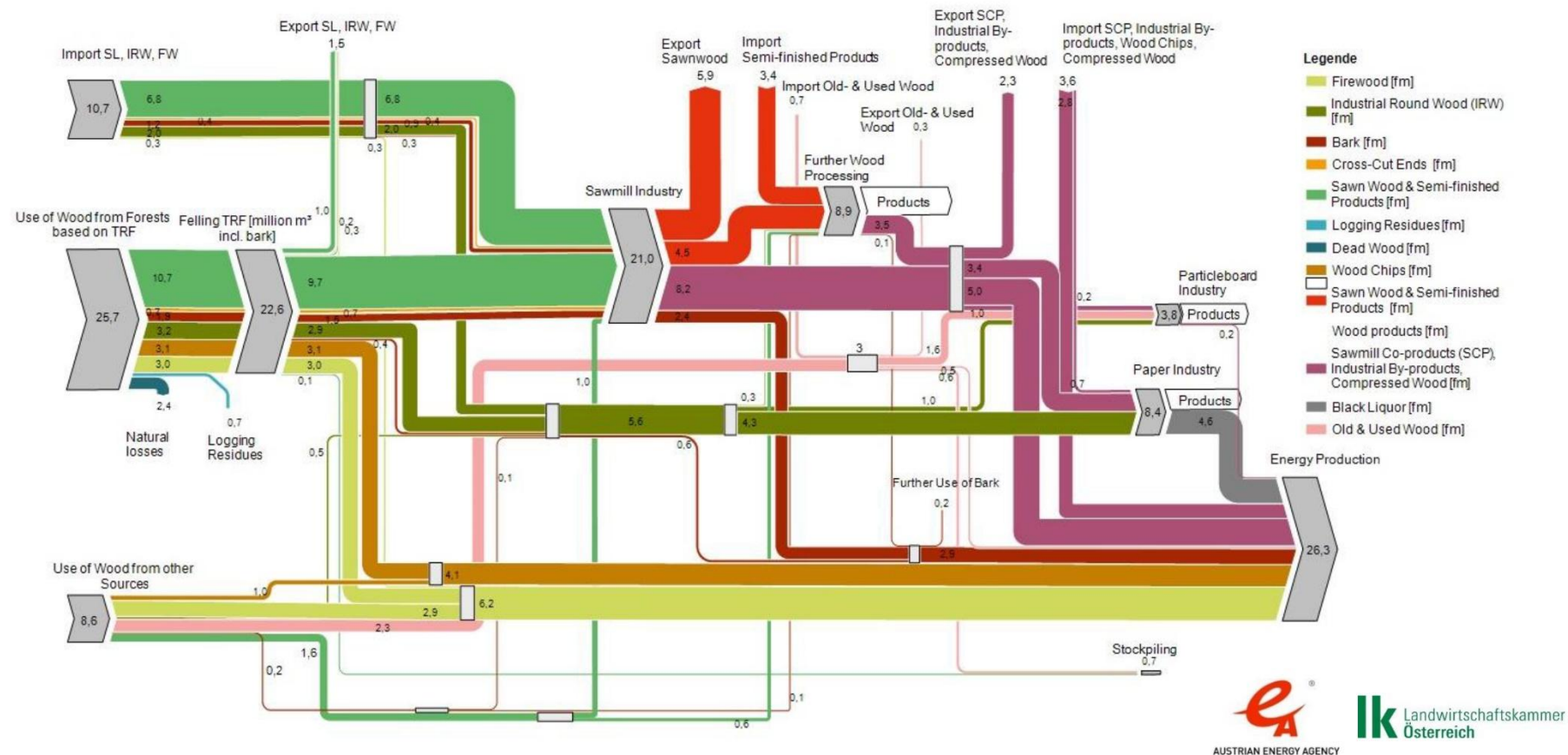
- Sustainable wood supply  
(residues, pellets, chips)
- Agricultural feedstocks  
(straw, manure, energy crops)
- Biogenic waste and industrial residues

Energy from agri/forest biomass  $\approx$  6 TWh;  
from residues & waste  $\approx$  11.8 TWh



Source: Austria's 2024 RED sustainability report and own calculations

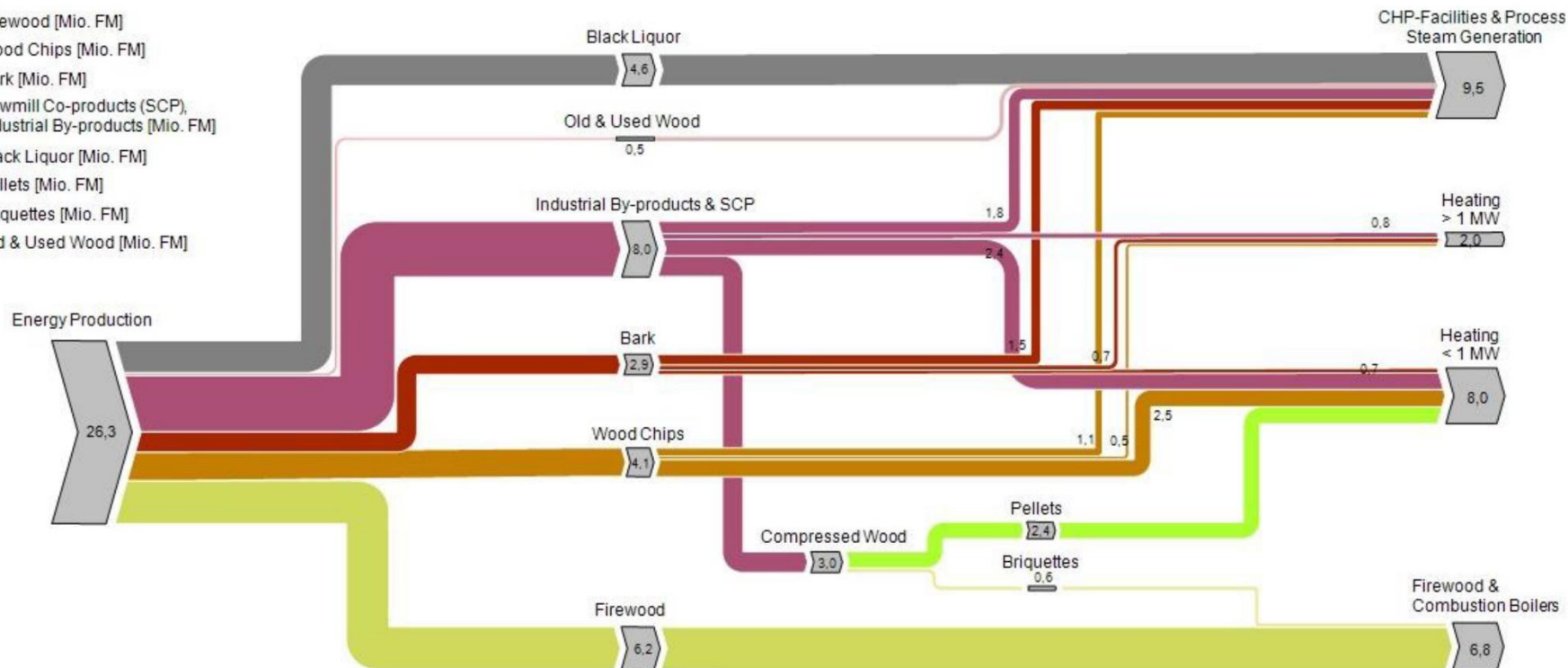
# Wood Flows in Austria



# Wood Flows in Austria – Energy Production

## Legend

- Firewood [Mio. FM]
- Wood Chips [Mio. FM]
- Bark [Mio. FM]
- Sawmill Co-products (SCP), Industrial By-products [Mio. FM]
- Black Liquor [Mio. FM]
- Pellets [Mio. FM]
- Briquettes [Mio. FM]
- Old & Used Wood [Mio. FM]



**Issue: November 2024 / Reference year 2022** - All values given in million m<sup>3</sup>; values <0,1 million m<sup>3</sup> are not shown; numerical values partially rounded; **Compiled by Lorenz Strimitzer, Bernhard Wlcek, Alex Bergamo, Austrian Energy Agency & Kasimir Nemestothy, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture - Compiled on behalf of BMK.**

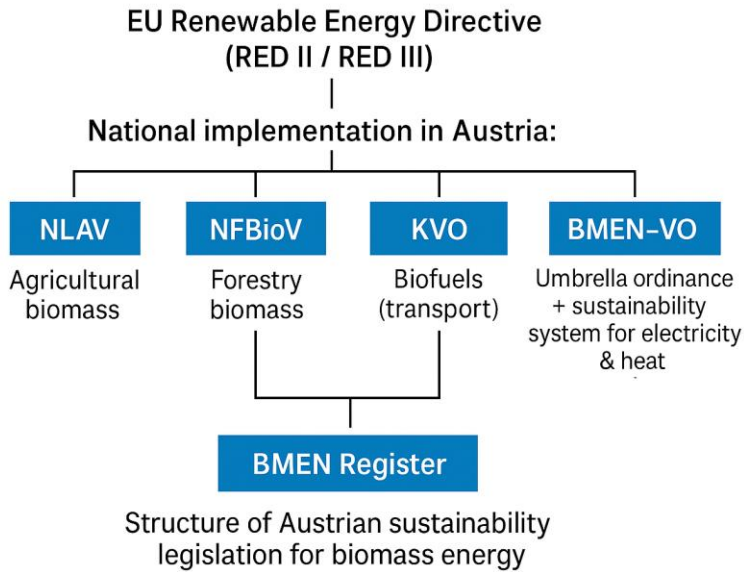




## Bioenergy Branch in Austria

- 2,397 Biomass district heating plants 2,192 MW capacity 6,937 GWh heat/year
- 159 Biomass CHP-plants 303 MW electric capacity, 2,177 GWh electricity and 3,834 GWh heat/a
- 20 Biofuels plants (2 Bioethanol, 8 Biodiesel, 10 Vegetable oil)
- 280 Biogas plants
- 48 Pellet producers 1,607,000 tons of pellets/year
- 777 Bio-heat partners (plumbing and chimney sweeping companies)
- 268 Stove-fitting companies
- 58 Research centers, colleges and schools

## Policy & Regulatory Framework



- **EAG (Renewable Expansion Act):** 100% renewable electricity target by 2030
- **Draft Renewable Gas Act (EGG):** aims for ~7.5 TWh biomethane by 2030 (proposed)



## EU RED II/III transposed into Austrian law

Abbreviation	Full name	Meaning / Purpose
NLAV	<i>Sustainability Ordinance for Agricultural Biomass (Nachhaltigkeits-Landwirtschaftsverordnung)</i>	Defines sustainability and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction requirements for <b>agricultural biomass</b> used for energy production (e.g. energy crops, manure, straw).
NFBioV	<i>Sustainability Ordinance for Forest Bioenergy (Nachhaltigkeits-Forstbioenergieverordnung)</i>	Establishes sustainability criteria for <b>forest-based biomass and wood fuels</b> (e.g. wood chips, pellets, sawmill residues).
BMEN-VO	<i>Ordinance on Biomass, Biogenic Fuels, Energy and Sustainability (Biomasse-, Biogene Brennstoffe-, Energie- und Nachhaltigkeitsverordnung)</i>	The <b>umbrella ordinance</b> defining terms, responsibilities, and verification rules for <b>biomass, biogenic fuels, energy and sustainability</b> . It forms the <b>legal basis for the BMEN Register</b> .
KVO	<i>Fuel Ordinance (Kraftstoffverordnung)</i>	Regulates <b>sustainability and GHG mitigation requirements</b> for <b>biofuels</b> in the transport sector (e.g. biodiesel, bioethanol).

## BMEN Register

- The official **electronic sustainability registry** for electricity and heat production from biomass (operational since 2024).  
It records and verifies the **sustainable origin and GHG savings** of biomass used for energy generation.
  - **Operator:** Environment Agency Austria (*Umweltbundesamt, UBA*)
  - **Scope:** Plants  $\geq 20$  MW (solid biomass) or  $\geq 2$  MW (biogas)

### Complements:

- the **eINa Register** (for biofuels) and
- the **AGCS Biomethane Register** (for renewable gas injection).

## Policy Shift from Biomass Power Support to Renewable Gas Targets in Austria

- Biomass electricity was **highly subsidized** under the *Renewable Expansion Act (EAG)* (feed-in tariffs) to be viable
- Government policy aims to **phase out direct power subsidies** for solid biomass plants. The upcoming *Renewable Gas Act (EGG)* foresees a national target up to 7.5 TWh of biomethane injected into the gas grid by 2030.
- Rationale: **lower system cost**, better grid integration, **improved GHG savings**
- Biomethane injection today:  $\approx 0.15\text{--}0.17$  TWh/year (AGCS registry)

## Sustainability & Certification

**Austria ensures that biomass used for power and heat generation is sustainable, i.e.:**

- no deforestation,
- traceable origin,
- greenhouse gas (GHG) savings compared to fossil fuels.

These safeguards are mandatory under the **EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED II / III)** and are verified through **certification schemes**.

SURE (Sustainable Resources Verification Scheme) covers 85% of certified bioenergy in Austria; → 335 SURE certificates issued in Austria by the end of 2024.

## Turning Biomass into Watts

- **Heat:** Traditional and still dominant use — local, and well established.
- **Power:** Supported through feed-in tariffs (ÖSG/EAG); costly but reliable dispatchable renewables.
- **Gas:** Policy discussions and draft legislation (Renewable Gas Act) aim for up to 7.5 TWh biomethane injection by 2030
- **Biofuels:** Continue to play a significant role in the transport sector under EU and national quotas

# Thank you for your attention!

Bettina Bergauer  
BMWET, Department for  
Promoting the Energy Transition and Raising Awareness  
[bettina.bergauer@bmwet.gv.at](mailto:bettina.bergauer@bmwet.gv.at)