



Energy

How cremations are helping to heat homes in Denmark

In Denmark, cremations are helping to heat the homes of the living. While crematoriums generate only a small portion of district heating in Danish cities, this sustainability strategy of “waste heat recapture” is saving cities money on their heating bills.

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By **Joshua Coe**



Caskets are lined up at a crematorium in Denmark.

Joshua Coe/The World

A clean, white casket trundles calmly into the mouth of an incinerator. The distance is roughly the length of an average person, head to foot. Once the door closes, temperatures will rise





trace. Rather, it separates it into parts of that previous form. And those are sorted, each with a place to go.



up the return water [from] the district heating system,” Bisgaard said.









heat to consumers, and long-term agreements with industries or data centers could leave communities hanging.





As a faint grey plume drifted from the crematorium's chimney overhead, Bisgaard looked out over the cemetery.





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