

## HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE - DECEMBER 2025

THE NORTH EAST AND YORKSHIRE NET ZERO HUB HOSTS SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO HELPING LOCAL AREAS PREPARE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF HEAT NETWORK ZONING. THIS REGULAR UPDATE SETS OUT THE LATEST POLICY, FUNDING AND BEST PRACTICE RELATING TO HEAT NETWORKS.

POLICY & FUNDING UPDATES	
<p><b>Registration of Heat Networks</b></p> <p>From <b>January 27<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>, Ofgem will assume its role as the heat network regulator and all existing heat networks will be deemed temporarily authorised. By <b>January 2027</b>, all heat networks will need to have registered with Ofgem for regulation</p> <p>Ofgem are now seeking views on the draft guidance around the registration of Heat Networks. The guidance explains roles and responsibilities, registration requirements, and obligations under the Registration and Nominated Operator authorisation conditions. It also includes specific guidance for registering Shared Ground Loop (SGL) heat networks and outlines what happens after registration is completed.</p> <p>The consultation opened on <b>November 27<sup>th</sup></b> and will close on <b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>. You can find more info via the link to the right. <b>Additionally, you can contact Ofgem directly at:</b> <a href="mailto:HeatNetworksRegulation@ofgem.gov.uk">HeatNetworksRegulation@ofgem.gov.uk</a></p>	Ofgem
<p><b>Energy From Waste: Heat Network Prospectus</b></p> <p>The Environmental Services Association has published its Guide to Energy from Waste (EfW) Heat Offtake that supports the potential of EfW facilities to export low-carbon heat. The guide outlines technical, commercial, and regulatory considerations for EfW heat offtake - including checklists for developers, operators and wider stakeholders.</p> <p>It is supported by the ESA's updated Heat Network Prospectus which provides insight into the heat available at a range of operational EfW facilities. Through an interactive map, individual heat customers can gain detailed information about each facility, including up-to-date contact details. From a heat network perspective, EfW plants can provide large volumes of heat on a consistent basis relatively nearby to significant heating demand.</p>	Heat Network Prospectus
<p><b>Draft Heat network technical standard (TS1) released</b></p> <div data-bbox="165 1514 622 1895" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>TS1 – the Heat Network Technical Standard is now available in a draft format, setting out the minimum requirements necessary for their design, installation, and operation of Heat Networks. Once finalised this document will serve as the principal reference point for the <b>Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme</b> and will supersede the Heat Networks: Code of Practice for the UK (CP1 - 2020). This marks the shift from voluntary best practice to a formal regulatory standard that will underpin the forthcoming Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS).</p> <p>The final version of TS1 will be released before the launch of HNTAS in 2026.</p>	Heat network technical standard

## HNDU Funding Responses

Everyone who submitted an Expression of Interest for round 15 HNDU funding should now have received a response. If successful there will be clear instructions on next steps. For anyone unsuccessful this time around, the HNDU team received a huge number of applications and so were unable to support as many projects as they would have liked. If you are wondering how to progress following the response from HNDU, please feel free to get in touch and we can explore ways forward.

## IN PERSON

### Community Energy Networking Event – Newcastle

Seeing is Believing is a programme funded by the Hub, delivered by our Community Energy team and on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** they'll be hosting an in-person event in partnership with Ashden and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The event will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear from a range of community energy experts on how they're delivering low carbon energy projects across communities in the North East and includes a visit to the District Energy Centre at Newcastle Helix, followed a networking event with guest speakers including me :)

I'll be attending to talk through the following:

- the benefits of Heat Networks
- potential funding streams and
- activity throughout the Hub region

You can find out more about the event and [sign up here](#).

### Climate Justice for Women

Now for something a little off topic, but very close to my heart. I recently had the opportunity to attend a wonderful event at the University of Bradford.



people and planet first.

'Climate Justice for Women' brought together scientists, industry experts, academics, and activists to explore the many ways in which women are unequally affected by climate change, the vital roles they already play in tackling the climate crisis, and why their voices must be central to shaping climate policies. The event provided the opportunity for attendees to share their experiences, discuss potential solutions to some very big and real problems and to meet allies from many different disciplines. I left feeling incredibly inspired and would encourage all of us to continue to support and uplift one another, putting our shared passion for

## KEEP IN TOUCH

For more information about Hub support for Heat Network Zoning please contact: [lauren.kemp@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:lauren.kemp@westyorks-ca.gov.uk) or [enquiries@neynetzerohub.com](mailto:enquiries@neynetzerohub.com).

Don't forget, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero have their very own Heat Networks newsletter. You can sign up here: [DESNZ – HN Bulletins](#)