

HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE – MARCH 2026

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

HNTAS Technical Standards Consultation

The Heat Network Technical Assurance Standard Consultation was released in January and is currently available for review at: [Heat network technical standards - GOV.UK](#).

The team at BESA (Building Engineering Services Association) are requesting input from colleagues across the heat network sector and ask that they take some time to review the consultation materials, and consider how the proposed standards may impact our organisations as well as the wider sector.

This consultation seeks views on the introduction of regulatory heat network technical standards and a Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS) to help heat network developers, contractors and operators demonstrate compliance with those standards. It seeks views on proposals regarding:

- **the scope of technical standards regulation**
- **governance structure for the scheme**
- **overarching technical, assessment and certification requirements**
- **the role of assessors and certifiers in the scheme**
- **enforcement, appeals and complaints**
- **support and incentives to facilitate heat network compliance**

The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 15 April 2026.

Comments and responses can be submitted directly to heatnetworks@energysecurity.gov.uk.

In addition, BESA are currently inviting expressions of interest from individuals who would like to become HNTAS assessors. This is an opportunity to play a key role in supporting the delivery and assurance of technical standards across the heat networks sector. If you are interested in learning more about the assessor role and next steps, you can read about it in the above consultation, or for any other questions please contact HNTAS@thebesa.com.

Green Heat Network Fund: Round 11

The next round of the Green Heat Network Fund is now open for applications and will close at **11.59pm on May 1st 2026**.

The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) is a capital grant fund that supports:

- the commercialisation and construction of new low-carbon heat networks (including the supply of cooling)
- the retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks

It aims to develop and grow the heat network market and to address some of the challenges of decarbonising the UK's heat sector.

The updated guidance for this round is also now available and can be found here: [Green Heat Network Fund \(GHNF\): Round 11 application guidance - GOV.UK](#)

To ensure that you will receive an application pack, when available, express your interest by completing and submitting this [webform](#).

IN PERSON & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Free Heat Network training from FairHeat

FairHeat have just released a new set of training for LAs, HAs and businesses who are involved with Heat Networks. All the courses are free and fully funded by DESNZ.

The upcoming courses are as follows. In order to sign up, simply click on the dates of your choosing:

Optimising Heat Network Pipe Insulation: Standards, Best Practises and Reducing Heat Loss

March 12th 1:30 - 4:30 pm OR

March 17th 9:30 - 12:30 pm

Pressure Design for Heat Networks: Managing Risk and Operational Reliability

March 3rd 9:30 - 12:30 pm OR

March 13th 9:30 - 12:30 pm

Water Quality in Heat Networks: Getting Design, Commissioning & Operations Right

March 10th 9:30 - 12:30 pm OR

March 24th 9:30 - 12:30 pm

Resilient Heat Networks: Minimising Risk, Outages, and Consumer Impact

March 19th 1:30 - 4:30 pm OR

March 30th 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Pipe Sizing for Heat Networks: Methods, Calculations and Technical Requirements

March 6th 9:30 - 12:30 pm OR

March 11th 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Study Trip to Denmark

The Danish Board of District Heating are offering the opportunity to join a study trip to Denmark to explore the learnings from the Danish heat networks industry. The purpose of this event is to share knowledge and experiences within heat networks between Denmark and the UK. The opportunity is open to a mix of potential participants with representatives from public and private stakeholders including local authorities, universities, housing associations and energy companies/developers.

The trip is planned for April 8th and 9th 2026 and potential participants will be required to pay for their own flights and accommodation.

Those joining the trip will get an overall introduction to heat networks in Denmark and meet key practitioners from local authorities and industry. Furthermore, participants will visit a range of energy centres utilising various energy sources including large-scale heat pumps, solar, geothermal, biomass, EfW, and explore the role of thermal storage.

The trip will feature visits to small-scale systems as well as citywide networks. You will hear from municipalities how they are planning and developing new heat network zones as well as converting buildings on individual gas boilers to heat networks as well as working towards lower temperature networks.

If you would like to participate or have any question, please reach out to Rasmus Leth Traberg at the Danish Embassy via the following link: rastra@um.dk

APSE: The Big Energy Summit

The APSE Big Energy Summit, in partnership with DESNZ, took place on 24 and 25 February at Birmingham Conference and Events Centre. The event, titled '**Local energy, local climate, local action**' is the only energy seminar focusing solely on the local government sector. It is designed specifically for local authorities with content designed for that audience and it was a great opportunity to catch up with LA colleagues from throughout the Hub geography.

My Heat Network Zoning colleagues had the opportunity to present on day 2, where they covered:

- How zoning will be implemented following the release of the consultation response
- Who's impacted? Tools for communities to enable a place-based approach, and
- The council role to enable heat network delivery and maximise benefits for local communities.



The Zoning leads from all 5 hubs were in attendance, which was a real treat. Here's me with Thiru (Midlands) and Elli (South West) 😊

KEEP IN TOUCH

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