

HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE – MAY 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

Heat Network Zoning Pipeline

Just another reminder that DESNZ is inviting strategic and local authorities in England to help identify the next zones to be brought forward for implementation and inform the pipeline of potential heat network zones.

Details of this have been published on the [Heat Networks Delivery Unit webpage](#) and **responses will need to be received by May 29 2026.**

Information received after May 29th will be used as part of the continuous process of pipeline review. For further information please contact HNDU@energysecurity.gov.uk. The pipeline review will consider, for each zone opportunity area, evidence on strategic alignment with zoning objectives and confidence in deliverability (including readiness, viability, feasibility).

If you'd like to talk this through in more detail, please let me know and I'll set some time aside for us – you can reach me via lauren.kemp@westyorks-ca.gov.uk.



Zoning Webinar Series

In February of this year colleagues at DESNZ delivered a series of informative webinars covering 5 key areas of the government's **heat network zoning consultation response**.

For those who were either unable to join or wish to revisit the sessions, recordings of the 5 webinars can be found at the following links:

- February 4th - [HNZ Consultation Response – Webinar 1: Introduction](#)
- February 11th - [HNZ Consultation Response - Webinar 2: Defining Heat Network Zones: Roles and Identifying Zones](#)
- February 19th - [HNZ Consultation Response – Webinar 3: Heat Network Zones in Practice: Connections, Heat Sources and Existing Heat Networks](#)
- February 26th - [HNZ Consultation Response - Webinar 4: Delivery Heat Network Zones: Developer Appointment \(Competition and Consenting\)](#)
- March 4th - [HNZ Consultation Response – Webinar 5: Bringing Zones to Life: Operation](#)

Thank you to everyone who was able to join the webinar series and for your participation in asking questions.

Warm Homes Fund – Call for evidence

DESNZ has now launched a call for evidence on the £5 billion Warm Homes Fund. They are wanting to gather information and views that will help inform the design of the Warm Homes Fund so that it best meets the department's aims.

The Fund will have £5 billion of capital for investment via financial transactions and could deliver a massive increase in the investment going into low carbon technologies by overcoming barriers to deployment and adoption, such as upfront costs.

You can respond online via the following link: [Warm Homes Fund: innovative finance for investments and loans - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - Citizen Space](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Operation and Maintenance Upskilling Videos

Heat networks are set to play a big role in how the UK heats homes and buildings. Currently supplying around **3 per cent of the nation's heat, the government aims for that figure to rise to 20 per cent by 2050**. Achieving this will require significant investment and a skilled workforce to design, operate and maintain networks that deliver reliable, low-carbon heat.

To support this growth, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has launched a series of 13 short, practical videos to help upskill those involved in heat network operation and maintenance. The content is aimed at service providers and building owners or managers, whether connected to district networks or smaller communal systems. In addition, these videos are an excellent resource for students, trainees and their training providers.

The videos start with the basics – what heat networks are and why they matter for bills, carbon and energy security – before moving into key performance drivers. Topics include flow and return temperatures, monitoring, water quality, heat interface units (HIUs), insulation, bypasses and pumps. Each video explains how these factors affect efficiency, reliability and long-term costs in clear, accessible language.

Beyond technical fundamentals, the series addresses procurement and contracting – critical for success. Viewers learn how to appoint contractors, procure building management services and set clear requirements and responsibilities from installation through to operation. A consumer-focused video helps those managing residents communicate effectively on billing, support and escalation routes, reducing confusion and complaints.

This initiative is more than a training resource; it signals the sector's future. As standards and regulation evolve, skills and training will be essential to unlock investment and create thousands of jobs. By signposting heat training grant courses and promoting careers, DESNZ is helping prepare the market for rapid expansion.

If you own buildings, manage estates or operate heat networks, these videos will help you make informed decisions, reduce risk and improve performance.

The videos can be accessed here – [heat networks operation and maintenance upskilling videos](#).

IN PERSON EVENTS

Futurebuild - London

Futurebuild is one of the UK's leading conferences for the built environment, held annually at **ExCeL London**. It focuses on sustainable construction, net-zero goals, and cutting-edge innovations, bringing together over 25,000 professionals, specifiers, and policymakers to collaborate and drive positive change in the industry.

This year myself and the Zoning Leads from the four other Net Zero Hubs will be attending and presenting at the conference, **held May 12 – May 14**. You'll be able to find our Zoning stand in the 'Connection Café' and we'll be hosting a panel discussion on day 2, Wednesday 13th.

Our Hub's Retrofit Team will also be attending Futurebuild, alongside the Housing Retrofit Leads from the four other Net Zero Hubs. You can find our Retrofit Team at the Public Sector Pavilion – they are excited to also be taking part in a range of inspiring talks and roundtables across the three-day event!

For more information about the event, please click here: [Futurebuild 2026 | Sustainable Construction Event UK 12-14 May](#)

UK REiiF - Leeds

The UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum takes place **May 19 – May 21, 2026** and is returning to Leeds Docks for 3 days, giving attendees direct access to the ideas, opportunities and partnerships shaping the future of the UK's built environment.

UKREiiF is the UK's leading forum for real estate, investment and infrastructure, bringing together property professionals, investors, developers and senior decision-makers from across the UK.

The Zoning leads and I will be in attendance and hope to see some familiar faces whilst there. Come and see us on stand K52 in the Royal Armouries Hall.

For more information about the event, please click here: [UKREiiF - The UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum](#)

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](#)