

HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE – JUNE 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

Funding awards for New and Existing Heat Networks

The outcome of Round 10 of the **Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES)** has been announced. £15.6m has been awarded in one of the schemes' biggest funding rounds to date to improve heating and hot water provision for over 10,000 residents in England and Wales.

Improvements being funded include replacing leaky pipes, insulating pipework to reduce heat loss and upgrading interface units in homes so residents have better control of their heating. This will deliver more reliable, lower-cost heating for residents.

You can **apply for future HNES funding rounds now** by emailing HNES@talan.com and registering an Expression of Interest.

Alongside this, over £25 million in funding from the **Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF)** has been announced to four projects in Atherstone, Bristol, London and Rochdale, bringing low carbon heat to thousands of homes, businesses, and buildings. These will include older listed properties, local art galleries, museums, supermarkets, hospitals, and more across England. These projects were all awarded funding in the ninth round of the GHNF.

Something very exciting to note is that the GHNF will be open to applicants in Wales from the next round, Round 12, which is expected to open later this summer.

For further information about the GHNF, please click the following link: [Green Heat Network Fund \(GHNF\): guidance on how to apply - GOV.UK](#)



Laying of the SI and upcoming legislation

As you're likely aware, extensive consultation has been undertaken by DESNZ regarding the draft Heat Network Zoning regulations. There were more than 500 individual comments over three broad categories:

- Specific drafting changes (e.g. incorrect cross-references)
- Implementation questions (e.g. "how will a ZCB do x...?")
- Strategic points (e.g. "It's important that zoning aligns with policy x and/or delivers objective y").

All the feedback that was received will inform final drafting of the regulations. Once laid in Parliament, the draft regulations will be subject to debates in both Houses. DESNZ are grateful for all comments received on the draft regulations and are taking time to fully consider them.

As a result of this, it won't be possible to lay the regulations in the spring as planned. Colleagues at DESNZ are now targeting a summer laying date, potentially after summer recess. However, despite this slippage the team are still intending for regulations to take effect by the end of the year, subject to Parliamentary time.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Intro to HNTAS Training

Our colleagues at FairHeat have offered us the opportunity for a free session diving into the Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS) and the effect it may have on stakeholders throughout the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub's geography.

We're still planning what this could look like, but the session will likely last 90 minutes and will broadly cover the following:

- A high-level introduction to HNTAS
- What it means for different stakeholders
- Practical steps organisations can start taking now

I recently sent out a poll to gauge interest, off the back of your responses we've decided to hold the session online. We have date pencilled in and will be sending out invites very soon. Keep your eyes peeled!

The session will be open to anyone and everyone with an interest in the new regulations, so please feel free to forward the session on once invites are sent out.

IN PERSON EVENTS

UKDEA 2026 Heat Networks Expo

UKDEA (a major Knowledge Hub and Voice for the UK's District Energy Sector) will be hosting the 2026 Heat Networks Expo in collaboration with DESNZ on **July 14th in London**.

The event is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, including people that are entirely new to heat networks, impacted by customer protection regulation, seeking to understand the latest on HNTAS & Heat Network Zoning or working in the sector.

The event is free to attend with delegates having access to:

- Detailed presentations from DESNZ and Ofgem policy officials on key sector topics including Consumer Protection, Technical Standards, Funding and Heat Network Zoning.
- Informative presentations on case studies and latest innovations for the heat network sector from UKDEA members
- Multiple exhibition areas with 52 companies from the heat network sector

You can find out more by clicking the following link: [UKDEA Heat Networks Expo 2026 Tickets, Tuesday, July 14 • 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Fairheat Annual Conference

This year, the FairHeat Annual Conference will take place over 2 separate days in June, with each day focusing on two different kinds of Heat Networks, existing and new build...

Day 1: Existing Heat Networks (June 3rd 2026)

This day focuses on the biggest challenges and opportunities for operational networks, including:

- Improving network performance and preparing for upcoming regulation
- What draft HNTAS could mean for asset owners
- Practical approaches to efficiency, metering, billing and customer experience
- Case studies from authorities and operators who have taken networks through improvement cycles

Sign up for Day 1 here: [FairHeat Annual Conference 2026: Existing Heat Networks Tickets, Wednesday, June 3 • 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Day 2: New Build Heat Networks (June 17th 2026)

A practical deep dive into designing, delivering, and assuring compliant new heat networks, including:

- What new regulations mean for new build developments
- Legal considerations for developers under the new regime
- Standardising documentation and compliance pathways
- Metering, billing, and customer experience
- Lessons from live new build projects

Sign up for Day 2 here: [FairHeat Annual Conference 2026: New Build Heat Networks Tickets](#), Wednesday, June 17 • 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM | [Eventbrite](#)

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](#)