

HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE – AUGUST 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.

HUB & POLICY UPDATES

Heat Pumps and Low Carbon Heat Networks

The Heat Pump Association UK has published a paper outlining recommendations for incorporating heat pumps into low carbon heat networks. Titled 'Accelerating the Widescale Deployment of Heat Pump Driven Low Carbon Heat Networks and Drilling', the paper covers key asks for government, focusing on shared ground loops (SGL), ambient heat networks, heat-pump driven heat networks and the drilling infrastructure underpinning many of these systems.

You can access the paper via the following link: [SGL Key Asks](#)

Hub Trip to Blackburn Meadows

In July the Hub team had the opportunity to visit **Eon's Blackburn Meadows** Biomass power station in Sheffield. The site uses recycled waste wood sourced from within the UK to generate electricity and thermal energy and powers almost 69,000 homes and businesses.

The Hub team were taken on a tour of the plant, seeing it's inner workings and learning about how heat generated from the site supplies local businesses through Eon's own district heating network, including IKEA, Ice Sheffield, Sheffield Arena and Forgemaster's Steel Works.

In line with Sheffield City Council's ambition to decarbonise the city and reach Net Zero by 2030, the team at Eon are aiming to expand the heat network in the coming years to connect businesses and homes across the Lower Don Valley, by adding a further 12 km of pipe work to the existing 8km.



Pro tip: don't wear shorts to a site visit – you'll be issued a onesie.

Hull DHN – Connecting local businesses

The Hull Heat Network will help make Hull a cleaner, healthier city by reducing reliance on gas. Delivered by Vital Energi in partnership with Hull City Council, the scheme will provide a reliable and affordable source of heat for connected buildings.



The scheme has secured investment from the Green Heat Network Fund, Levelling Up Partnership, and the National Wealth Fund to deliver the low-carbon heat project across the city centre.

Local businesses can now find out about one of Hull's most ambitious low-carbon infrastructure projects, following the launch of the new Hull Heat Network website. The website will provide local organisations with a central source to learn about the heat network. It explains how the network works, the benefits of connecting to the network, and how organisations can register their interest. Also included are regular project updates, frequently asked questions, and details about current works.

You can explore the Hull Heat Network website here: [Home – Hull Heat Network](#)

KNOWLEDGE SHARE & WEBINARS

Citizens Advice and support for consumers

Citizens Advice serves as the official statutory consumer advocate for heat networks in England and Wales, providing free guidance and support as Ofgem regulation establishes minimum standards, fair pricing, and consumer protections.

The Heat Networks team at Citizens Advice hosts specialist heat network advisers who are trained to provide advice to empower heat network consumers to understand their consumer rights and options. They help consumers navigate the supplier's complaints process and, if unresolved, support them in escalating to the Energy Ombudsman.

Local support organisations and heat networks can direct consumers on heat networks to the dedicated helpline for expert-led resolution

- Call the consumer service on 0808 223 1133 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm). Calls from mobiles and landlines are free.
- Alternatively, consumers can visit [their website](#) for more information.

Turning Plans into Projects - Webinar Series

Drawing on their 25 years of experience supporting public sector organisations throughout the UK, the Carbon Trust are holding a 5 part webinar series throughout August and September. The series will cover moving beyond early actions to larger, more complex projects, climate risk and adaptation, domestic heat pump development and funding area-wide projects.

The sessions are online, free and open to all:

Beyond the quick wins: Delivering decarbonisation at scale | Wednesday August 19th 2026 | 09:30am-10:30am

Climate risk to resilience: Practical action for public sector organisations | Wednesday August 26th 2026 | 09:30am-10:30am

Place-based decarbonisation: From ambition to investable delivery | Wednesday September 2nd 2026 | 09:30am-10:30am

Keeping energy local: Understanding the opportunity of P441 | Wednesday September 9th 2026 | 09:30am-10:30am

Scaling heat pump deployment: Lessons for local authorities | Wednesday September 16th 2026 | 09:30am-10:30am

You can sign up for the webinar series via the following link:

[Turning plans into projects: Practical insights on delivering decarbonisation across the public sector | The Carbon Trust](#)

If you're unable to attend any of the sessions, simply register and the Carbon Trust will share recordings afterwards.

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](#)