HEAT NETWORK ZONING UPDATE – NOVEMBER 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.

THIS SUPPORT RELATES SPECIFICALLY TO HEAT NETWORK ZONING. THERE ARE HIGH LEVELS OF DEMAND FOR THIS PROGRAMME AND WE MAY HAVE TO STRICTLY PRIORITISE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

HUB & POLICY UPDATES

Ofgem Registration – deadline fast approaching!

Ofgem's digital service is open for registration.
Under the new regulations, existing heat network operators and suppliers will be required to register their heat network by **January 26th 2027.**

Heat network operators and suppliers are encouraged to register with Ofgem as soon as possible, early registration will help Ofgem provide support where needed and give organisations time to prepare for authorisation conditions.

The digital service will become the central place where heat network operators and suppliers interact with Ofgem and demonstrate compliance with the new regulations, including registering, updating details and managing users.

Guidance on what information is needed for registration is available on Ofgem's website, alongside videos and further support. The guidance explains the scope of heat networks regulation including key definitions, clarification on what activities the regulations apply to, and how responsibilities map to the physical boundaries of heat networks, provides an overview of how authorised persons must register their heat network activities with us and sets out the information that must be provided through this process.

You can register on the digital service here.

If you have any questions, including about compliance, contact:
heatnetworksregulation@ofgem.gov.uk.

Local Net Zero Hubs Annual Conference

The Local Net Zero Hubs network are meeting for their annual conference in November, bringing together delegates from each of the Net Zero Hubs to share learning, showcase achievements and explore wider impacts of net zero projects beyond the headline statistics.

I am looking forward to sharing the knowledge from our region, and to learn and gain insights from the other Hubs and DESNZ in relation to future priorities, to share with regional stakeholders.

Energy Policy Matters: Energy UK

As heat network zoning legislation comes forward and elements of the Warm Homes Plan are considered for devolution, zoning will become an increasingly important tool for accelerating deployment, unlocking investment, and empowering local authorities to deliver secure, affordable low-carbon heat for their communities.

However, Energy UK is concerned that, in its current form, the proposed legislation may not fully achieve these objectives. Their newly published paper entitled **'Energy Policy Matters: How zoning can enable low-carbon heat networks in city centres'** sets out the key challenges and the organisation's recommended solutions to ensure heat network zoning delivers on its ambitions.

The paper states that to achieve the key aims of Zoning, legislation needs to ensure that:

- heat network zoning and national planning policy works in harmony.
- zone designation is initiated in areas where the heat network is likely to offer competitive prices with the gas boiler counterfactual
- development is enabled by granting heat networks appropriate development rights and powers for a utility, and fully integrating them into energy system planning.

For more information, and to read the paper in full, please click the following link:

Energy UK

The voice of the energy industry

Energy Policy Matters: How zoning can enable low-carbon heat networks in city centres - Energy UK

TRAINING AND IN PERSON EVENTS

Commercial Readiness for Heat Networks

The Carbon Trust (now an official training provider under the government's Heat Training Grant) are continuing their series of free training courses focused on equipping local authority officers, housing associations and public-sector developers in England with essential commercial skills to support heat network delivery.

The Commercial Readiness for Heat Networks training, designed specifically for public-sector organisations in England, covers the full lifecycle of a heat network project from feasibility and zoning, through delivery models and funding, to long-term operation and governance. The half-day course will take place over four hours, online via Microsoft Teams.

The course will be offered on the following dates:

- Thursday November 26th 2026, 9:30am-1:30pm GMT
- Thursday January 28th 2027, 9:30am-1:30pm GMT

Places are limited - early registration is strongly recommended.
You can find out more about the training and sign up via the following link: **here**

ADE Heat Networks Conference

The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) hosted its inaugural Heat Networks Conference at the OEC in Sheffield on October 22nd.

The event brought together representatives from across the Heat Networks industry, government and the wider public sector to explore topics including:

- Clean Heat 2040
- Consumer protection and compliance with regulation
- HNTAS and,
- Future skills, training and accreditation.

Further information about the organisation can be found here: **ADE**

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**