

WEBINAR

Getting to low-carbon district heating

Visions for enabling low-carbon district heat networks in EU Member States' Long-term Climate Strategies

Virtual public discussion

Modern, low-carbon district heating networks are important vectors for the decarbonisation of the European residential heating sector. However, they only supply 12% of residential heating demand in the EU, and face numerous challenges, including inefficiencies and fossil fuel dependence in legacy urban heating systems in Central and Eastern Europe. In the light of the recent Fit for 55 package and the RePowerEU plan, efficient district heating systems are increasingly in focus as solutions for decarbonisation.

The Long-Term Strategies (LTSs) for climate neutrality of Member States vary in the importance they assign to low-carbon district heating systems. Overall, 12 of the 22 LTSs published so far address the topic, with all 12 pinpointing the use of renewable or waste heat as sources of supply for district heating networks. However, the extent to which countries with good district heating potential explore its contribution to climate neutrality varies, even among Member States with significant needs for modernisation of their existing legacy networks.

This webinar presents and discusses findings of a report by Energy Policy Group. The analysis, conducted as part of the Climate Recon 2050 project, analyses the role of district heating in Member States' LTSs. The report describes the current situation, highlights key challenges and shortcomings of published LTSs, and proposes a way forward for integrating efficient, low-carbon and reliable district heating systems into climate neutrality strategies.

Background: The Climate Recon 2050 project is a platform for intra-EU dialogue on national long-term strategies that was started in 2017. It aims to connect national experts involved in drafting and implementing LTSs and provides a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices.

Agenda	
10 min	Welcome and framing Moderator: Mihnea Catuti , Head of Research (Energy Policy Group)
25 min	District heating in national Long-Term Strategies: Member States' visions for enabling low-carbon district heat networks Luciana Miu , Head of Clean Economy Programme (Energy Policy Group) Analysis to be published at www.climatedialogue.eu (15 min presentation + 10 min Q&A)
30 min	Panel discussion: Morgan Henley (CEE Bankwatch) Andreas Graf (Agora Energiewende) Claudiu Cretu (ELCEN)
20 min	Q&A and discussion with the audience
5 min	Summary and wrap-up

The event will be live streamed and recorded.