

Concerted Action - Energy Efficiency Directive Visit to Tallaght

“An Overview of the District Heating market development in Ireland”.

Visit to Tallaght - *20th March 2026*

Andy Campbell, District Heating CoE Programme Manager



Agenda

- Brief introduction to DH in Ireland
- Policy update
- Funding Update
- Project Pipeline development
- Sources of information
- Opportunities being explored
- Next steps

District Heat in Ireland



District Heating in Ireland

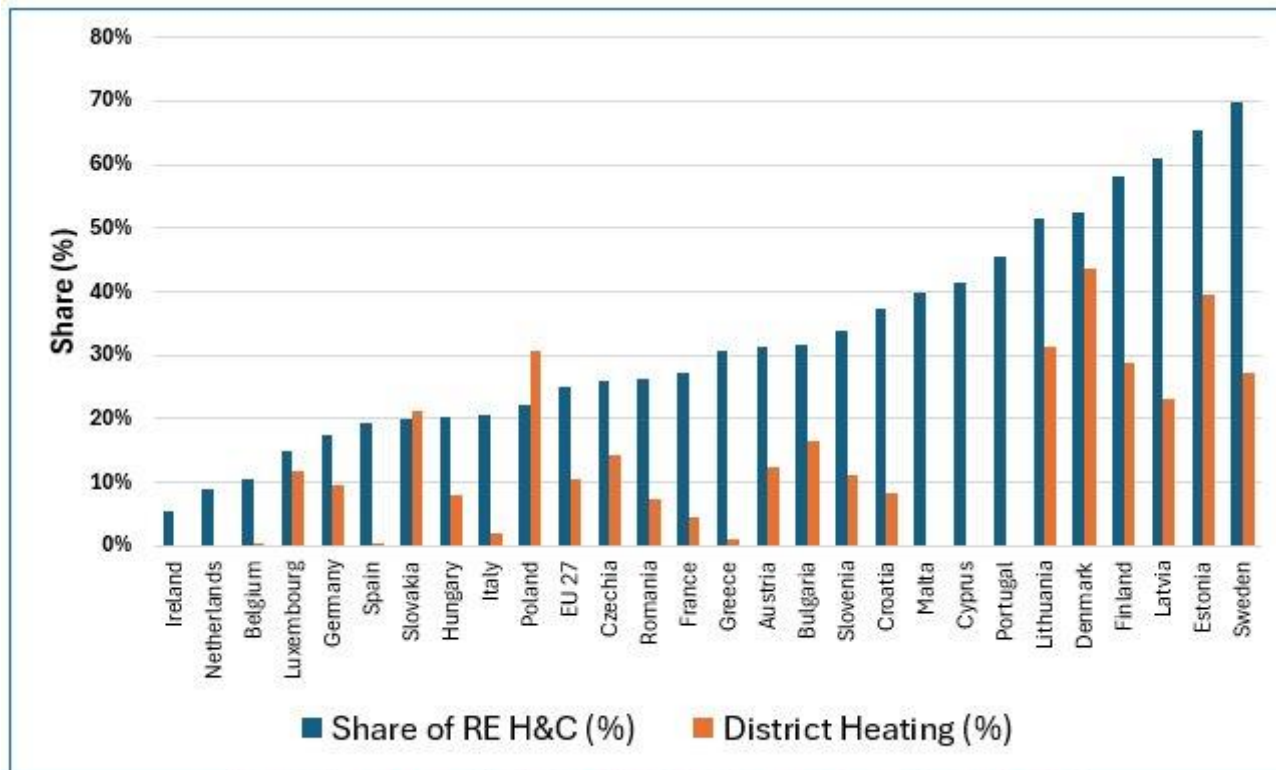
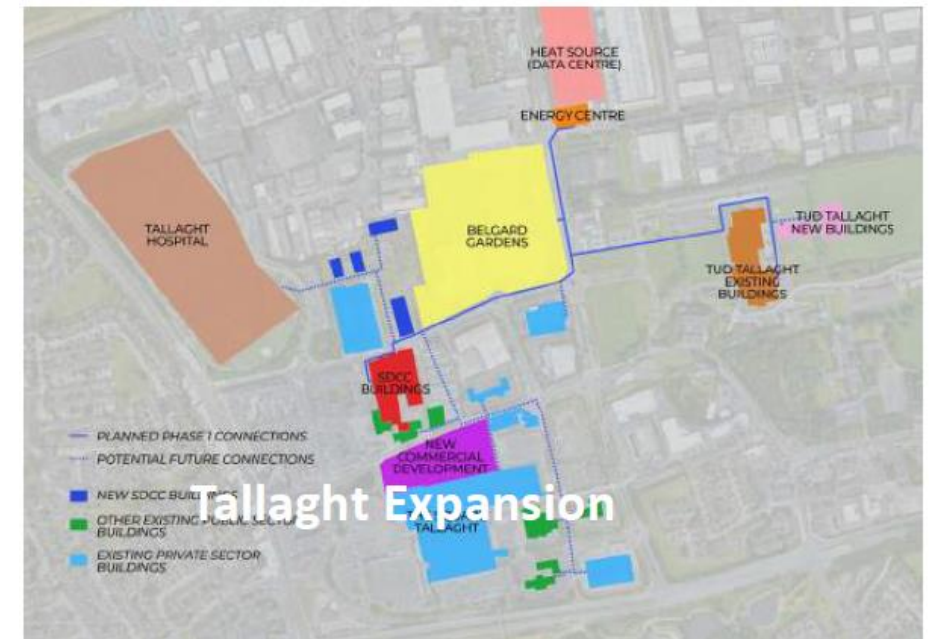


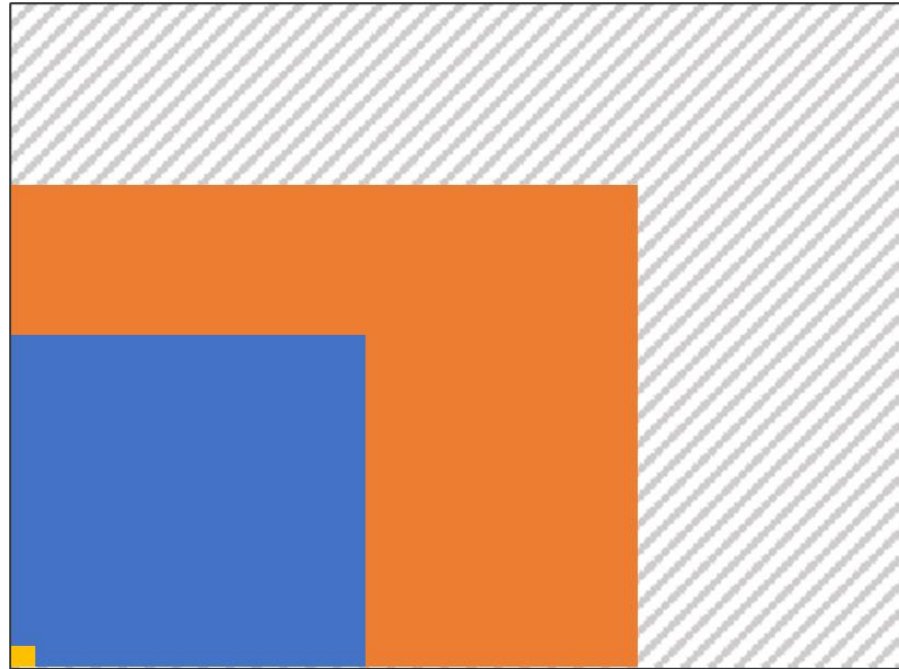
Figure 4: Share of renewable heat and district heating across Europe (Source: Eurostat)

Demonstration Project- Tallaght DH Network



Tallaght Expansion

District Heating Targets for Ireland



We have a lot to do but

Huge Potential

District Heating Market



2050 District Heating Target



District Heating potential



Heat Market (~27,000 GWh)



Progress in the Sector

Policy & Legislation

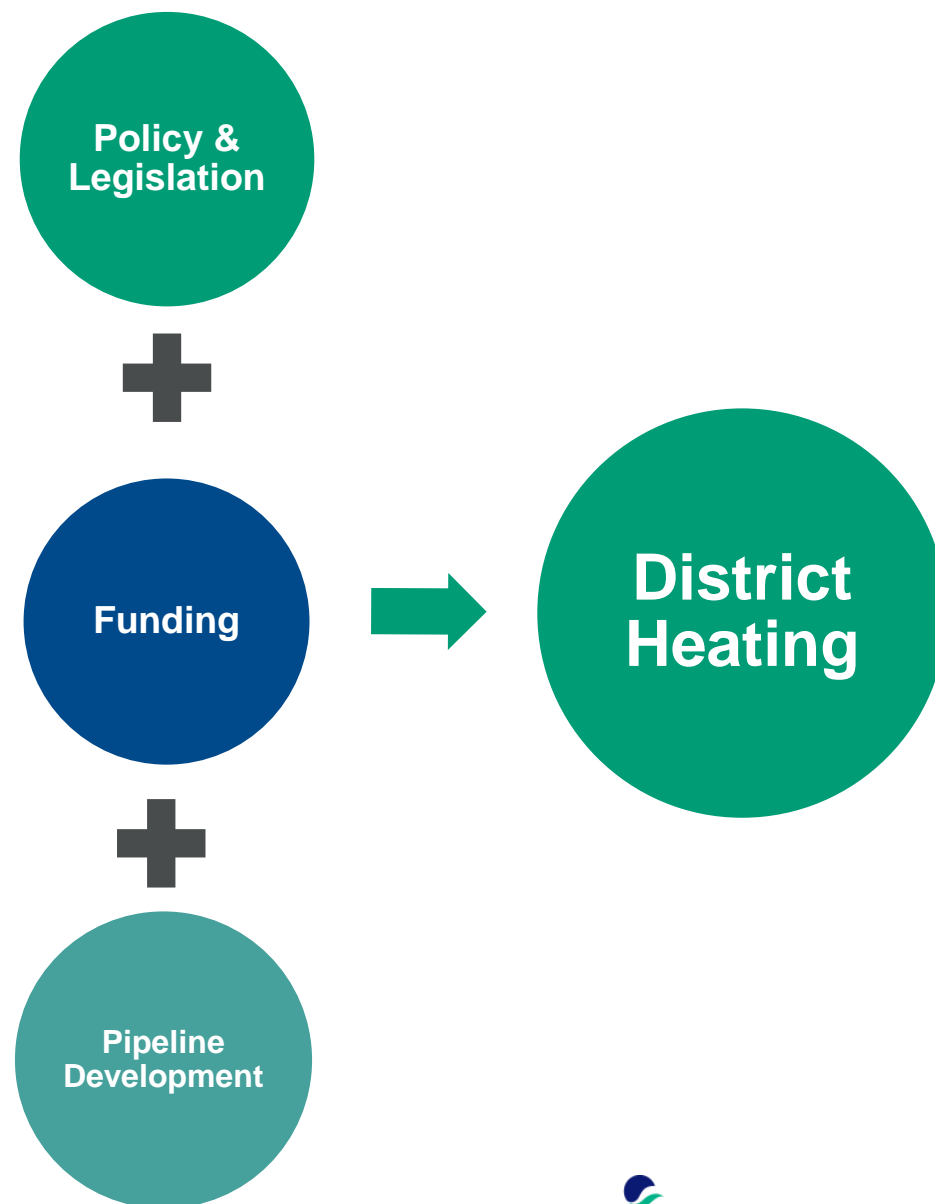
Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

Funding

- DH Pre-Construction Fund
- DH Grant Fund – ICNF, NDP

Pipeline Development

- Heat Mapping
- Candidate Area Mapping
- National Level Assessment
- Pre Feasibility and Feasibility work



National Strategy and Policy Update



Policy Context

Climate Action Plan

- Up to 2.7 TWh by 2030
- District Heating Steering Group Established to oversee delivery

National Heat Study (2022)

- Indicates that district heating networks have potential to supply over 50% of building heat demand in Ireland.

DH Steering Group Report

- Approved by Government in 2023.
- Key recommendations to accelerate district heating sector.
- Creation of District Heating Centre of Excellence withing SEAI



Legislation -The Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

Commitment to enact legislation by end of Q2 2026 to accelerate the rollout of district heating systems

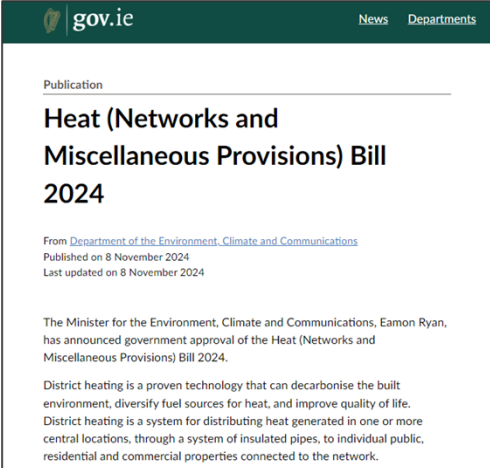
- Heat Bill 2025: Establishes legal framework for DH expansion

Outline of General Scheme Provisions

- Appointment of a Regulator
- Establishment of a Heat Network Authority
- Public sector mandate

Outcomes

- Provide the legislative framework to support the development and expansion of district heating networks.
- Facilitate the growth of an efficient, low carbon district heating industry that will contribute towards decarbonisation of Ireland's heat sector and assist in meeting national and international targets.
- Facilitate regulatory provisions to ensure price protections for both existing and new district and communal heat consumers.



The screenshot shows a webpage from gov.ie. The header includes the gov.ie logo and navigation links for News and Departments. The main content area is titled "Publication" and features the title "Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024". Below the title, it states "From Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications" and provides publication and update dates: "Published on 8 November 2024" and "Last updated on 8 November 2024". A paragraph follows, stating: "The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, has announced government approval of the Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024." A final paragraph explains: "District heating is a proven technology that can decarbonise the built environment, diversify fuel sources for heat, and improve quality of life. District heating is a system for distributing heat generated in one or more central locations, through a system of insulated pipes, to individual public, residential and commercial properties connected to the network."

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3dd66-heat-networks-and-miscellaneous-provisions-bill-2024/>

Funding Supports



Pre-Construction fund - Hot off the press!

gov.ie News Departments

Press release

€5 million pre-construction fund launched to accelerate district heating projects in Ireland

From: [Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment](#)
Published on: 6 November 2025
Last updated on: 11 November 2025

Government opens Expression of Interest to support early-stage development of efficient district heating networks

[District Heating Pre-Construction Fund | SEAI](#)

Applications closed 12th December 2025, currently being reviewed.

The screenshot shows the SEAI website page for the District Heating Pre-Construction Fund. The page is titled "District Heating Pre-Construction Fund" and features a navigation menu on the left with options like "Background", "Aims of the fund", "Who can apply", "Scope of support", "Expression of Interest", "Fund timeline", and "Next steps". The main content area includes a headline: "€5 million has been allocated by Government to support pre-construction activity for efficient district heating in Ireland. The fund is open to public and private sector applicants." Below this, there are sections for "Background", "Aims of the fund", "Who can apply", "Scope of support", and "Minimum eligibility criteria". The "Minimum eligibility criteria" section includes a table with columns for "Gate" and "Rationale".

Gate	Rationale
Efficient District Heating	Projects must be an efficient heating and cooling network and use a minimum share of 75% from renewable energy, 75% from waste heat, or 75% of a combination of both, to supply heat to the network.
Annual Customer Demand	Minimum end customer heat demand of 4 GWh/yr. (On a case by case basis smaller schemes will be considered for example scheme in rural networks off the gas grid.)
Subsidy request	Grant award requested will be up to a maximum of 50% of the pre-construction costs to a maximum of €1 million for this stage.
Positive NPV	Projects must demonstrate a positive NPV over 40 years, (with allowance for future capital grant support - assume up to 50%).
Deliverability	Demonstrate project is deliverable.

Developing Capital Grant System

1. Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund (ICNF)

[Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund | NTMA](#)

Business case submitted for District Heat Grant support. Decision expected July 2025 as part of ICNF/NDP allocations

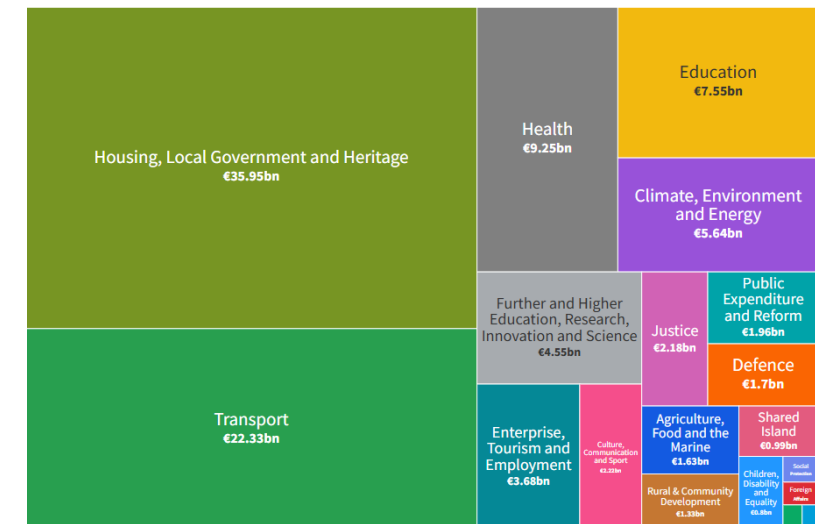
“Purpose: Supports projects that contribute to Ireland’s climate and biodiversity goals, including district heating. This includes projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing biodiversity, and supporting sustainable infrastructure.

Eligibility: Local authorities, public bodies.

Details: Provides funding for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance biodiversity. The fund aims to build a reserve of up to €14 billion by 2030, with annual investments of €2 billion from 2024 to 2030.



Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta
National Treasury Management Agency



NDP implications

Capital Funding – Even hotter off the press!

 [News](#) [Departments](#) [Services](#)

Press release

Minister O'Brien delivers over €1 billion investment in Budget 2026 to accelerate Ireland's energy transition and underpin our journey to a net-zero future

From: [Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment](#)
Published on: 7 October 2025
Last updated on: 24 October 2025

Budget allocation demonstrates commitment to accelerate climate action, prepare Ireland for the impacts of a changing climate, and enhance our environment

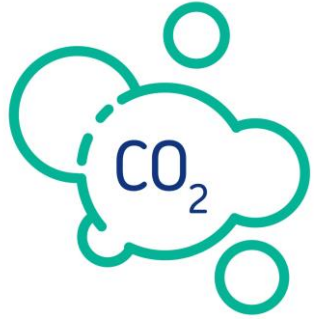
€ 50m - €100m investment in Pre Construction and Capital works for District Heat

Support Scheme for District Heat currently being developed

Project Development



Why District Heating?



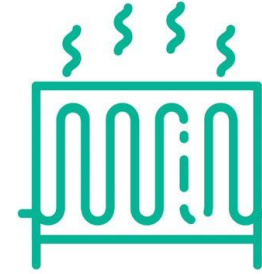
Carbon Reductions



Flexible and technology agnostic- allows better uptake of renewable energy at a large scale



Thermal storage and balance the electricity grid



Improved air quality and maintenance costs for customers



New Market- Employment Creation



Reduced dependency on fossil fuels –security of supply

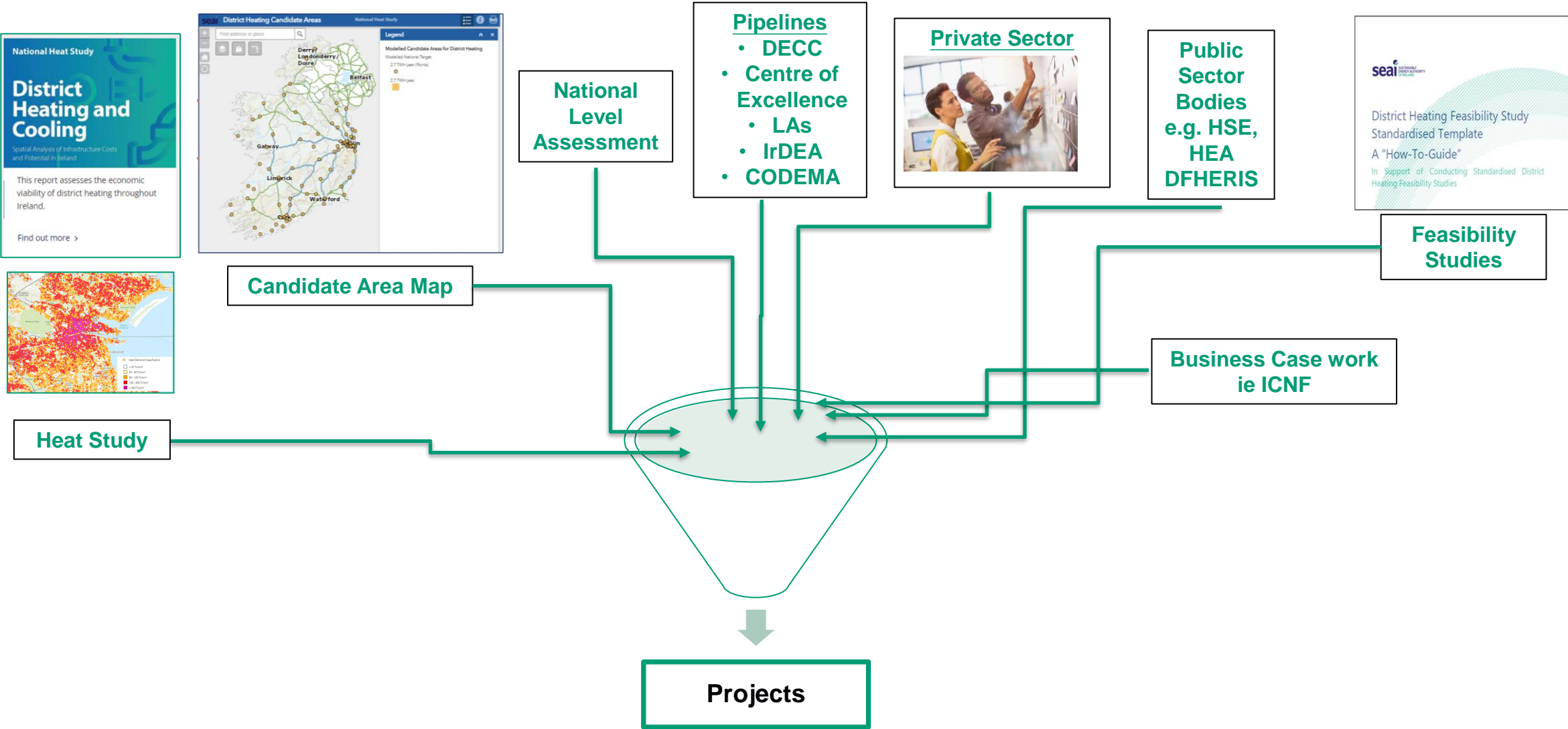


Health and safety benefits reduced risk of fire, explosion



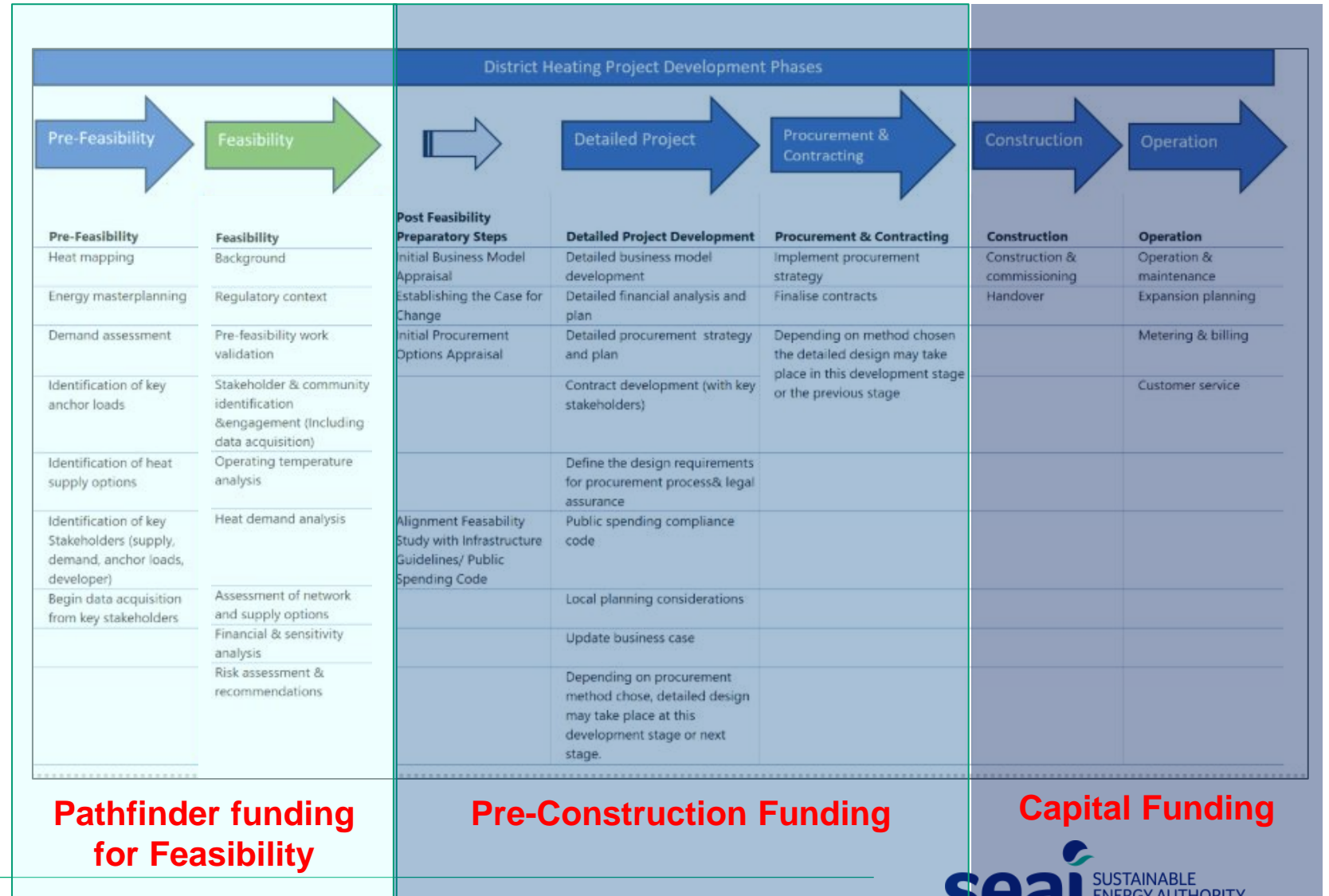
Low cost of Renewable/Waste Heat

Project Pipeline Development - Review of inputs



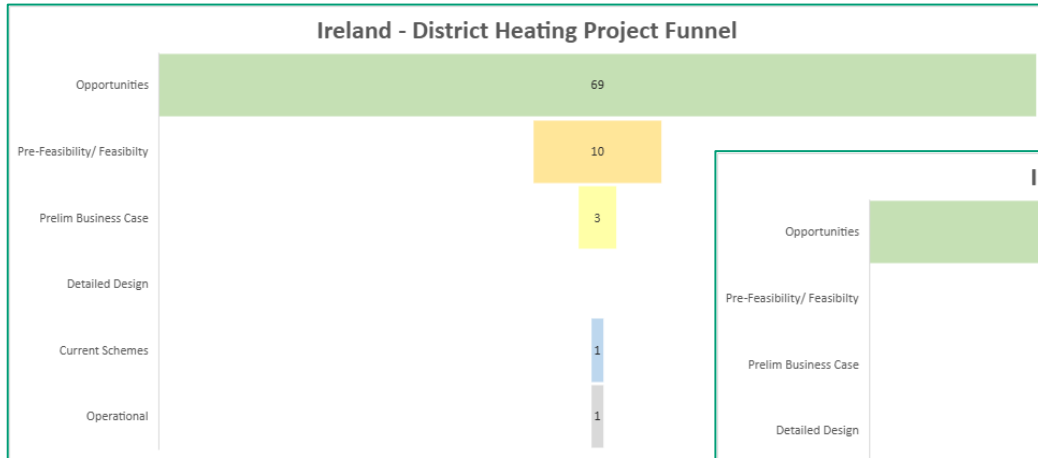
Project Development - DH Scheme Development stages

- Pre-feasibility studies, Feasibility studies and Project Development needed at scale to meet DH targets. Templates available.

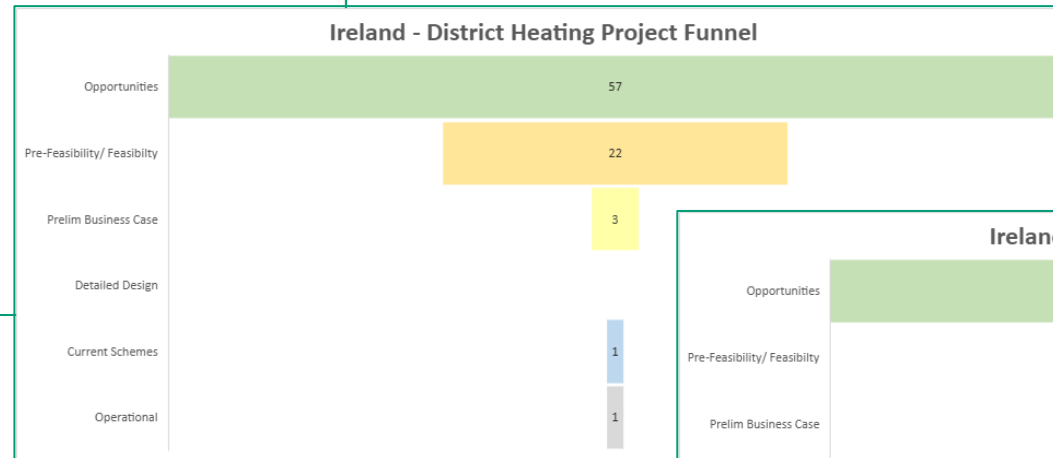


Pipeline development 2025

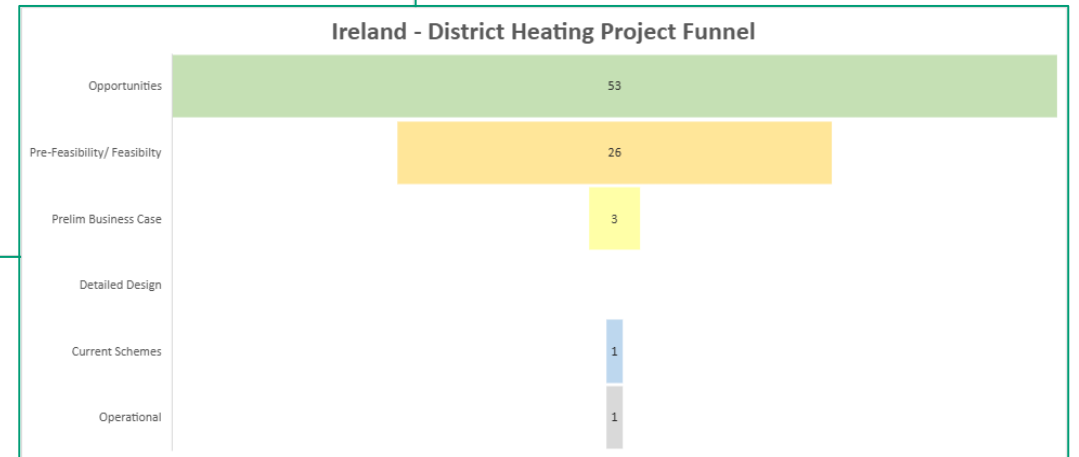
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Jan 25



Jul 25



Nov 25

DH Centre of Excellence and Supports Available

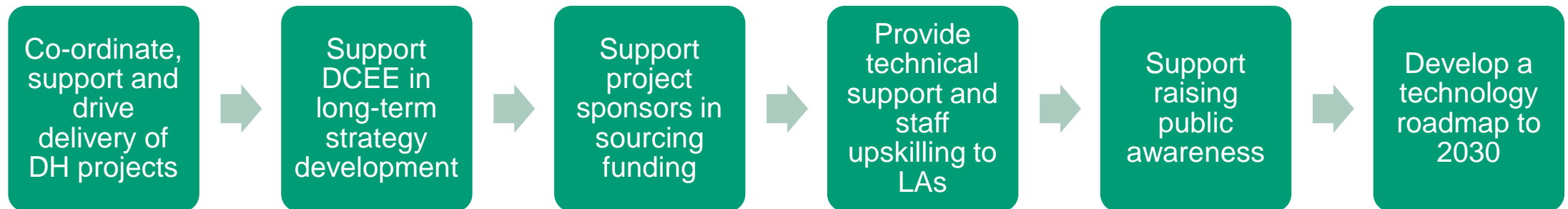


SEAI's District Heating Centre of Excellence

Established in 2024 following recommendations from the DH Steering Group Report

- A national centre to provide technical expertise to support capacity building across the sector and to support the development of a national DH strategy.

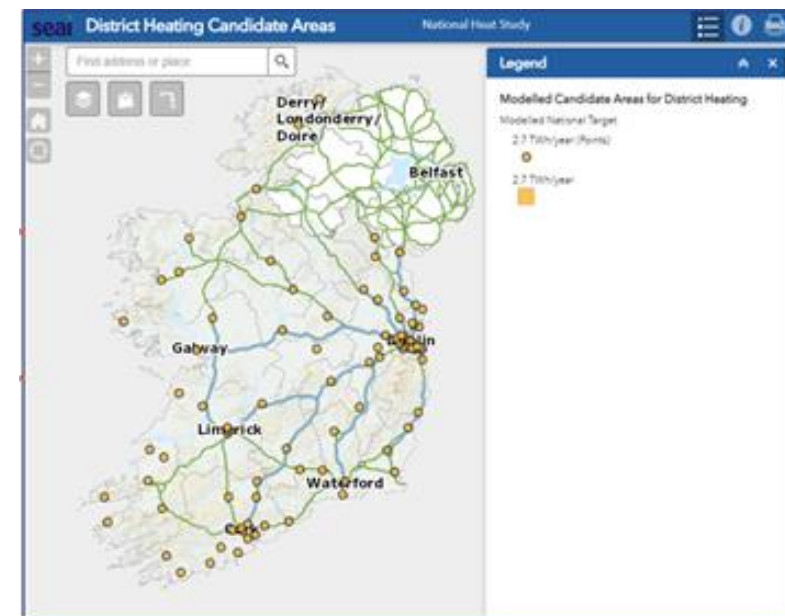
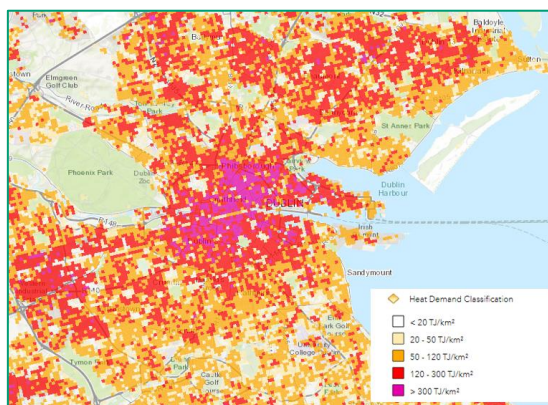
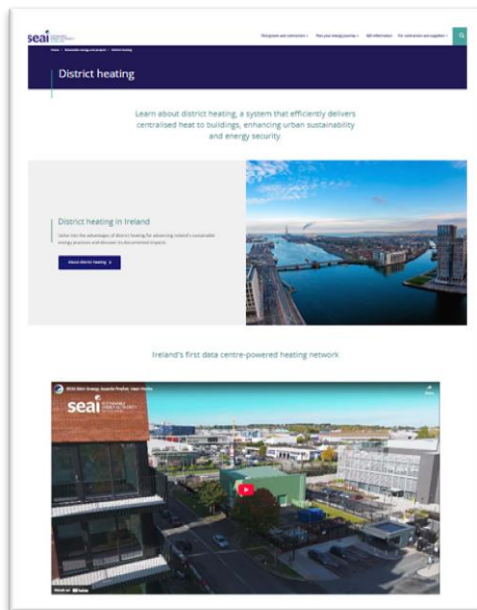
Defined scope of the DH CoE:



New website

<https://www.seai.ie/renewable-energy-and-projects/district-heating>

- Information about District Heating
- Case Studies
- Project Development stages
 - Includes feasibility Templates and Guidance documents
- Access to Heat maps and Candidate Area Maps

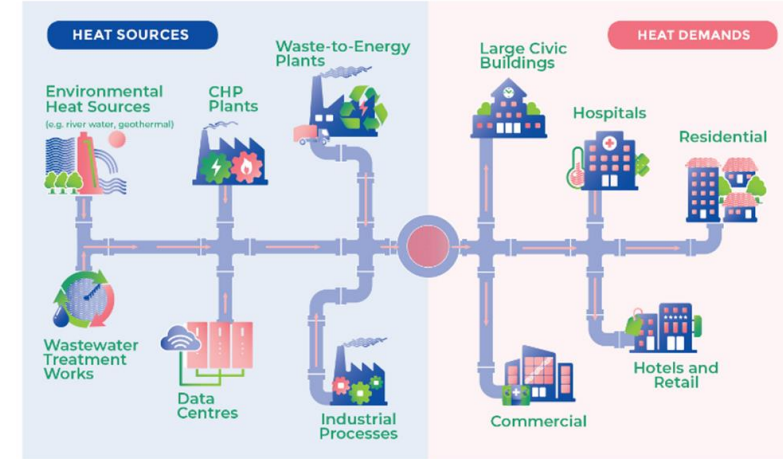


[District Heating Pre-Construction Fund | SEAI](#)

[District heating | SEAI](#)

Opportunities

- Chance to absorb Waste Heat back into the Network. Over 50% of energy emitted into the atmosphere in Ireland could be used.
 - Data centers (Programme for Government), Industrial facilities, Wastewater treatment plant
- Learn from projects across Europe that serve over 70 million customers.
- Pre Construction Fund. Schemes “Shovel Ready”
- Capital Fund. “Build”
- EIB Advisory Services Opportunity “On Oct 29th, DCEE announced that the European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to provide Ireland with technical and financial advisory support to help Ireland develop our indigenous district heating sector in Ireland”.
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/press-releases/eib-to-help-cut-heating-bills-by-unlocking-irelands-district-heating-future/>



Moving Forward



Next steps

- Policy and Funding for District Heating systems are falling into place.
- Business cases for viable projects are being developed
- The potential for District Heat in Ireland is being explored through funded feasibility work to turn ideas into potential projects to address the decarbonised journey.
- The time is now. Momentum is Building



The poster features the SEAI logo (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) and the Government of Ireland logo (Rialtas na hÉireann) at the top. The main title is 'District Heating'. Below it, the text reads: 'The National District Heating Centre of Excellence within the SEAI provides support and advice to project sponsors on the development and delivery of District Heating schemes across Ireland.' At the bottom, it says 'Come and check out how we can work together.' and includes a QR code with the SEAI logo in the center.

Thank You!

Questions?

andrew.campbell@seai.ie

A green poster for SEAI District Heating. At the top left is the SEAI logo (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) and at the top right is the Government of Ireland logo (Riadas na hÉireann). The main title is "District Heating". Below it, the text reads: "The National District Heating Centre of Excellence within the SEAI provides support and advice to project sponsors on the development and delivery of District Heating schemes across Ireland." Further down, it says: "Come and check out how we can work together." At the bottom is a QR code with the SEAI logo in the center.

seai SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

District Heating

The National District Heating Centre of Excellence within the SEAI provides support and advice to project sponsors on the development and delivery of District Heating schemes across Ireland.

Come and check out how we can work together.



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