

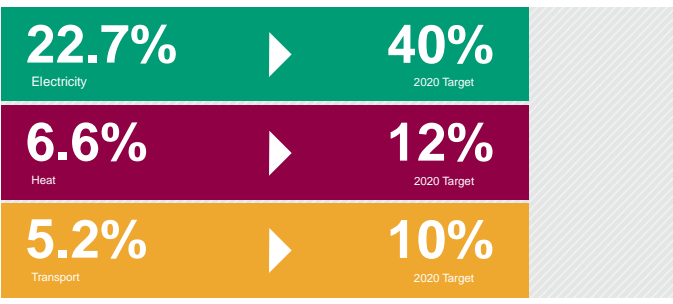


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Progress towards renewable targets



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Presently approximately 39% of Ireland's total final consumption of energy is used to meet heat demands.

This heat is primarily supplied by individual oil and gas boiler systems, circa only 7% is renewable heat. SEAI is funding installation of commercial biomass boilers to reach the 12% renewable heat target.

Despite SSRH, replacing all individual fossil fuel-based heating system in the country with a sustainable alternative is an overwhelming task.

Using district heating can contribute to the integration of high levels of low carbon energy sources in the heating sector.

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Identified barriers to the development of DH in Ireland

- No tradition of DH – lack of knowledge across all sectors:
academia, public bodies, semi-state utility companies & customers
- No municipal utilities - all delivered by national level bodies
- Municipalities have low level of autonomy
- All energy policy & regulations controlled at national level
- Past energy policy never designed with DH in mind
- No national level Heat Plan (there are transport & electricity plans)



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POLICY LEVEL: DH in the Climate Action Plan

- Action 70:** Develop a **policy framework** for the development of district heating in Ireland and support the delivery of **two district heating projects** under the **Climate Action Fund**
- Action 53** on financing energy efficiency retrofits in **the domestic and commercial sectors**
- Action 151** on energy performance and renewable energy capability in **school buildings**
- Action 64** on minimum BER standards in the **local authority social housing stock**
- Action 65** on a climate-action toolkit and audit framework for **local authorities**

**Also Climate Action Plan Target –
National Retrofit Programme : 500,000 Homes to BER B2/
400,000 heatpumps**



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POLICY LEVEL: Programme for Government

The Irish Government is committed to develop:

- Learning from district heating pilot projects to launch a scaled-up programme.
- A regulatory environment to support development of district heating
- A feasibility study on establishing a district heating authority and setting new targets for district heating as part of a new strategy.

Two Pilot Projects

1. Dublin Centre
2. South Dublin Tallaght



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POLICY LEVEL: National Analysis – SEAI lead

Article 14 of Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (EED) asks for this. All EU member states must develop a comprehensive assessment of the potential for efficient heating and cooling in their country.

Project Goals:

- Deliver a comprehensive assessment of the options to decarbonise the heating and cooling sectors in Ireland to 2050.
- Provide a knowledge base for making policy in this important sector.
- Enhance the evidence base and decision support tools for ongoing use within SEAI & DCCAE.
- Develop & disseminate communications material for industry and consumer stakeholders.



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POLICY LEVEL: National Analysis – SEAI lead (cont'd)

The project has seven work streams:

- Data, demand scenarios and mapping.
- Modelling and cost benefit analysis.
- Thermal generation technologies.
- Heat and other networks.
- Non-biological renewable gases (e.g. hydrogen)
- Carbon capture, utilisation and storage.
- Bioenergy.



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POLICY LEVEL: Bottom Up Analysis –

SEAI communities Network

National membership 400+ communities

Process :

Learn – Join the Network

Plan – Develop an Energy Master Plan

Do – Retrofit & Renewables (€400m invested / 50% grant)

District Heating learnings

Needs significant heat load

Cant compete with gas networks

Suits towns on oil (Western side of Ireland)

Difficult to procure into public ownership



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