



District Heating Steering Group

Meeting Note from meeting #2 9th March 2022

1. Opening remarks

An overview of matters to be discussed was provided by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

2. Agreement of Minutes of 23rd February 2022 meeting

The note of the 23 February meeting was approved with amendments.

3. Agreement on the DHSG Terms of Reference & Work Programme

The interaction between the results of the National Heat Study and the Energy Efficiency First principle were discussed. It was stressed that the inclusion of targets is important to the Terms of Reference, while the urgency of advancing district heating was raised. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group can be clarified with a view to agreement by the next meeting.

4. Outline Report to Government

An overview of this document was provided, and it was noted that a draft will be required by early September. A note for the Senior Officials Group on the Working Groups and their working plans will also be provided. The Heat and Built Environment Taskforce is in the process of being established to accelerate and drive delivery in relation to retrofitting, renewable heat, district heat, decarbonisation and overall energy use needs of the building stock including the public sector. The aim of the Taskforce is to identify work on the critical path and to ensure alignment in the development of policies and activities underway across government departments and proactively manage risks to ensure targets are achieved. For the Research Working Group, research that will directly inform the Steering Group's objectives was prioritised. The chairs of the Working Groups agreed to liaise with one another to coordinate outputs.

The Steering Group was requested to consider options to resolve the issue of district heating and Building Energy Rating (BER). City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (Codema) and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) agreed to liaise directly.

Optimum organisational structures to oversee and drive district heating development was discussed, and it was agreed that existing project rollout should not be delayed.



5. Working Groups (WG)

- a. Agreement of Working Group compositions
Membership of the Working Groups was discussed, with members requested to make any outstanding nominations.
- b. Workplans and targets
A meeting of the Working Group chairs is to be held and a template for the use of each Working Group is required. It was agreed that Working Group chairs will agree work plans and will manage their groups.

6. Additional members (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) and National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI))

A nomination to the Steering Group is to be sought from DETE, and a nomination for the Regulation and Standards Working Group from NSAI.

7. Discussion: Primary Energy Factor for District Heating

SEAI was requested to provide a letter clarifying the current position in relation to the Primary Energy Factor for waste heat.

8. Next Steps

A meeting of the Working Group chairs is to be held.

A website to communicate the work of the Steering Group and information about district heating is to be set up.

SEAI to make responses to the Heat Study available to the Steering Group.

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

It was noted that general queries are to be sent to districtheating@decc.gov.ie

10. Table of Actions

	Action	Assigned to
1	Agree the Terms of Reference for the Group	DHSG



2	Prepare note for the Senior Officials Group on the Working Groups and their work plans.	DECC
3	Submit outstanding nominations to the Working Groups as appropriate	DHSG
4	Meeting of Working Group Chairs to be convened.	WG's
5	Nominations to be sought from DETE and NSAI as above.	DECC
6	Letter re Primary Energy Factor for waste heat to be provided	SEAI
7	Create DHSG webpage	DECC
8	Provide responses to the Heat Study to the Steering Group	SEAI