



District Heating Steering Group (DHSG) Meeting Note from meeting #4 18th May 2022

1. Opening remarks

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) gave a brief overview of matters to be discussed.

It was announced that Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), and Electricity Supply Board (ESB) Networks, would no longer be participating in the work of the Group as GNI and ESB could apply for District Heating (DH) projects and therefore there was a competitive risk. However, they may be asked to contribute expertise on specific issues arising from the work of the Group if required.

The DHSG website has gone live on [gov.ie - District Heating Steering Group \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - District Heating Steering Group (www.gov.ie))

2. Agreement of 6th April 2022 meeting note

Note of the meeting of 6 April was agreed.

3. National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) / National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) Presentation

Arising from the presentation, the Group was asked to consider whether there might be a need to seek input from appropriate entities from a commercial perspective.

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and Geoscience Policy Division will present on the Potential of Geothermal Energy for district heating at the June meeting of DHSG.

4. Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) update on Primary Energy Factor (PEF) for Waste Heat

SEAI provided an update on work being conducted to identify an appropriate PEF for waste heat, noting that work has progressed on finding an interim solution for existing schemes. Any temporary arrangement put in place would last for at least a year and would be subject to review. While an interim arrangement is in place, SEAI will still require monthly data from the two DH schemes.

DECC requested that a group consisting of DECC, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), SEAI, City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (Codema) and



relevant Local Authorities (LA) (Dublin City Council (DCC) and South Dublin County Council (SDCC), meet on a weekly basis until the issue is resolved.

DHLGH advised that partial transposition of Article 15.4 of Renewable Energy Directive (RED) would go for Public Consultation in coming weeks to provide that waste heat in efficient district heating systems can fulfil renewable requirements of Part L of Building Regulations. The transposition of this article will require a body to be appointed by DECC, by the 1st September 2022, in order to verify which DH Systems are efficient.

5. Working Group (WG) updates

The WG Chairs have met on two occasions. The Finance Group held an initial meeting on 16th May 2022. Arrangements have been made for the remaining WG's to meet shortly. DECC requested that a 'deep dive' into each of the WG's be undertaken at future meetings of the DHSG, beginning with a look at the regulatory work of Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) at the June 2022 meeting of DHSG.

6. Next Steps

The below actions were agreed to.

7. Any other Business (AOB)

There was no AOB.

8. Table of Actions

	Action	Assigned to
1	GSI and Geoscience Policy Division to present on Potential of Geothermal Energy for district heating.	DECC
2	An interim solution to the PEF for waste heat for the purposes of current district heating projects to be finalised and agreed.	DECC DHLGH SEAI Codema LAs
3	Remaining Working Groups to be convened in the coming weeks. Invitations with proposed dates/times to be circulated by DECC.	All



4	CRU to present on their regulatory role and regulatory issues facing DH.	CRU
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