

Potential of data centre heat reuse in Europe.

15:00-16:30 CET | 25 June 2024









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Emma Fryer **Director Public Policy** MODERATOR



**Nikolaos Kontinakis** Policy Officer DG ENER



**Bela Waldhauser** CEO



Marco Bolchi **Executive Director** 



**Pauline Lucas Policy Director** 







Felix Kriedemann **Project Manager** 





## Webinar guidelines

- Use the Q&A button for your questions.
- Please indicate your name, the name of your organisation and possibly the speaker to whom you would like to pose a question.
- The slides and recording of the webinar will be shared with all participants after the webinar.









### Join the survey at slido.com #3155263











### Which topics come to your mind when you think about data centre heat reuse?

Join the survey at slido.com #3155263









## Which topics come to your mind when you think about data centre heat reuse?

Diffic	ult to realize	Import	ant energy so	Ene	ergy eff	iciency	
Lo	ocation sensit	tivity Rec	dundancy	Nearly lo	ocation		For fre
Innovatio	Summer	& winter	Location	Contra	acts	Locatio	on dep
	Diomaina	Dictr	iot bo	otina	Off	takers	Indus
Lack of offtakers	Planning	DISU	ict nea	aung			Heat
	Untapped p	ootential	Sustainal	Sustainability		Low temperature	
Heating		Low grade Scope dem		arcation Infra		structure avail	
	Loss of ener	gy due to tr	ansportation				
				GPUsa	are grea	at heate	ers







Join the survey at slido.com #3155263

### **CAN THE INTERNET HEAT OUR COMMUNITIES?**

In your opinion, which of the following constitutes the biggest challenge for the uptake of data centre heat reuse?

- a) Quality mismatch of waste heat supply and demand
- Lack of sufficient infrastructure to transport heat b)
- Lack of economic benefits or incentives c)
- Limited replicability of solutions due to fragmented legal frameworks in EU **d**) member states
- **Uncertainty on legal responsibility and requirements** e)











B) Lack of sufficient infrastructure to transport heat

A) Quality mismatch of waste heat supply and demand

21%

C) Lack of economic benefits or incentives

15%

D) Limited replicability of solutions due to fragmented legal frameworks in EU member states

5%

E) Uncertainty on legal responsibility and requirements







In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most important to increase the uptake of heat from data centres?

Standardising contractual models and collaborative frameworks in all EU member **a**) states

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- **Providing funding for heat reuse infrastructure, feasibility studies and tools b**)
- Incentivising the use of liquid-cooled systems in new data centres **C**)
- Supporting schemes and incentives for heat reuse for data centres and off-takers **d**)







## In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most important to increase the uptake of heat from data centres?

D) Supporting schemes and incentives for heat reuse for data centres and offtakers

B) Providing funding for heat reuse infrastructure, feasibility studies and tools 30%

A) Standardising contractual models and collaborative frameworks in all EU member states

16%

C) Incentivising the use of liquid-cooled systems in new data centres





### **Study on "Optimising Synergies between Data Centre and Energy** Systems" (DCESS)













**Study Presentation** June 25, 2024









**IH** 



**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR** 

**Future Networks Cloud and Software** 

COMMUNICATIONS



Building a better working world

#### Introduction:

Commissioned by the European Commission's DG CNECT, the study aims to explore the optimisation of synergies between data centres and energy systems. The ultimate goal is to achieve highly energy-efficient and climate-neutral data centres in line with the Green Deal and Digital Decade goals by 2030.

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping and technological research to assess new approaches for enhancing the energy efficiency of data centres and their integration into general energy and water systems.
- Identify the drivers, obstacles, and potential opportunities for successfully integrating data centres into general energy systems.
- Compare the integration strategies employed by other energy and emission-intensive sectors to evaluate potential lessons that can be applied to data centres.
- Identify potential case studies that showcase the successful integration of data centres into energy systems.
- Develop policy recommendations based on the findings and insights from the study.





#### **Study Framework**





## Synergies Between Data Centres and Heating Systems



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY Future Networks Cloud and Software













Building a better working world

#### **Summary of Technological Research and Assessment**

#### **Heat Reuse**

- Already feasible from a technological perspective
- Only economically feasible in some cases/locations – but this is expected to extend within the next few years
- New type of low temperature heat users and heat grids will enable much better heat reuse



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#### **Summary of Technological Research and Assessment**

- Many interdependencies between the sectors
- Cooling technology is highly dependent on-site conditions, such as water availability/scarcity
- Reasonable waste heat utilisation mainly possible where there is a high local heat demand (<10 km)</p>
- The green transformation in the electricity sector also affects indirect water consumption



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#### BATs related to the heating systems

#### Usage of waste heat via heat exchangers and heat pumps

- In most cases data centres operate 24/7 throughout the year
- 100% electricity for IT-equipment can be used as waste heat with the potential for additional revenue
- Usually low-grade heat, requires heat pumps to be used in a district heating (DH) network:
  - Emergence of low-temperature district heating networks
  - Heat pumps can provide flexibility to the grid
- Lack of heat consumers<sup>1</sup>

#### **Combined heat & power plant (CHP)**

- More efficient than conventional grid electricity
- Reduce electricity demand from grid and provide heat (supplied to district heating network or used in absorption chillers)
- Renewable fuels have to be used to contribute to emission reduction
- Decreasing heating demand & lower eletricity prices may reduce economic feasiblity

<sup>1</sup>Bytes2Heat\_Stimmungsbild der Abwärmenutzung aus Rechenzentren 2023 (deneff.org)











#### **Case Studies – Synergies with Heating Networks**





AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE

Prof. Catherine Banet

BORDERSTEP

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#### Stockholm Data Parks

Collaboration between city, energy provider and DC operators

Make the city attractive for DCs

Cooling as a Service for free

#### Equinix

Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage Cold water from underground supports chillers in summer Stored heat can be used in winter

#### **Cloud&Heat**

DCs with hot water cooling Container principle to be placed in urban areas

Waste heat has higher temperature so no/less additional heating needed

Efficient heat transmission with water as transfer medium





#### Actionable advice: Heat reuse

- Drivers/Obstacles to be addressed:
  - Low temperature heat network.
  - The need for specific and clear regulatory framework on the synergies between data centres and energy networks.
  - New market opportunities.
  - Financial incentives for grid support.
- Gaps identified: In parallel with the energy consumption of DCs, this will be converted into heat, which is then removed from DCs. This waste heat can then be chanelled to the heating network and minimise the reliance on fossil fuels for heating purposes, but in practice, the implementation has not been widespread in the EU.
- **Target:** Data centres to reuse as much heat as possible with regards to the heating demand from potential local heat off takers during certain times of the year. In regions where this is applicable, the minimum heat utilisation ratio of 0.1 as defined by the Energy Reuse Factor (ERF) should be reached by 2030.
- Actors involved: DC operators, heat offtakers (e.g. heating network operators and other heating network consumers), regulatory authorities, local authorities, research institutions/academia





#### **Actionable Advice and Roadmap: Heat Reuse**

Timeline 

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2		
Integration of heat reuse practices	Research project and industry implementation of waste heat reuse								
	Supporting schemes and incentives for heat reuse for data centres and heat off takers at the EU, national and local levels								

Main owner (non-exhaustive) DC operators Regulatory authorities









#### Steps to take:

- The technology for **waste heat reuse** is already viable and implemented in several practices across the EU. Innovative heat reuse technologies are currently being developed, such as the 4GDH and 5GDH systems. Generally, three factors need to be considered for the effectiveness:
  - The comparison between the potential excess heat output from a data centre and the heating demand of possible consumers.
  - The temperature level and density of the waste heat (relative to the required temperature of the potential offtakers).
  - The distance from the data centres to the potential offtakers.
- Regulatory/public authorities can establish policies and guidelines to promote heat reuse. This can also involve the potential offtakers to bring about the recognition on heat reuse by providing incentives. Moreover, relevant authorities can work with the heating network operators to increase investment and better integrate DCs into the infrastructure.









### Can the internet heat our communities? A perspective from **Frankfurt**



CEO











CLIMATE

DATA CENTER

## Can the internet heat our communities? *A perspective from Frankfurt*

### Dr. Béla Waldhauser Telehouse Deutschland GmbH

**Board Member Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact** 



### Westville (Franky) in Frankfurt





#### FRANKY was...



- ca. 5,5 ha Industrial area
- B-Plan 905
- Neighborhood partially industrial, partially residential
- Substantial contamination



### **FRANKY - future**





- Residential use
  - 1,330 rented flats
  - 30% government-funded,
  - KfW-55.

#### Infrastructure

- o 3 Kindergartens,
- Local amenities,
- Bakery, Coiffeur,
- Restaurant at Quartiersplatz,
- Traffic infrastructure and ICT connectivity.
- Stationary traffic
  - 1,080 parking places.



### Heat supply concept

• Pilot project



#### Ø mainova

#### TELEHOUSE

- Use waste heat from Telehouse Data Center
  - → min. 60 % of the necessary heat usage for FRANKY!
  - → Savings of min. 400 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per annum!



#### TELEHOUSE



- Mainova-Contracting, 15 years contract term ٠
- Waste heat temperature ~ 30°C, Cooling water circuit • DC
- Temperature local heat supply: 70°/40°C ٠
- Heating load: ~ 3 MW ٠
- Amount of heat: ~4.000 MWh/a •

- ٠
- ~ 3 MW<sub>th</sub>
- system

2 large heat pumps each 320 kW<sub>th</sub> District heating transfer station

Buffer storage, periphery, control



#### Challenges

• All parties involved must want the project!



- Local heating concept
- Advantage new building no issues with existing buildings / heat supply concept
- Low temperature underfloor heating (low temperature rise)
- Existing district heating system works at very high temperatures (90° - 120° Celsius)





#### Vision

- New district heating systems: working at low temperatures (60° - 70° Celsius)
- Obligation to use waste heat?! Issues with different data centre types
- Not only waste heat from data centers
- Data center customers should use more liquid cooled servers:

Waste heat temperature would rise to 50°-55° degrees Celcius





#### **Data centres as Gamechangers**

- Residential quarter Franky
  - 1.330 Apartments, 3 daycare centers, as well as stores and restaurants
  - approx. 3.000 people
  - Heat demand up to 3 MW
  - approx. 4 Million kWh/year
- Heat utilisation of Telehouse Data centres
  - → At least 60 % of energy used in the quarter comes from Telehouse
  - → Savings of at least
    400 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year!





### The Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact

- Founded in 2021, driven by  $\bullet$ industry members and associations
- Initiative of the European Data  ${}^{\bullet}$ Centre Association (EUDCA) and **Cloud Service Infrastructure** Providers (CISPE)
- Developed with help from DG **CNECT**
- Commitment to climate neutrality by 2030







### The Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact



**Circular Energy Working Group – Driving heat reuse forward** 

- Facilitate reporting data on heat reuse capabilities to facilitate information sharing between operators and off takers
- Standardising the definition of "heat reuse ready" and promote readiness in planning
- Defining criteria for economic feasibility assessment, including requirements for SMEs.





## Thank you!





### **Examples of Community-led** Heating & Cooling (CH&C)



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#### Felix Kriedemann **Project Manager**



## Can the internet heat our communities?

## **Examples of Community-led Heating** & Cooling (CH&C)

Felix Kriedemann, Project Manager, REScoop.eu

25th June 2024







## Overview

- Citizen-led initiatives
  - ✓ Energy Communities
  - ✓ EU legislation
  - ✓ Community Heating and Cooling (CH&C)
  - $\checkmark$  Examples from data centres



# Benefits of community energy ownership

- Revenues from local renewables meet local needs (e.g. supply, other services, education, renovations/EE, energy poverty)
- 2. Democratic community ownership, empowerment
- Benefits for participants (energy bill savings, return on investment, social & environmental benefits etc)
- 4. Public acceptance
- 5. Alleviation of energy poverty
- 6. Promotion of uptake of clean energy

### Business model for production and supply





## EU Regulatory Framework for Energy Communities – 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Laws

- **Potential** of Energy Communities: 50% of EU citizens producing their own energy by 2050 (= 45% of total energy demand)
- 2019: EU's Clean Energy for all Europeans Package
- Citizens -> Passive energy consumers

-> Active participants in the transition

- Recognises the importance of energy communities to achieve our climate targets
- Forces Member States to ensure certain rights, and establish certain enabling frameworks, to guarantee equal conditions for energy communities.

Recast Directive 2018/2001 (Renewable Energy Directive II, or REDII) Recast Directive 2019/944 (the Internal Electricity Market Directive, or IEMD) Recast Regulation 2019/943 (the Internal Electricity Market Regulation, or IEMR)



Link: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b4e46873-7528-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/languageen?WT.mc\_id=Searchresult&WT.ria\_c=null&WT.ria\_f=3608&WT.ria\_ev=search

Link: <u>https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/energy-strategy/clean-energy-all-europeans-package\_es</u>



RESCOOP.EU

## **REScoop.eu Transposition tracker**



Transposition tracker - definitions

Transposition tracker – enabling frameworks/support schemes







## EU Regulatory Framework for Energy Communities – 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Laws

EU legislation for energy communities







## **Community-led H&C: Drivers & Barriers**

• Drivers:



- Democratic ownership of heating and ٠ cooling networks
  - One-person-one-vote rule ٠
  - Especially relevant for natural monopolies (i.e. H&C) ٠
- Not-for-profit •
  - Focus on affordability and social benefits ٠
  - Denmark: Level-playing field is not-for-profit principle ٠
- Transparency
- Creation of local value •

• Barriers:



- Lack of support
  - Administrative, capacity, knowledge •
- Lack of imagination •
  - People have trouble imagining citizens doing such • a big project
- Complexity
- Access to capital



**RESCOOP.EU** 

## **Case Study: Avedøre DH Cooperative**





- Waste heat from data center is used in DH grid, with a heat pump.
- Owned & controlled by all of its consumers -> 4,500
  - Social economy: Non-profit district heating utility (in line with EU definitions)
    - -10% heating bills for citizens
    - Owner of data centre is member in Energy Community Avedøre (1 vote/shareholder)
  - Energy democracy: Has become a platform for local energy ideas



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## Case Study: Meer Energie

- Middenmeer district in Amsterdam
  - Residential area: 5,000 citizens, 7 schools, 2 churches, SMEs
  - District heating uses waste heat from data centre
- Collaboration between Energy community (MeerEnergie) + Municipality + Infrastructure operator





## **Useful resources**

- Transposition Guidance (REScoop.eu, ClientEarth): https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/press/energy-communities-under-the-clean-energy-package
- Guidelines on Community Heating and Cooling: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/guidelines-on-community-heating-and-cooling
- Briefing for municipalities on CH&C: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/its-better-when-were-together-briefing-for-municipalities-and-social-housing-providers-oncommunity-heating-and-cooling
- Community Power: Model legal frameworks for citizen-owned energy (ClientEarth): https://www.communitypower.eu/images/Clientearth\_report.pdf
- RePowerEU Briefing: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/repower-communities-not-fossil-fuels
- Transposition Tracker (REScoop.eu): https://www.rescoop.eu/policy#transposition-tracker
- Financing Tracker: https://www.rescoop.eu/financing-tracker
- Potential for energy citizens in the EU (CE Delft): https://cedelft.eu/publications/the-potential-of-energy-citizens-in-the-european-union/
- Assessment report of potentials for RES community energy in the target regions (COME RES): https://comeres.eu/resource?t=Assessment%20report%20of%20potentials%20for%20RES%20community%20energy%20in%20the%20target%20regions
- Community Energy Strategy: Full Report (DECC, UK): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/275163/20140126Community\_Energy\_Strategy.pdf
- The local economic impact of citizen projects (Energie Partagee): https://energie-partagee.org/ressource/etude-retombees-eco-2/
- Meer Energie: https://meerenergie.amsterdam/
- Avedore energy community: https://www.dat.aau.dk/energy-communities-take-local-ownership-of-the-green-transition-n74817





### www.rescoop.eu

### felix.kriedemann@rescoop.eu





### CAN THE INTERNET HEAT OUR COMMUNITIES? Moderated discussion



Emma Fryer Director Public Policy MODERATOR



Nikolaos Kontinakis Policy Officer DG ENER



Bela Waldhauser



Marco Bolchi Executive Director



Pauline Lucas Policy Director



Felix Kriedemann Project Manager





#### Submit your questions in the Zoom chat





### Q&A











### Thank you for joining!







