

HEAT AND COOLING

NPF 4 seeks to help the country achieve zero emissions from heating and cooling our buildings and adapt to changing temperatures.

Local Development Plans should:

- take account of the area's Local Heat and Energy Efficient Strategy, areas of heat network potential and designated heat network zones when allocating land for development.

Development proposals:

- should be supported when they connect to existing heat networks;
- in locations where a heat network is planned but not in place should only be supported where they are designed to allow for a cost-effective connection to the planned network;
- Development proposals with no demonstrable effective solution to connecting to a heat network should provide an alternative low or zero emissions heating system;
- for national or major development with waste or surplus heat should be co-located in areas of heat demand and supported by a heat and power plan which demonstrates how recovered energy would be used to produce electricity and heat;
- for energy infrastructure should take account of heat maps and zoning for heat and energy efficiency;
- for, or which include, domestic biomass energy systems should not be supported where networked systems are available;
- should be supported where they seek to repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for the handling of low carbon energy;
- for buildings that will be occupied by people should be designed to promote sustainable temperature management, prioritising natural or passive solutions.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for facilitating the development of networks for renewable and zero emission heating, and for NPF4 to prioritise approval of heat network schemes, creating a favourable planning regime for their deployment across Scotland. The

importance of enabling and encouraging a range of low and zero carbon heating options as well as heating networks was also highlighted.

Policy changes

The proposed policies in the draft NPF4 build on the support contained in NPF3 and SPP for the transformational change to a low carbon economy, which included supporting a diverse range of electricity generation from renewable energy technologies. They also take account of changes to Building Standards regulations which will require new homes to be heated by a low carbon alternative to gas boilers by 2024, and our statutory greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets. They are more specific, and more targeted, than any previous policies on heating and cooling for that reason.