



# Sustainable Glasgow

## HEATING & HOUSING HUB UPDATE

28/01/25

### Purpose of Report:

To provide the Sustainable Glasgow Board with an update and recommendations from the Heating & Housing Hub since the last report in November 2024.

### Recommendations:

To note that the Heating & Housing Hub held Meeting 5 on 19 November and decided to:

- Dedicate Meeting 6 in Q4 24/25 to review the information gathered on the Shared Ground Loop Array model and report on implications for a potential roll out in Glasgow.
- Hold three hub meetings per year to free up more time to progress workstreams.
- Note that data should ideally be collected (potentially via the LHEES) on the existing efficiency, optimisation and decarbonisation plans of existing heat networks in the city with a view to encourage the implementation of cost effective energy efficiency measures that lead to carbon emission reductions in the short term.

1. The Heating & Housing Hub Meeting 5 was held on 19 November 2025.
2. The hub received updates from its two subgroups:
  - a. **Retrofit Advisory Group (RAG)** - RAG's priority is finding ways to repair and retrofit the city's 68,000 pre-1919 tenement flats. The cost of deep retrofit to achieve a 50kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr space heating demand is likely to be unfeasible for homeowners. The group intend to identify "pathways" that homeowners can follow, starting with the production of a pattern book of fabric energy efficiency measures as part of wider guidance on the repair and retrofit of pre-1919 tenements in Glasgow.
  - b. **Heat Pump Accelerator Group (HPAG)** – evidence continues to be gathered to understand the networked ground source heat pump model (also referred to as a Shared Ground Loop Array SGLA) and to develop pathfinders. Findings to date will be presented at Meeting 6 in Q4 24/25.

It was noted that Government grant funding and a long-term private finance investment model will be required to roll out SGLA at scale given the high upfront capex costs. The Scottish Government confirmed that the future of the Scottish Heat Network Fund would be confirmed in the annual budget announcements early in 2025 and that there isn't much time left to develop new heat network projects by the current March 2026 budget deadline.

3. NRS Sustainability provided an update on the development and recent launch of the Council's **Community Renewable Energy Framework (CREF)**. This was welcomed by members who look forward to seeing and enabling uptake.
4. Scottish Enterprise presented a user-friendly guide prepared by ARUP on **waste heat recovery for heat networks**. Members noted the findings. SPEN confirmed that there has been an increase in applications for data centres, which provides an opportunity to utilise waste heat as an energy source for new heat networks in neighbouring communities or to supplement larger existing heat networks. Information was also shared about an innovative individual building heat reclamation project from Vienna, for use in residential housing new build and retrofit.
5. Evinox gave a detailed presentation on how to **optimise the efficiency of existing heat networks using the Minibems software and service platform**. Smart monitoring technology enables the assessment and prescription of network optimisation measures that target the major efficiency losses, usually the heat loss from distribution pipes and pump energy. Minibems optimisation has achieved significant carbon emission, energy use and fuel bill reductions along with greater comfort levels for customers for relatively low capex and short pay back periods. A project at the Royal Mile in Edinburgh was flagged for further information. Hub members agreed an

aspirational action would be to gather data on the current efficiency of existing heat networks in Glasgow and their optimisation and decarbonisation plans with a view to improving their efficiency as a short-term measure that moves the city toward its Net Zero and fuel poverty reduction goals.

6. The Hub decided to trial having three rather than four meetings per year to reduce meeting administration time and free up more time for workstream/project delivery.
7. All documentation from the hub and its subgroups is available on Sharepoint. For access please contact [pamela.wilson@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.wilson@glasgow.gov.uk)