



LIFE-2022-CET CALL

Topic:

Integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating



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Policy Context

- Target of the 'Fit for 55' package: greenhouse gas emission reductions
 - The Climate Target Plan published in September 2020 shows that “**at least 55% target**” by 2030 of **greenhouse gas emission reductions** is feasible however it requires more effort and contribution of all sectors of economy
- The initiatives identified in the “Fit for 55” package provide an opportunity for the heating and cooling sector
 - A large share of existing district heating and cooling systems **still overly rely on fossil fuels**
 - Existing systems/networks must modernize, **change their fuel** mix and become more efficient



Specific challenges and objective

- It is necessary to support the further application of efficient and renewable technologies in district heating sector to meet the challenges,
- This is particularly demanding for existing district heating systems operating at high-temperatures, notably considering the limited human and technical capacities of district heating operators or owners.
- Therefore, technical support is required to develop investment plans to integrate low-grade heat sources into the existing network and, where necessary, potentially adapt infrastructure on the demand side



Scope

- Proposals should work with operators/owners of **high temperature district heating** systems and provide them with the required technical support for the preparation of investment plans to fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling', defined in the revised EED

Activities may include among others: identification of available renewable energy and waste heat sources, detailed identification of the investments, contracting with owners, pre-feasibility studies, financial engineering, build the capacity to implement the investment plans etc.

- The investment plans should allow the targeted district heating system to fulfil the criteria for "efficient district heating and cooling" within in a timeline of 10 years.



Scope

- The focus should be on low-grade renewable energy or waste heat.
- Activities should support high temperature district heating operators/owners in at least 3 eligible countries; proposals should clearly identify the targeted countries (possibly regions) and explain how they intend to cover the variety of situations in each targeted area.
- Proposals should explain how they will select the district heating systems which will receive technical support, the content of the support to be provided, and how the consortium will deliver this support on the ground.
- The supported district heating systems should be located in a territory covered by a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (or similar)



Scope

Additionally, proposals should:

- Support the engagement and commitment of key stakeholders (internal and external) in order to ensure that the investment plans are implemented after the end of the project.
- Build the capacity of the targeted district heating operators/owners to implement the investment plans: design, procurement and operation to secure the highest application and utilisation of low-grade renewable or waste heat sources.
- Identify regulatory barriers and promote solutions (e.g. new regulations, tariffs, funding programmes) in order to facilitate the integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature DHC systems at national and EU levels.
- Promote replication by other district heating operators/owners



Expected Impacts

- Proposals are expected to quantify the impacts listed in the topic description and other project-specific performance indicators wherever possible:
 - Number of district heating systems equipped with an investment plan allowing them to fulfil the proposed criteria for 'efficient district heating and cooling'.
 - Number of market stakeholders with increased capacity to implement the investment plans for the integration of low-grade heat sources or waste heat.
 - Number of local and regional authorities that integrate the outcomes of the project in their energy planning.
 - Investments in sustainable energy triggered by the project (cumulative, in million Euro).
 - Primary energy savings triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
 - Renewable energy generation triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
 - Amount of energy generated from low grade heat sources triggered by the project (in GWh/year).
- The impacts of the proposals should be demonstrated during the project and within 5 years after the project lifetime



Further Clarification

The supported district heating systems should be located in a territory covered by a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (or similar)

Any urban, local or regional climate and energy actions or strategies that involve authorities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable energy and climate policies.

The plans can contribute to smooth project implementation, facilitate cooperation with authorities, receive support from local administration and energy units, have a clear vision of the priorities for action, allow maintaining the motivation of all parties involved, allocate sufficient human resources with adequate skills, mobilise society, etc.



Further Clarification

Does a proposal have to address all different activities listed in the topic description?

It will be up to proposers to demonstrate how the suggested activities will contribute to the topic challenges and expected impacts.

Note that in all cases, a proposal should appropriately address the topic objectives.



Further Clarification

Should investment plans be implemented before the end of a project?

Investments are not expected to be implemented during the project. However, DHC owners/operators can start to implement the investment plans, e.g. through procuring the necessary engineering studies and works.

Consortia should prepare investment plans before the end of a project and ensure that plans are ready to be implemented during the project lifetime **or** after the end of a project.



Further Clarification

Definition of efficient district heating and cooling - Revised Energy Efficiency Directive

System should meet the following criteria:

- until 31 December 2025, a system using at least 50% renewable energy, 50% waste heat, 75% cogenerated heat or 50% of a combination of such energy and heat;
- from 1 January 2026, a system using at least 50% renewable energy, 50% waste heat, 80% of high-efficiency cogenerated heat or at least a combination of such thermal energy going into the network where the share of renewable energy is at least 5% and the total share of renewable energy, waste heat or high-efficiency cogenerated heat is at least 50%;
- from 1 January 2035, a system using at least 50% renewable energy and waste heat, where the share of renewable energy is at least 20%;
- from 1 January 2045, a system using at least 75 % renewable energy and waste heat, where the share of renewable energy is at least 40%;
- from 1 January 2050, a system using only renewable energy and waste heat, where the share of renewable energy is at least 60%.



Further Clarification

- **The whole topic description is available on the “Funding & Tenders Portal”**
- Funding rate: 95%
- Budget foreseen for “Integration of low-grade renewable energy or waste heat in high temperature district heating”
 - The Commission considers that proposals requesting **a contribution** from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow the specific objectives to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.



Further Clarification

Topic description and Documents

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

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Programming period
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