

Doing the Maths

The top economic benefits of community heating

From better customer value to employment opportunities and a more sustainable environment, the rapidly-growing community heating industry offers a number of important economic benefits.

Beneficiaries include developers, the local economy and government, but especially consumers, many of whom suffer from fuel poverty, made worse by a rise in energy costs over recent years.

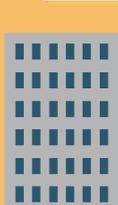
Economies of scale

Size matters

The bigger the community energy system the more widely fixed costs are shared, cutting the average cost per user.

Twin peaks

In densely populated urban areas, energy demand peaks at different times of the day:



non-residential buildings
(e.g. offices or schools)
during the day



residential homes
in the evening

Network expansion

As networks expand, larger and more efficient heating units can be used to reduce emissions and fuel bills further.

Lower operating cost

Buying power

The bigger the fuel purchases the more potential there is to find supply contracts that are cheaper than household energy tariffs.

It pays to cut carbon emissions

Using renewables reduces exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices and creates more predictable energy cost for authorities and tenants.

Clever generation

If thermal storage is used, community energy generation can take place when energy prices are lowest - ideal when mains electricity is used.

...and there's more:



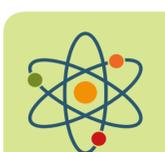
Community heating can support the local economy - less reliance on imported fuel & good for jobs



It's driving up building standards generally



You can use free waste heat from power generation



Biomass or waste materials can be used (instead of going to landfill)



Consumers can make good savings on gas and even better on electrical heating

Britain needs you

In Scotland

Ambitious carbon reduction targets are supported by start-up loans from the District Heating Loan Fund

£300 million

Funding now available from the Department for Energy and Climate Change for developers to run district heating projects throughout England and Wales

£1.15 billion

The recently announced increase in funding for the Renewable Heat Incentive by 2020-21

(this is the world's first long-term financial support programme for renewable heat - while reforming the scheme to deliver better value for money).

...and across the European Union

Community heating is central to both the UK and the EU's plans to slash energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Takeaways:

- Economic benefits from community heating schemes apply to all involved, but consumers in energy poverty most of all.
- Economies of scale mean the larger the community heating system, the lower the costs per user.
- Operating costs can be cut by using the lowest cost fuels, such as waste heat or renewable sources.
- Local communities and the UK become more self-sufficient and environmentally sustainable, as well as creating local jobs.
- In late 2015 the new UK Government gave firm backing to community heating, with hundreds of millions of pounds of extra funding.

Find out how you can manage your community heating scheme for optimum success

Download your free eGuide now:



Time to Deliver
How to run and manage a successful community heating scheme for residents

Download Now