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Heat networks

Last Modified January 30, 2025



Blackpool Council is looking to build heat networks in some areas of the town, as part of its plans to tackle the [climate emergency](#). Blackpool Council has secured £250,000 from Innovate UK and is working with Community Broadband Network to explore the possibility of heat networks in Blackpool.

Heat networks can replace the need for properties to be individually heated by transferring heat and energy across a large area. This captures the heat from a site, like a data centre or manufacturing plant, and sends it across a wider area such as a business park or housing estate through underground pipes.

There are currently around 14,000 heat networks across the UK, in places such as Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and London. The government has plans to increase this number significantly in the near future to meet carbon emission targets. In Europe, heat networks are very common - 63% of all homes in Denmark are heating through district heat networks.

Using data centres for heat networks

Data centres can operate as a single source of heat for a district heat network, as a large amount of energy is needed to cool the processors. Data centres can consume up to 100 times as much electricity as standard office spaces and as the need for data increases in our work and personal lives, this will continue to grow.

There are plans for a series of data centres as part of Silicon Sands at [Blackpool Enterprise Zone](#). These data centres would be cooled by a process called 'liquid immersion cooling', which would submerge processors in tanks of cold liquid to stop them from overheating. As this cold liquid becomes hot, the heat can be extracted and pumped around a district heat network to nearby businesses. This would reduce the need for these businesses to have their own heating supply, massively reducing their carbon emissions.

Data centres connected to a heat network are estimated to create more energy than they consume and work successfully around the world.

For more information on heat networks in Blackpool, contact climate@blackpool.gov.uk or businesses can complete the form below.

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Blackpool Council

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