

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Environmental Strategy 2023 - 2030

Heating Decarbonisation Plan

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Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 In the face of accelerating climate change and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, organisations across all sectors are called upon to take decisive action to combat this global crisis. Wales, known for its commitment to environmental stewardship, has embraced the challenge, spearheading initiatives to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint. Recognising the importance of leading by example, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service ("NWFRS", "the Service") has embraced its role in the fight against climate change.
- 1.0.2 This heating decarbonisation plan presents a comprehensive strategy for NWFRS to transition its heating systems from fossil fuel dependency to sustainable alternatives. By embarking on this ambitious journey, the Service aims to significantly reduce its carbon emissions, demonstrate environmental leadership, and contribute to a greener and more resilient future.
- 1.0.3 The Service plays a vital role in safeguarding lives, property, and the environment. Its commitment to public safety extends beyond emergency response, encompassing the responsibility to protect the communities it serves from the immediate and long-term risks posed by climate change. As extreme weather events become increasingly frequent and intense, the need to address the underlying cause of these phenomena becomes paramount.
- 1.0.4 Heating accounts for a substantial portion of the Service's energy consumption, and a reliance on fossil fuels has significant environmental consequences. Transitioning to low-carbon heating solutions aligns with our Environmental Strategy as well as broader national and international efforts to mitigate climate change, enhance energy efficiency, and embrace sustainable practices.
- 1.0.5 This decarbonisation plan sets forth a roadmap for the FRS to undertake a series of strategic actions aimed at transforming its heating infrastructure. It embraces innovative technologies, energy-efficient practices, and renewable energy sources to reduce carbon emissions while maintaining the essential heating services required for operational readiness.
- 1.0.7 Throughout this plan, emphasis is placed on collaboration, engagement, and knowledge sharing. The Service acknowledges the importance of partnerships with government bodies, industry stakeholders, and the communities it serves to foster a shared vision of sustainability. By actively involving all relevant parties, the Service aims to leverage collective expertise and resources to accelerate the decarbonisation process and create lasting positive change.
- 1.0.8 This document outlines the strategic goals, proposes a range of low-carbon heating alternatives, explores financing and implementation strategies, and highlights the potential benefits that extend beyond emissions reduction.
- 1.0.9 The journey towards decarbonisation may present challenges, but the Service is committed to leading by example and inspiring other organisations to follow suit. Through the implementation of this plan, the Service will demonstrate its unwavering dedication to environmental responsibility, while continuing to fulfil its vital role in protecting lives and supporting resilient communities across North Wales.

2.0 CURRENT HEATING SYSTEMS

- 2.0.1 The Service estate consists of 47 separate locations. This is made up of:
- Three 24-hour crewed stations
 - Five day-crewed stations
 - 36 Retained duty stations
 - Two office locations
 - One office / fleet depot
- 2.0.2 The median age of the estate is 55 years, with the oldest station having been constructed in 1900, and the newest in 2015. Some premises have been subject to significant refurbishment in recent years.
- 2.0.3 The heating systems are powered by a combination of electricity, mains natural gas and liquified petroleum gas (LPG). At the time of writing, there are:
- 39 sites heated with mains natural gas
 - Three sites heated with LPG
 - Five sites heated with electricity
- 2.0.4 At the time of writing, 16 sites are equipped with Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), which allows a greater degree of oversight and control of the heating within those premises.
- 2.0.5 There is considerable variation in energy efficiency between sites, highlighting a number of building fabric and behavioural inefficiencies.

3.0 TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR DECARBONISATION

3.0.1 To achieve the ambitious goal of decarbonising the heating systems within the Service's estate, a wide array of technology options is available. This section explores various alternatives to fossil fuel-based heating which the Service will consider when looking to replace existing heating systems, and outlines their potential applicability, benefits, and considerations for implementation.

3.1 Heat Pumps

3.1.1 Heat pumps are an efficient and increasingly popular technology for decarbonising heating. Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) extract heat from the ground, while air source heat pumps (ASHPs) extract heat from the air. These systems utilise electricity to transfer heat into buildings, offering significant carbon savings compared to traditional heating methods. Heat pumps are particularly suitable for Service buildings that require constant space heating and hot water due to high occupancy. They can be integrated into existing heating systems and provide reliable, low-carbon heating solutions.

3.2 Biomass Boilers

3.2.1 Biomass boilers utilise organic materials such as wood pellets, wood chips, or agricultural waste to generate heat. They offer a renewable alternative to fossil fuel boilers, significantly reducing carbon emissions. Biomass boilers can be particularly suitable for Service facilities located in areas with access to sustainable biomass fuel sources. Careful consideration should be given to fuel sourcing, emissions monitoring, and maintenance requirements to ensure sustainable and efficient operation.

3.3 Solar Thermal Systems

3.3.1 Solar thermal systems harness the sun's energy to heat water or air, providing a sustainable heating solution. These systems consist of solar collectors that absorb sunlight and transfer the captured thermal energy to a heating circuit. Solar thermal systems can be integrated into existing hot water systems, offsetting a significant portion of fossil fuel usage and reducing carbon emissions. The feasibility of solar thermal systems depends on the availability of suitable roof space and the local climate.

3.4 Electric Heating

3.4.1 Electric heating systems come in many forms, principally divided into radiant and convection heating. They are typically less energy efficient in operation than hydrocarbon-based systems, however some forms such as infrared can be very effective at heating large spaces. Electric heating, in common with other options which may still draw an electrical current in normal operation, still produces Scope 2 carbon emissions, however these will be addressed by the measures set out in the Power Decarbonisation Plan, as well as the ongoing decarbonisation of the National Grid.

3.5 Energy Efficiency Measures

3.5.1 Improving energy efficiency is a fundamental aspect of any decarbonisation plan. Upgrading insulation, optimising building controls, and implementing smart heating systems can significantly reduce energy demand and carbon emissions. Retrofitting existing buildings with energy-efficient measures can often yield substantial benefits in terms of cost savings and environmental impact.

Conducting energy audits and assessments can help identify areas for improvement and prioritise energy-saving measures.

3.6 Considerations for Implementation

Feasibility Assessments

- 3.6.1 Each technology option should be evaluated based on site-specific factors, such as building characteristics, heating demands, available space, and energy requirements.

Cost and Financing

- 3.6.2 Financial considerations, including upfront costs, operational expenses, and available funding options, should be carefully evaluated to ensure the economic viability of the chosen technology.

Maintenance and Support

- 3.6.3 Consideration should be given to the long-term maintenance requirements, availability of spare parts, and technical support for the selected technology.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.6.4 Involving relevant stakeholders, including Service personnel, local communities, and industry experts will foster support, knowledge sharing, and effective implementation.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FUNDING SOURCES

4.0.1 Implementing a heating decarbonisation plan for the Service requires careful consideration of the financial aspects involved. This section outlines the key financial considerations and identifies potential funding sources to support the transition to low-carbon heating technologies.

4.1 Cost Analysis

4.1.1 The Service will:

- Conduct a comprehensive cost analysis to evaluate the financial implications of the heating decarbonisation plan.
- Assess both the upfront costs associated with the installation of new heating systems and the ongoing operational and maintenance expenses.
- Consider factors such as equipment purchase or lease costs, installation costs, energy consumption, fuel prices, and maintenance requirements. This analysis will provide a clear understanding of the financial commitments and enable effective budgeting.

4.2 Return on Investment

4.2.1 A thorough Return on Investment (ROI) analysis will help justify the financial investment and demonstrate the economic viability of transitioning to low-carbon heating technologies. In order to maximise the potential ROI, the Service will:

- Evaluate the potential return on investment of the heating decarbonisation plan. Consider the long-term cost savings resulting from reduced energy consumption and lower fuel costs.
- Assess the financial benefits associated with improved energy efficiency, potential grants or incentives, and the positive impact on the Service's carbon footprint.

4.3 Funding Sources

4.3.1 The Service will explore various funding sources available to support the heating decarbonisation plan. These may include public and private sector partnerships or contractual arrangements.

Government Grants and Incentives

4.3.2 To ensure the impact on Service budgets is minimised, we will seek to participate in grant and incentive schemes wherever possible. We will achieve this by:

- Investigating national and local government grant schemes and incentives aimed at promoting energy efficiency and decarbonisation.
- Staying updated on the funding opportunities provided by government departments, energy agencies, and environmental programmes specifically designed to support the transition to low-carbon technologies.

Green Investment Funds

4.3.3 The Service will explore partnerships with green investment funds that focus on financing sustainable energy projects. These funds often support initiatives related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation. Collaborating with such funds can provide access to financial resources and expertise tailored to the Service's decarbonisation objectives.

Energy Performance Contracts

- 4.3.4 The Service will Investigate energy performance contracting options, where the upfront costs of installing low-carbon heating systems are covered by an external energy service company (ESCO). The ESCO then recoups its investment through the energy savings achieved over the contract period. This arrangement can help overcome initial budget constraints while ensuring a smooth transition to sustainable heating solutions.

Public-Private Partnerships

- 4.3.5 The Service will explore opportunities for public-private partnerships, where private entities invest in the installation and maintenance of low-carbon heating systems in exchange for long-term energy supply agreements or other mutually beneficial arrangements. This approach can leverage private sector expertise and resources to accelerate the decarbonisation process.

Internal Budget Reallocation

- 4.3.6 Decarbonisation of the Service estate is considered a high priority. In order to expedite the process of switching our facilities to low-carbon heating, it may occasionally be possible to reallocate budgeted funds. Where it is determined this may be possible, we will:
- Evaluate the possibility of reallocating internal budgets to fund the heating decarbonisation plan.
 - Review existing budgets and identify potential cost savings in other areas that could be redirected towards sustainable heating initiatives. This could involve prioritising energy efficiency measures or exploring options for phased implementation to align with available budgetary resources.

Cost-Sharing and Collaboration

- 4.3.7 By pooling resources, sharing expertise, and leveraging collective strengths, the Service can overcome financial barriers and create a sustainable pathway towards achieving our decarbonisation goals. The Service recognises the importance of cost sharing and collaboration in securing funding for the heating decarbonisation initiatives. To maximise the potential benefits of working in this fashion, we will:
- Consider collaborative approaches to share costs and resources with other organisations or stakeholders.
 - Explore the potential for joint procurement of heating systems, bulk fuel purchasing, or shared infrastructure for district heating networks. Collaboration can help reduce individual costs, leverage economies of scale, and foster partnerships that support the wider adoption of sustainable heating practices.

Lifecycle Cost Assessment

- 4.3.8 Understanding the full lifecycle costs and environmental impacts of any potential replacement heating systems is essential to the delivery of the goals set out in the Environmental Strategy. To incorporate this information, the Service will:
- Take into account the lifecycle costs of the heating systems under consideration. While initial investment costs may vary, assess the long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement costs associated with different technologies.
 - Evaluate the durability, warranty, and expected lifespan of equipment to make informed financial decisions that optimise lifecycle costs.

Ongoing Financial Management

4.3.9 The Service will:

- Develop a financial management plan to ensure ongoing monitoring, budgeting, and cost optimisation throughout the heating decarbonisation process.
- Regularly review energy consumption, fuel prices, and operational expenses to identify opportunities for further savings or improvements.
- Consider engaging financial advisors or energy consultants to provide expertise in managing the financial aspects of the plan.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 5.0.1 To successfully execute the heating decarbonisation plan for the Service estate, a well-defined implementation strategy is essential. This section outlines the key steps and considerations necessary to effectively transition to low-carbon heating technologies while ensuring operational readiness and minimal disruption to NWFRS facilities.
- 5.0.2 The Service will not commence any new installation or significant refurbishment of any hydrocarbon-fuelled heating system within its estate after the end of Financial Year 2024/25.
- 5.0.3 Replacement of existing hydrocarbon heating systems with zero-carbon alternatives will be undertaken where feasible, with priority given based on age/condition of existing systems and carbon emissions.
- 5.0.4 Where existing systems are retained, the Service will implement measures to minimise carbon emissions wherever possible. This may be achieved by adapting heating patterns, further deployment of BEMS, staff training and building fabric efficiency improvements.

Assessing Existing Heating Systems

- 5.0.2 The Service will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current heating infrastructure across NWFRS facilities. This includes evaluating energy consumption, identifying opportunities for energy efficiency improvements, and assessing the suitability of each site for different low-carbon heating technologies. Site-specific characteristics, such as building age, size, and location, should be considered during this assessment.

Prioritisation and Phased Approach

- 5.0.3 The Service will develop a prioritisation framework to identify facilities where decarbonisation efforts should be initially focused. Factors to consider in this prioritisation include energy usage, carbon footprint, cost savings potential, and the feasibility of implementing different technologies at each location. We will utilise this prioritisation framework to create a phased approach, targeting high-impact sites for early implementation while considering resource availability and budget constraints.

Technology Selection

- 5.0.4 Based on the assessment and prioritisation, the Service will select appropriate low-carbon heating technologies for each facility. This process will take into account factors such as the site's heating demands, available energy sources, local environmental conditions, and the feasibility of integrating the chosen technology into existing infrastructure. We will engage with technology suppliers, industry experts, and relevant stakeholders to ensure informed decision-making.

Financial Planning and Funding

- 5.0.5 To ensure appropriate funding is available to deliver the goals set out in this plan, the Service will:
- Develop a financial plan that outlines the estimated costs of implementing the chosen technologies, including equipment procurement, installation, and ongoing maintenance.
 - Explore funding opportunities, such as government grants, incentives, and

energy efficiency financing schemes, to offset initial investment costs.

- Collaborate with the Finance department, seek partnerships with funding organisations, and investigate potential cost-sharing opportunities within the Service and the wider community.

Pilot Projects and Monitoring

- 5.0.6 The Service will consider initiating pilot projects to test selected technologies on a smaller scale before broader implementation. Pilots provide an opportunity to assess the practicality, performance, and potential challenges associated with specific heating solutions. As part of this, we will establish robust monitoring systems to track energy usage, carbon emissions, and cost savings, allowing for data-driven evaluations of the effectiveness and impact of implemented technologies.

Training and Education

- 5.0.7 To ensure safe and optimal operation, the Service will ensure that all relevant personnel are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to operate and maintain the new heating systems. To do this, we will develop training programs to familiarise staff with the selected technologies, their operational requirements, and any safety considerations. Additionally, the Service will consider implementing educational initiatives to raise awareness among NWFRS personnel and the wider community about the benefits of decarbonised heating and the importance of sustainable practices.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

- 5.0.8 The Service will maintain active engagement with relevant stakeholders, including staff, local communities, government bodies, and industry partners. We will foster open lines of communication to gather feedback, address concerns, and promote understanding of the decarbonisation plan's objectives and progress. The Service will regularly communicate updates on the implementation strategy, milestones achieved, and the positive impact of decarbonisation efforts to build support and encourage wider adoption.

Continuous Evaluation and Improvement

- 5.0.9 Mechanisms will be established for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and performance assessment of the implemented heating technologies. This will allow the Service to regularly review energy usage, cost savings, and carbon emission reductions to identify areas for improvement and refine the implementation strategy accordingly. Personnel responsible for implementation of this plan will stay informed about emerging technologies, policy changes, and best practices to ensure the Service remains at the forefront of heating decarbonisation efforts.

6.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.0.1 As the Service undertakes the decarbonisation of its heating systems, careful consideration of health and safety implications is paramount. This section highlights the key factors that need to be addressed to ensure the well-being of FRS personnel, visitors, and the communities served during the transition to low-carbon heating technologies.

6.1 Risk Management

Risk Assessments

6.1.1 The Service will conduct comprehensive risk assessments to identify potential hazards associated with the installation, operation, and maintenance of new heating systems. Evaluate risks such as electrical hazards, fire risks, and the safe handling of equipment, fuels, and associated infrastructure. We will involve health and safety experts in the assessment process and develop robust control measures to mitigate identified risks.

Equipment Safety and Compliance

6.1.2 The Service will ensure that all heating equipment, components, and installations comply with relevant safety standards, certifications, and regulations. To do this, we will engage qualified suppliers and contractors who adhere to industry best practices and possess a proven track record in delivering safe heating systems. The Service will regularly inspect and maintain equipment to uphold safety standards and promptly address any identified issues or deficiencies.

Training and Competence

6.1.3 Comprehensive training will be provided for Service personnel involved in the operation, maintenance, and emergency response related to the new heating systems. Training should cover safe operation procedures, equipment handling, emergency shutdown protocols, and first aid measures specific to the heating technologies implemented. The Service will continue to promote a culture of safety awareness and empower personnel to report potential hazards or incidents promptly.

Fire Safety Considerations

6.1.4 In order to address the fire safety implications associated with the new heating systems, the Service will conduct fire risk assessments for each site, considering factors such as flammable materials, heat sources, electrical components, and potential ignition sources.

Protection of Building Fabric

6.1.5 Existing and proposed building fabric will be considered as part of any proposed heating system replacement or significant operational adjustment, in order to prevent any secondary damage arising from the installation works or ongoing operation of the replacement system.

6.2 Environmental Quality

Indoor Air Quality

6.2.1 As part of the design and specification process, the Service will evaluate the

impact of new heating technologies on indoor air quality, particularly when considering biomass boilers or other combustion-based systems. We will then implement appropriate measures to mitigate potential air pollution risks, such as ensuring proper ventilation, installing emission control devices, and/or regularly monitoring air quality levels. Regular maintenance and inspection of equipment are crucial to optimise combustion efficiency and minimise emissions.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection

- 6.2.2 Given the potential risks associated with the incomplete combustion of fuels, the Service will ensure the installation and maintenance of reliable carbon monoxide (CO) detection systems in all NWFRS facilities at risk. We will regularly test and calibrate CO detectors to ensure their proper functioning, and educate personnel and stakeholders about the dangers of CO and establish clear protocols for response in the event of a CO incident.

6.3 Communication and Emergency Response

- 6.3.1 The Service will review and follow existing robust communication protocols to disseminate health and safety guidelines, procedures, and emergency response plans to all NWFRS personnel, contractors, and visitors. These ensure that we provide clear instructions on reporting safety concerns or incidents promptly. We will regularly review and update emergency response plans to align with the new heating technologies and ensure seamless coordination in the event of an emergency.

6.4 Ongoing Monitoring and Review

- 6.4.1 The Service will review and follow existing mechanisms for ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and review of health and safety aspects related to the decarbonisation of heating systems. We will regularly assess the effectiveness of control measures, conduct safety inspections, and engage with health and safety professionals to identify areas for improvement. By doing this, we aim to foster a culture of continuous improvement by encouraging personnel to provide feedback and participate in safety initiatives.

7.0 MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 7.0.1 By effectively tracking progress, assessing the impact of implemented measures, and transparently reporting on the outcomes, the Service can ensure accountability, drive continuous improvement, and demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship. This section outlines the key aspects of monitoring and reporting within the decarbonisation plan.

Energy Consumption and Emissions Tracking

- 7.0.2 The Service will implement systems to monitor and track energy consumption, carbon emissions, and other relevant metrics associated with heating systems. This includes gathering data on fuel usage, electricity consumption, and operational parameters of heating equipment. We will regularly analyse this data to assess energy efficiency, identify trends, and track emission reductions achieved as a result of the decarbonisation efforts.

Performance Evaluation

- 7.0.3 Regular evaluation will be undertaken of the performance of the implemented heating technologies and associated infrastructure. This will assess the effectiveness of energy-saving measures, such as insulation improvements, smart controls, and optimised heating schedules. Data obtained will be used to compare the actual performance against the expected outcomes and targets set in the decarbonisation plan, and to identify areas where adjustments or optimisations may be needed to maximise energy efficiency and carbon savings.

Indoor Environmental Quality Monitoring

- 7.0.4 The Service will consider implementing indoor environmental quality monitoring systems to assess the impact of heating technologies on factors such as temperature, humidity, and air quality within FRS facilities. If installed, we will use this data to periodically evaluate the comfort levels, occupant well-being, and potential health impacts associated with the new heating systems, and make necessary adjustments to optimise indoor environmental conditions.

Financial Analysis

- 7.0.5 The Service will conduct regular financial analysis to assess the economic viability and cost-effectiveness of the implemented heating technologies. This will allow us to track energy cost savings, operational expenses, and any financial incentives or grants received. We will use this data to compare the investment costs with the projected and realised benefits, including energy savings, carbon reduction, and potential ancillary benefits such as improved equipment reliability or reduced maintenance costs.

Reporting and Documentation

- 7.0.6 As required by the Environmental Strategy, the Service will prepare regular reports documenting the progress, achievements, and challenges encountered during the heating decarbonisation process. These reports should include quantitative data, qualitative assessments, and key performance indicators relevant to the plan's objectives. They will be presented to the Land and Property Committee for consideration.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 7.0.7 The Service will endeavour to engage relevant stakeholders, including NWFRS personnel, governing bodies, and local communities, through regular communication channels. We will provide updates on the progress of heating decarbonisation efforts, share key performance metrics, and solicit feedback or suggestions.

Compliance Monitoring

- 7.0.8 The Service will seek to ensure compliance with relevant regulations, standards, and reporting requirements related to energy efficiency, carbon emissions, and environmental impact. We will regularly review regulatory obligations and monitor changes in legislation to ensure ongoing compliance. We will collaborate with relevant authorities and industry bodies to stay informed of emerging standards and best practices.

Continuous Improvement

- 7.0.9 The Service will use the information gathered through monitoring and reporting to drive continuous improvement in the heating decarbonisation plan. We will seek to identify areas for refinement or optimisation and develop strategies to address any performance gaps or challenges encountered. We will regularly review and update the decarbonisation plan based on the insights gained from monitoring, feedback from stakeholders, and emerging technological advancements.

8.0 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- 8.0.1 By working collaboratively, sharing knowledge, and leveraging resources, the Service can accelerate the transition to low-carbon heating technologies while maximising the positive impact on the environment and the communities it serves. This section outlines the importance of collaboration and identifies key stakeholders for partnership.

Internal Collaboration

- 8.0.2 The Service will promote collaboration among different departments to ensure a holistic approach to heating decarbonisation. We will engage personnel from facilities management, engineering, finance, and health and safety teams to ensure that all aspects of the transition are considered. We will aim to foster an environment of cross-functional collaboration, encouraging knowledge sharing and joint decision-making to optimise the planning, implementation, and monitoring of heating decarbonisation efforts.

Local Authorities and Government Agencies

- 8.0.3 The Service will seek to establish partnerships with local authorities, town and community councils, energy agencies, and environmental departments, in order to collaborate on regional decarbonisation strategies, share best practices, and align efforts to leverage available resources and funding opportunities. We will seek to engage with government agencies responsible for energy policy, grants, and incentives to ensure compliance with regulations and benefit from support programs that promote the adoption of low-carbon heating technologies.

Industry Experts and Consultants

- 8.0.4 The Service will seek collaboration with industry experts, consultants, and technical advisors who specialise in sustainable heating technologies. These professionals can provide valuable insights into the selection, installation, and operation of low-carbon heating systems. We will engage with them to conduct feasibility studies, energy audits, and technology assessments. Their expertise can help optimise heating solutions, ensure compliance with industry standards, and navigate any technical challenges that may arise.

Energy Suppliers and Service Providers

- 8.0.5 The Service will explore the possibility of partnering with energy suppliers and service providers who offer renewable energy solutions or specialise in the installation and maintenance of low-carbon heating technologies. Under such an arrangement, we would aim to collaborate with them to explore innovative energy procurement options, negotiate favourable contracts, and assess the feasibility of district heating networks or shared energy systems. These partnerships can provide access to reliable energy sources, ensure ongoing support, and facilitate cost-effective and sustainable solutions.

Research Institutions and Universities

- 8.0.6 The Service will engage with research institutions and universities that specialise in energy, sustainability, and environmental studies where practical to do so. We will offer to collaborate on research projects, joint initiatives, and knowledge sharing; as well as to participate in pilot programs and demonstration projects to test emerging technologies and contribute to the advancement of sustainable heating practices. These collaborations can foster innovation, facilitate access to

cutting-edge research, and promote the adoption of best practices.

Community and Public Engagement

- 8.0.7 The Service will involve the local community in the decarbonisation efforts by fostering dialogue and sharing information about the benefits of low-carbon heating technologies. We will seek to encourage community participation in energy-saving initiatives, such as energy efficiency programs or community-based renewable energy projects. These partnerships can enhance public support, raise awareness, and ensure that the heating decarbonisation plan aligns with local needs and aspirations.

Financial Institutions and Funding Bodies

- 8.0.8 The Service will engage with financial institutions, green investment funds, and funding bodies that support sustainable energy projects. We will endeavour to collaborate on funding applications, explore financing options, and leverage available grants or incentives to offset the initial investment costs. Partnering with these organisations can enhance the financial viability of the heating decarbonisation plan and unlock additional resources for its successful implementation.