

Newsletter 2:

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the HeaTogether Newsletter!

HeaTogether is a European initiative accelerating the decarbonisation of existing urban building stocks through **neighbourhood heating and cooling (H&C) networks**, a scalable “gap filler” between district heating and individual systems.

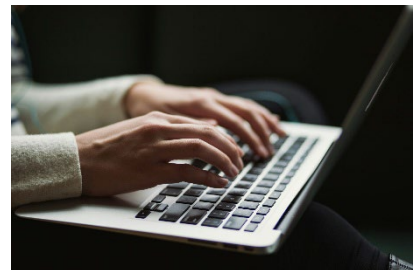
The project supports **15 pioneer neighbourhoods across Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands** in developing investment-ready H&C solutions, while strengthening the capacity of cities and energy agencies to replicate these approaches across Europe. With an expected investment potential of **€155 million** and decarbonisation impacts of up to **80% per neighbourhood**, HeaTogether contributes to Europe’s heat transition.



We invite you to follow our progress via our [LinkedIn](#) page and [website](#) and share this newsletter with colleagues who are interested in neighbourhood-based energy solutions.

Policy Paper

As part of the HeaTogether project, we have developed a [policy paper](#) highlighting neighbourhood heating and cooling networks as a complementary solution for decarbonising urban and suburban heat supply. Drawing on project findings, the paper identifies key policy barriers and proposes measures at EU level, including clearer definitions, integration into heat planning, simplified permitting and targeted funding. It calls for neighbourhood-scale networks to be recognised as a distinct and important approach within Europe’s heating and cooling transition. Check out our [Knowledge Hub](#) for other interesting project findings.



eccee peer reviewed paper

In existing urban and suburban areas with medium heat density neither conventional large district heating systems operating at high temperatures, nor heat pumps for individual buildings, offer optimal decarbonisation solutions for both technical and economic reasons.

[Read the full paper at the eccee Summer Study proceedings.](#)

Consortium Meeting & first Sounding Board Session in Prague

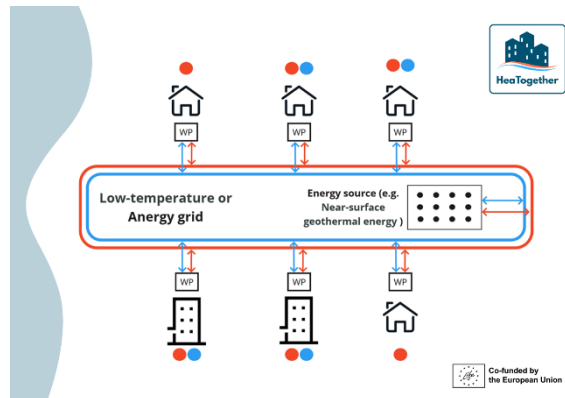
In July, the HeaTogether consortium met in Utrecht for its 3rd consortium meeting, focusing on the development of our pioneer neighbourhoods. Over two intensive days, the partners discussed financing models, stakeholder involvement and technical solutions. A tour of HU's Energy Lab provided insights into applied research and innovation, while a presentation on mini heat networks in the Province of Utrecht offered valuable regional perspectives. The meeting was rounded off by a visit to Hilversumse Meent, one of the HeaTogether pioneer neighbourhoods, where the team gained practical insights into the opportunities and challenges of implementing local heating solutions.



The HeaTogether-Consortium in Utrecht (Jul, 2026)

Why the future of heating is actually about cooling

As summers become hotter and heatwaves more frequent, cooling is becoming an increasingly important part of the urban energy transition. During our visit to HeaTogether pioneer neighbourhood Hilversumse Meent, we saw how this changing demand is already shaping local energy solutions. Neighbourhood heating and cooling networks, including cold-water or **anergy networks**, can provide a shared infrastructure for both heating and cooling. Water circulates through the neighbourhood at relatively low temperatures, while heat pumps enable buildings to use the network for efficient heating in winter and cooling in summer. Excess heat can also be transferred back into the network, allowing energy to be shared between buildings. This makes neighbourhood H&C networks more than a solution for decarbonising heat supply: they can also contribute to **summer comfort, climate resilience and more liveable urban neighbourhoods**.



For more information, visit: www.heattogether.eu





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