

Call for evidence: Heat Network Zones

November 2025

The London Assembly Environment Committee has launched an [investigation](#) into the expansion of heat networks across London in support of the Mayor of London's target to substantially reduce carbon emissions by 2030.

The [Energy Act 2023](#) committed the government to introduce heat network zoning in England, as a key enabler for growing the heat network market. The Committee is seeking to understand the lessons learned so far from the implementation of heat network zoning pilot areas in London, the potential carbon and cost savings from heat networks, their reliability, and the experiences of residents that use them. The Committee is also interested in how policies and the regulatory framework can support the future delivery of heat networks, including how waste and ambient heat sources can be integrated into district heating networks. The Committee will assess the GLA's approach, as well as the role of government and other bodies in ensuring heat network zoning works well for London.

Background

District heat networks use insulated pipes to distribute heat from centralised sources to a variety of different customers. They use shared sources of heat to improve the energy efficiency of heating systems.

Currently, over 477,000 households – representing more than 1.1 million people in the UK - are connected to a heat network. The government aims to increase the proportion of heat demand met by heat networks from the current level of 3 per cent to 20 per cent by 2050, through new

heat network zones, where certain types of buildings and low carbon heat sources can be required to connect to a network within a prescribed timeframe. The Mayor's preferred [pathway](#) for reducing carbon emissions in London by 2030 is based on 460,000 heat network connections.

The Government is currently developing the regulatory regime for heat networks, including new roles for Ofgem, Citizens Advice and the Energy Ombudsman.

How to respond

The Committee would like to invite organisations or individuals with relevant experience or expertise to provide evidence to inform the work of the Committee and influence its recommendations to the Mayor. The London Assembly is committed to hearing from a diverse range of voices which reflect the rich diversity of the city. The Committee welcomes any evidence relevant to the following questions:

1. What are Londoners' experiences of new low-carbon heat networks? Are they providing cheap and reliable heat?
2. What is the process for connecting existing sources of ambient or waste heat to heat networks, and how can this process be accelerated?
3. Is the GLA providing effective support and working with the key stakeholders in central and local government to accelerate the uptake of heat networks?
4. What lessons can be drawn from heat network zoning pilots to inform the new London Plan and wider rollout of heat networks in London?

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5. Are the government's policy frameworks and support around heat network zones in line with what London needs? Are new technical standards likely to be effective?
6. What other policies or support are needed to achieve 460,000 heat network connections in London by 2030?

Please answer only those that are most relevant to you - you do not need to answer all questions. Written submissions should be sent to scrutiny@london.gov.uk with 'Environment Committee Heat Network Zones call for evidence' as the subject line. The deadline to inform the Committee's final meeting in January with the GLA and other stakeholders is **5pm Friday 19 December 2025**. The final deadline to inform the investigation is **Wednesday 14th January 2026**

What we will do with the responses

The results will be used to inform the London Assembly Environment Committee's investigation. Responses may be used to form part of a report or output from the Committee.

In the large majority of circumstances, we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received. Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and

the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Email submissions	scrutiny@london.gov.uk Please use 'Environment Committee Heat Network Zones call for evidence' as the subject title
Further information	Richard Clarke, Senior Policy Adviser, Richard.Clarke@london.gov.uk
Media enquiries	Tony Smyth, External Communications Officer, Tony.Smyth@london.gov.uk

About the Environment Committee

The London Assembly consists of 25 elected London Assembly Members, who publicly examine the policies and programmes of the Mayor of London and associated bodies.

The Environment Committee examines and reports on matters relating to the environment and energy in London and leads on scrutiny of the Mayor's Environment Strategy. The members of the committee are:

- Léonie Cooper (Chair)
- Thomas Turrell (Deputy Chair)
- Andrew Boff
- Bassam Mahfouz
- Joanne McCartney
- Anne Clarke
- Keith Prince
- Gareth Roberts
- Zack Polanski