EUDCA × Euroheat & Power

WEBINAR 1 — HRP

Making Heat Reuse Work

How the Heat Reuse Platform bridges the gap between data centres and district heat networks across Europe

30 March 2026 | Jo-Ann Garbutt, Luca Neumann, Noah Nkonge

Today's Speakers

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Why This Webinar Exists

💬 Often discussed, rarely understood

Heat reuse is frequently referenced in policy and industry circles - but the technical and commercial realities are not widely shared.

🔑 Significant value waiting to be unlocked

Solving the heat reuse puzzle connects data centre decarbonisation with district heating infrastructure across Europe.

📐 A shared baseline for all stakeholders

This session establishes common ground: terminology, constraints, and what makes projects succeed or fail.

🚀 The Heat Reuse Platform (HRP)

HRP will provide early solutions - tools, templates and matchmaking to move projects from concept to feasibility faster.

Who This Is For

DHN Operators

Owners and operators of district heat networks; permitting teams; expansion planners and sellers of heat to consumers.

Data Centre Operators

IT operators generating heat through server workloads; teams responsible for cooling design and sustainability reporting.

Policymakers & Regulators

Authorities setting reporting requirements, sustainability targets and compliance frameworks for energy infrastructure.

City & Municipal Planners

Urban infrastructure planners responsible for integrated grid and heat network planning at the city level.

What Getting It Right Looks Like

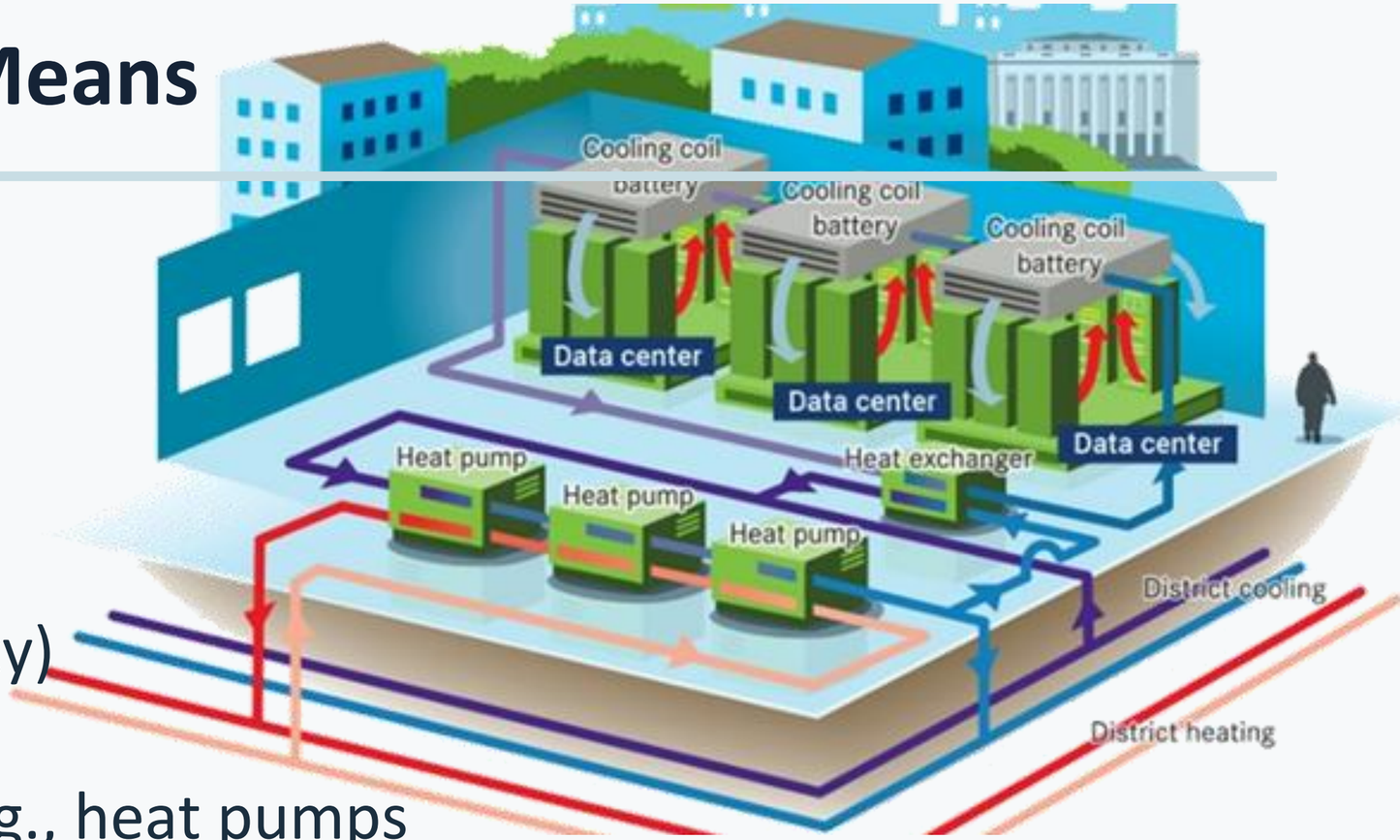
01	**Feasibility before commitment**	Projects are assessed rigorously before capital is deployed — avoiding wasted investment on structurally unviable connections.
02	**Decisions grounded in data**	Load profiles, temperature ranges, distance and grid capacity inform every commercial conversation from day one.
03	**DC operations protected**	Heat reuse is designed around SLA continuity, PUE targets and cooling resilience — not as an afterthought.
04	**Repeatable, scalable processes**	Standardised templates and feasibility logic mean each successful project paves the way for the next.

01

Setting the Scene

What Heat Reuse Really Means

It's not a plug-and-play project



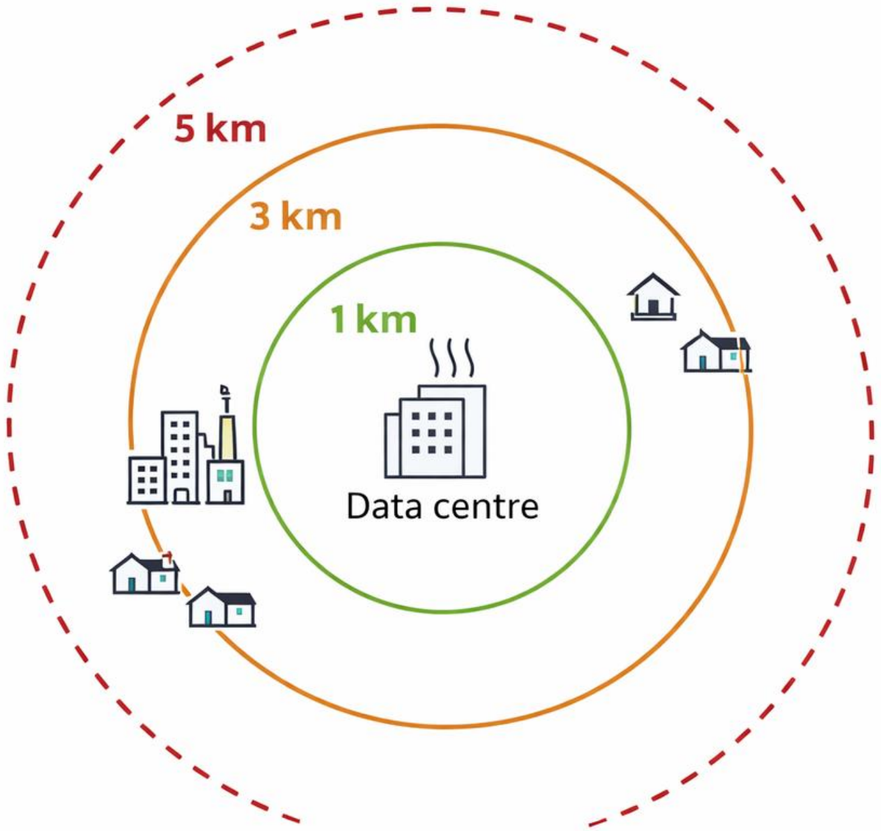
Key considerations

- Temperature range (seasonality)
- Liquid cooling vs air cooling
- Necessity for infrastructure, e.g., heat pumps
- Heat losses and system efficiency impact outcomes

Heat reuse is an engineered system integration across two entities — not a by-product of data centre operations.

Challenges to Heat Reuse

- Ownership fragmentation
- Capex vs Opex misalignment
- Space for transfer equipment
- Availability of electricity
- Importance of proximity



Viability decreases with distance

02

District Heating Networks

DHN Reality Check

Known Realities

- DC heat is low-temperature and not always continuous
- Not every data centre is a suitable partner (cooling technology, distance)
- Existing operating DCs cannot easily adapt to DHN needs

DHN Focus Areas

- Variable supply
- Dependence on IT load patterns and server utilisation
- Responsibility for heat uplift via heat pump
- Integration complexity and capital expenditure

DHN Priorities

- Reliable, predictable heat input
- Projects that clearly justify the integration investment

200 TWh residual heat potential by 2050

Policy & Regulatory Alignment

Current & future (?) framework

- EED:
  - DC reporting & WH use
  - Strong recognition of waste heat for DHC decarbonization
- Unlock 11% of heat demand
- Data centre energy efficiency package

Suggestions

Modernise and develop DHC networks

Planning

De-risking and financing

Promote the use of template contracts

Incentivise data centres to offer their WH

03

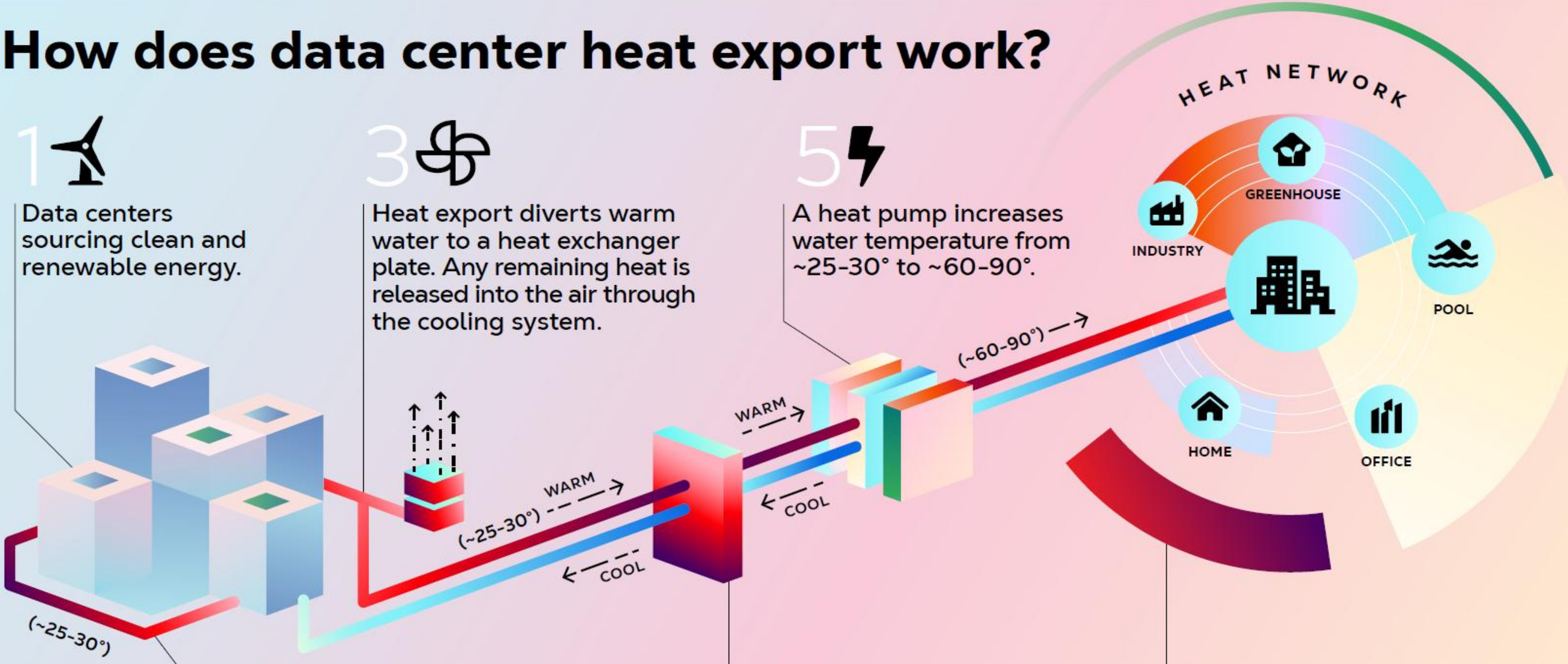
Data Centre Operators

How does data center heat export work?

1 Data centers sourcing clean and renewable energy.

3 Heat export diverts warm water to a heat exchanger plate. Any remaining heat is released into the air through the cooling system.

5 A heat pump increases water temperature from ~25-30° to ~60-90°.



2 Heat (~25-30°) generated by servers warms up water, which is then taken away via pipework to the data center's cooling system.

4 Warm water reaches a heat exchange plate which warms up water in a second pipework loop.

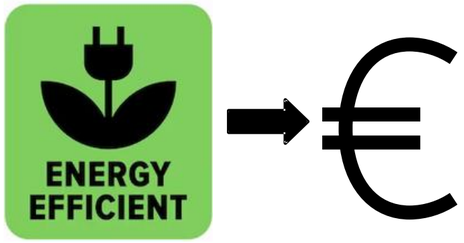
6 Converted heat is now suitable to be used within the community.

EQUINIX

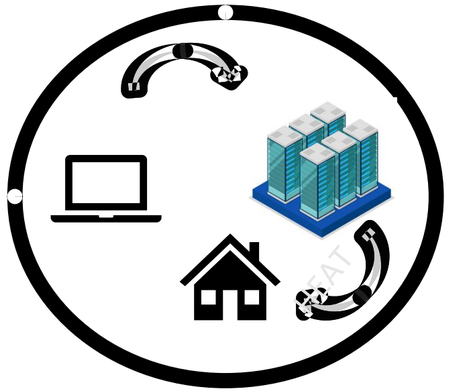
Heat reuse has moved from 'nice to have' to strategic necessity

Community (via district heating networks)	• Meet City carbon reduction targets Avoid fossil fuel combustion • Improved air quality	• Improved resilience/ energy security • Lowest cost route to decarbonisation • Potential to relieve grid constraints	• Makes use of locally available untapped heat resource • Job creation in heat network industry

Staying ahead of Regs



Efficient use of resources

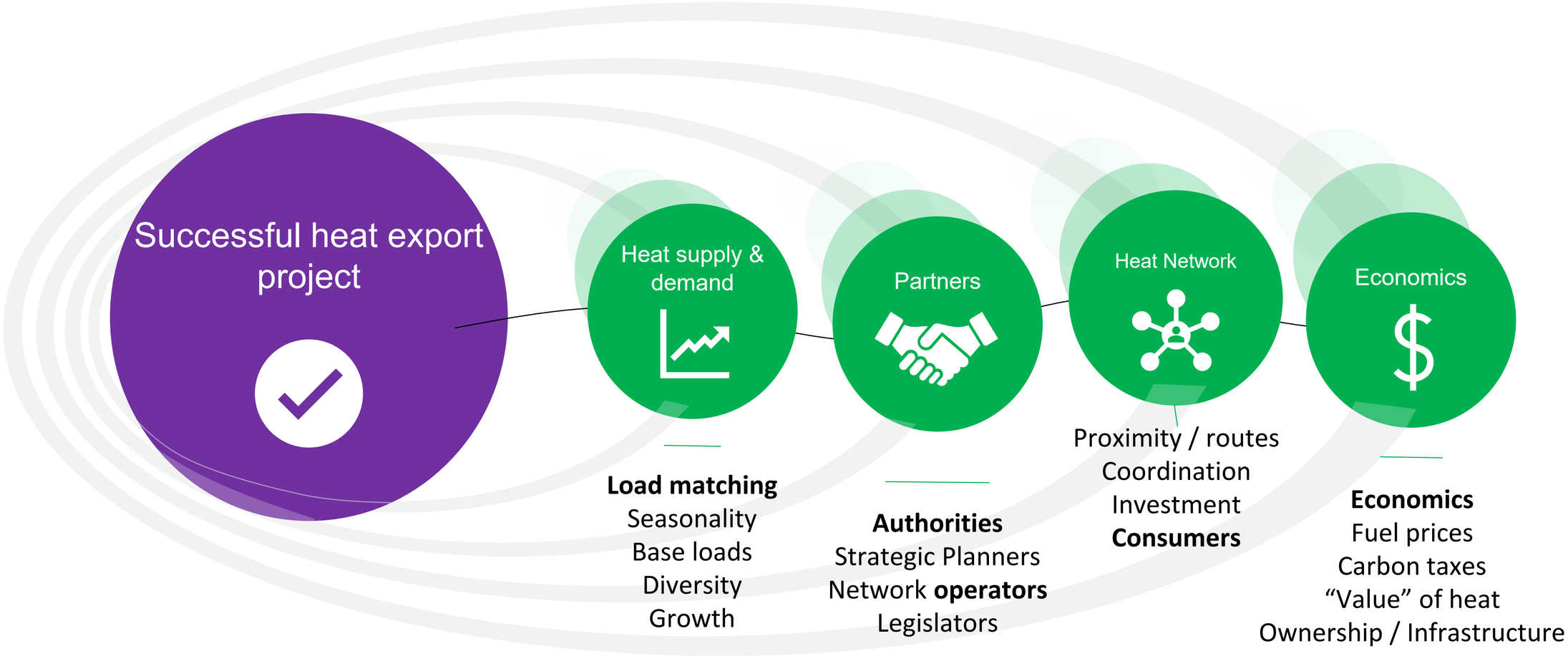


Circular economy

Data Center operators	• E.g. EU Energy Efficiency Directive, Germany Energy Efficiency Law etc	• AI/high density growth means more heat to be reused • Reduced electricity consumption for data center cooling	• Local resources for local benefit

What makes a successful heat export project?

We need to bring the required planets into alignment



Quantified Impact — Indicative Example for a 25MW DC

Assumes 25MW Data Center, 70% utilisation, 15% export fraction (equating to exporting heat for about half the year in line with heat customer demands)

15%

Heat export fraction
of DC thermal output

3,000+

Homes equivalent that could be heated

4,500

Estimated winter & mid-season
export hours per year

** All figures are illustrative, based on typical European project benchmarks.*

⚠ Key Risks: Low density = no scale · No anchor load = no DHN viability · Amount of heat exported ultimately depends on DHN customer demand

Heat reuse project considerations – data center operator perspective

Technical/ Operational Considerations

- Retrofitting older sites will often require a feasibility study
- Uptake of Liquid cooling *may* improve heat reuse viability
- Jointly agreed operational standards for shared infrastructure (temps, flow rates)
- Arranging site access for heat network operator onto data center site

Commercial Considerations

- Most data center operators don’t want to be a heat utility
- Ownership of heat pump likely to have negative PUE impact
- Preferred situation is to provide heat without guarantees
- Balancing longer term heat reuse contracts vs shorter term customer contracts

Must haves

- SLA and uptime protection above all else (maintaining operational resilience)
- Cooling efficiency and energy performance must be maintained
- PUE, WUE and EU sustainability label compliance

Heat reuse project phases

- Matching between DC & DHN
- Sense check for high level compatibility (temperatures, quantities of heat etc)

- ROM Feasibility Calculator
- Feasibility study

- MOU/ Heads of Terms
- Risk allocation, agreeing commercial terms

- Detailed design of heat/power infrastructure
- Utility supplies/ permitting

- Building, testing
- commissioning between DC and DHN

- Heat export is live.
- Monitoring, performance reporting, optimisation

04

The HRP Platform

What HRP Is

HRP connects stakeholders and operationalises feasibility — supporting earlier alignment across the project lifecycle.

Connection

🗺️ Proximity Mapping — identify viable DC-DHN pairs

🤝 Neutral Convening — bringing parties to the table

🔗 Matchmaking — structured introduction process

Execution

📊 Feasibility Calculator — standardised financial model

📋 Feasibility Templates — structured assessment guides

🗓️ Meeting Guidance — agenda frameworks for alignment

HRP System Impact

↓ REDUCES

- Stranded heat — DC output that never reaches a network
- False starts — projects that collapse after costly groundwork
- Misaligned expectations between DC and DHN parties

→ ENABLES

- Early triage — viability assessed before investment
- Shared technical baseline across all stakeholders
- RAG feasibility logic — clear red/amber/green signals

↑ IMPROVES

- City coordination and infrastructure alignment
- Decarbonisation impact at scale across Europe
- Project success rate and investor confidence

Summary

01

Heat reuse supports the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in the EU, reducing its dependence on fossil fuel imports and strengthening its energy security.

02

EU policies, regulations and directives increasingly reference heat reuse as a major lever for achieving energy and climate targets.

03

Successful projects require cross-stakeholder coordination — feasibility calculators, structured guidelines and matchmaking tools to bridge the gap.

Q&A

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Thank you!

The webinar recording and will be available soon

Find us on LinkedIn: **The Heat Reuse Platform**