



Decarb Heat policy principles and first policy requests

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Background

Based on the Paris agreement, the global society has embarked on a journey towards a fully decarbonised energy system. The European Union has supported the finalisation of the agreement and has also ratified it.

The underlying scientific evidence – compiled by the IPCC - indicates that limiting global warming to well below 2°C needs zero or even below zero CO2 emissions from the energy system sometime around 2050. If this goal is to be achieved in time, the ambition level must be stepped up across all sectors.

Decarbonising residential, commercial and industrial heating and cooling is essential for the energy system to move to zero carbon. It is both challenge and opportunity. A challenge because the sector has not moved much in the past decade; an opportunity, as the necessary technologies to achieve zero emissions by 2050 are available. What is required to move forward is political will to update the market framework rather than technological innovation.

The currently discussed “clean energy for all” package is a good start, but most likely falls short of necessary ambition and impact. Still, it is a good foundation on which to develop the ambition level in decarbonising heating and cooling faster and with a bigger impact.

Decarb Heat Policy Principles

Policy-makers should give a preference to transforming the heating and cooling sector by following the following principles:

- Adopt the vision of a 100% carbon emission free heating & cooling sector by 2050 (80% by 2040);
- Align current and planned energy policies with this vision, enshrining it in their environmental, economic, tax and educational policies and ensuring that the impact of legislation on various levels does not hinder the deployment of 2050-ready solutions;
- Establish conditions for an energy market that would spontaneously drive decision makers to opt for 2050-ready solutions, but also taking effective short term action to accelerate the deployment of these solutions in the absence of a functioning energy market;

Decarb heat is a shared initiative to make the goal of a decarbonised heating and cooling sector by 2050 a reality. It has gathered more than 50 signatories and supporters.

More information can be found at www.decarbheat.eu



- Strengthen the confidence of citizens, investors and stakeholders by playing an active role in the awareness-raising on and the promotion of existing '2050-ready' solutions and the Decarb Heat vision;
- Support research and development activity to (further) improve the environmental benefits, the cost efficiency and the integration of the various 2050-ready (and supporting) solutions, as well as to strengthen connections between the thermal and the electric sector;
- Follow a collaborative approach for further decarbonisation of the thermal sector by participating in and contributing to the Decarb Heat platform.

First policy requests

At the very initial stage of their activities, the Decarb Heat Platform members have identified the following requests to the Commission:

- Making the decarbonisation of heating and cooling a focus of the work program of the 2020 – 2025 Commission
- Providing sufficient human resources in DG ENER and related DGs, considering to establish a heating and cooling unit, or a heating and cooling task force
- Pursue the decarbonisation of heating and cooling by developing efficiency measures and renewable energy in parallel.
- Providing financial resources to determine a technology roadmap towards a decarbonised heating and cooling sector
- Give special attention to decarbonising the existing building stock.