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# FACTSHEET 2

WHAT SUPPORT TO PROVIDE

MUNICIPALITIES WITH WHEN

INTRODUCING MANDATORY HEATING

AND COOLING PLANS

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THE CASE OF SCOTLAND, THE NETHERLANDS  
AND BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG

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For heating and cooling plans to be successfully designed and implemented, local authorities need the appropriate support from their regional and national authorities. Following its five-year pilot programmes, the Scottish government analysed in detailed the needs of its local authorities to draft such plans.

## 1. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is essential for cities' civil servants to draft and implement plans.

National or regional governments should first develop step-by-step guidelines on how to draft such plans. These guidelines are available in the Netherlands[1], in Baden Württemberg (BW)[2] and soon in Scotland. These resources contain guidance on the content but also on the methodology of the plans like neighbourhood approach, stakeholders' engagements etc.

In Germany, the Baden Württemberg Energy and Climate Protection Agency (KEA-BW) and Danish partners have developed a dynamic toolbox providing step-by-step guidance, examples, and good practices. Initially containing Danish examples, the toolbox aims to expand and include BW examples, illustrating geographically specific step-by-step guidance. Moving forwards, it may be extended to other regions in Germany, which may then add their examples, creating a dynamic repository of case studies.

National or regional governments should also provide technology catalogues to local governments which detail the available technologies, the costs, and criteria to help energy planners choose the most suitable technology. The Danish Energy Agency has developed one and updates it every year. One is also available in Baden-Württemberg[3]. This catalogue must be adapted to the regional context and updated regularly.

Trainings and tools also need to be provided to local civil servants both during the planning phase (use of GIS-Geographic Information Systems, or other mapping tools, discussion with stakeholders) and during the implementation phase (finance the implementation, leverage funding, discussions with stakeholders...).

Finally, access to energy-related data is critical to ensuring municipalities can draft plans. This point was identified as one of the main barriers during the pilot process in Scotland. National governments and the EU should make the collection of such data more accessible, especially for those scattered among several public or private stakeholders, while ensuring data protection.

[1] An entire [website](#) is dedicated to support of Dutch municipalities, with step-by-step guidance for the [planning](#) and for the [implementation](#).

[2] Guidelines in German [here](#).

[3] [Baden-Württemberg technologies catalogue](#) (in German)

In Baden-Württemberg, the Climate Protection Law enables all municipalities (including smaller ones) to collect and process energy consumption data, infrastructure plans (e.g. grids, plants) and information on existing heating systems (central and decentralized) of the entire building stock. Furthermore, all heat plans together with information on now and future consumption, RE potentials etc., must be published in a state-wide database run by KEA-BW.

## 2. FINANCIAL MEANS INCLUDING HUMAN CAPACITY

Financial support is necessary throughout several steps: 1. The drafting of plans 2. The implementation of plans. This encompasses both budgeting for human capacity during these 2 phases[4], and implementation costs.

In the Netherlands, selected municipalities received funding to open a position in charge of drafting the heating vision. Scotland adopted a similar strategy, where-in one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position is proposed for each local government to coordinate the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES). The Scottish and Dutch governments are developing additional funds for implementation costs. However, all local governments express their uncertainty about the availability of funds to have the appropriate staffing and financial means for implementing the plans.

“My position was partially financed by a national fund (Decembercirculaire gemeentefonds 2019). We currently have 2 FTE working directly on the buildings’ decarbonisation, heat strategy and the design of the first neighbourhood heating plans, but we estimated (using the research report from AEF into the Implementation Costs of the Klimaatakkoord from 2020) that we will need around 30 FTE to achieve the transition goals of 2030. 60% of it concern project managers and project officers during the preparation and implementation phases. And the numbers will go up when we will reach the maximum (between 2030 and 2045) of “neighbourhood heating plans” implemented simultaneous. We need financial support from the national or EU to recruit and employ FTE, If that much capacity can still be found at all”

Stef Hoefs, coordinator for the heat strategy in Heerlen (The Netherlands)

In Baden-Württemberg, all municipalities are financially supported, with the federal-state supplying funds for those that fall under the obligation to conduct plans[5]. Municipalities below the threshold but willing to develop plans can benefit from an approved funding programme of 10.4 million EUR for the period 2021-2026 which could take up to 80% of the cost for small municipalities[6]. All municipalities can always go to the local office of the regional energy agency to find available funding programmes or check the website. KEA-BW also organises joint planning between small municipalities or between a small town and a larger obligated town.

[4] See Energy Cities’ [study](#) “Human capacity in local governments: the bottleneck of the buildings transition” and [campaign](#) on the staffing needs of municipalities.

[5] [German fund programmes](#)

[6] Details of the programme for smaller municipalities [here](#).

### 3. LEARNING COMMUNITY

A **dedicated governmental (regional or national) body** needs to be created to centralise the different support schemes and answer questions from municipalities. Zero Waste Scotland currently provides this support, and a Scottish National Public Energy Agency dedicated to stakeholder engagement and local authorities' support is to be created. In the Netherlands, several ministries (economic, climate change) and an association of local authorities (VNG) joined forces to create a dedicated body<sup>[7]</sup>; while in Baden Württemberg, the KEA-BW is taking over this role.

The local governments interviewed in the three focus countries highlighted the **importance of having a community of practices** to exchange with peers and a dedicated national body to explore the barriers and solutions. Scotland is, for example, having monthly workshops with all civil servants involved in the draft of the local heat strategies. At the same time, an online helpdesk is available in the Netherlands and in BW.

#### Checklist of support schemes to ensure a good design and implementation of local plans:

- A dedicated public body to support municipalities (regional level)
- Guidelines or toolkit
- Technologies Catalogue
- Regulatory framework to make the energy data more accessible for municipalities
- Capacity building and training for local staff
- Dedicated funds available for development and implementation
- Funds for job positions to design the plan and implement it
- Help desk/ community of practice

**[Check our Factsheet 1: How to design the obligation to carry out heating and cooling plans for municipalities?](#)**

[7] Natural Gas Free Neighbourhoods Programme ([PAW](#))