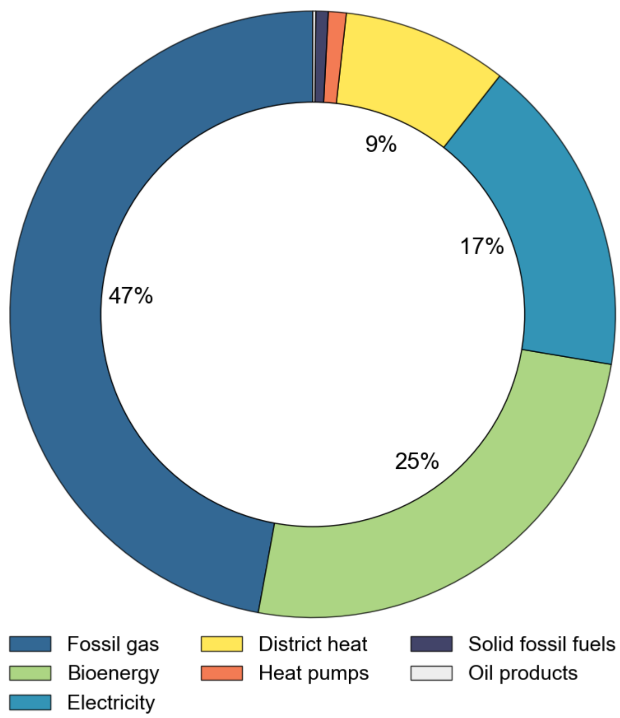
Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

Hungary

Energy used for space heating and hot water in homes in Hungary, 2023



Source: Eurostat, 2025.

Does the country have a national heat plan? Is it statutory?

No national heat plan exists in Hungary, and there is no district heating plan or strategy. Although the government-initiated efforts in 2017, these were never adopted.

Is the progress of heating decarbonisation tracked and is the information publicly accessible?

Decarbonisation tracking is only included in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which is updated accordingly and publicly available.

Contact the Clean Heat Forum at cleanheatforum@raponline.org.

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

No.

Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

Hungary lacks a regulatory framework for local heating and cooling planning. While objectives to increase renewable energy and reduce gas dependency for heating are established, local energy planning's role in achieving these objectives is not addressed. Local governments often own district heating companies and have public service obligations but lack the mandate to make decisions on pricing.

Is heat planning carried out at a municipal, regional or national level?

There is no heat planning for decarbonisation in Hungary. The National Regulatory Authority developed a heat demand map as required by the Cogeneration Directive. More information can be found at https://terkep.mekh.hu/hutesfutes/

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

No governance structure exists for heat decarbonisation.

Is heat decarbonisation part of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution?

Yes, the NECP includes an indicative renewable energy share target in heating and cooling, aiming for 32% by 2030, up from 20% in 2022.

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

The National Energy Strategy from 2019 mentioned a target of 100,000 new heat pumps by 2030, but this figure is not included in the NECP.

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

No.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in new buildings?

No.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in existing buildings?

No, although new renovation programmes exclude gas boilers.

Has the country decided on a phase-out date for fossil fuels in heating?

No.

Has the country undertaken energy pricing reforms to support electrification?

No, the price ratio is unfavourable for electrification. The average final electricity price for households in 2023 is 11.5 cents/kWh, while gas is 3.4 cents/kWh.

Does the country place a carbon tax on fossil fuels for heating?

No.

If yes, please provide details. If not, is it under discussion?

No discussions are currently underway regarding carbon pricing.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

Heat pumps are included as part of home renovation programmes, but there is no specific investment support for them. A special tariff for heat pumps is available at 23 HUF/kWh during the heating season, compared to the normal regulated tariff of 37 HUF/kWh.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

Occasional public tenders provide investment support. Recently announced funding includes 51 billion HUF for heat generation switching to renewable energy and 45 billion HUF for district heating service companies for network renovation and energy efficiency. More details can be found at https://www.portfolio.hu/gazdasag/20250319/96-milliardos-allami-tamogatas-erkezik-mutatjuk-a-reszleteket-748729

Has the country made efforts to improve public understanding and support of clean heat systems?

Information not found.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Information not found.

Brief overview of the biggest challenges towards heat decarbonisation in the country.

The regulatory environment in Hungary features case-by-case price control for district heating, affecting both the price of heat from generators and the heat supplied to consumers. This volatility hampers planning and investment decisions.