

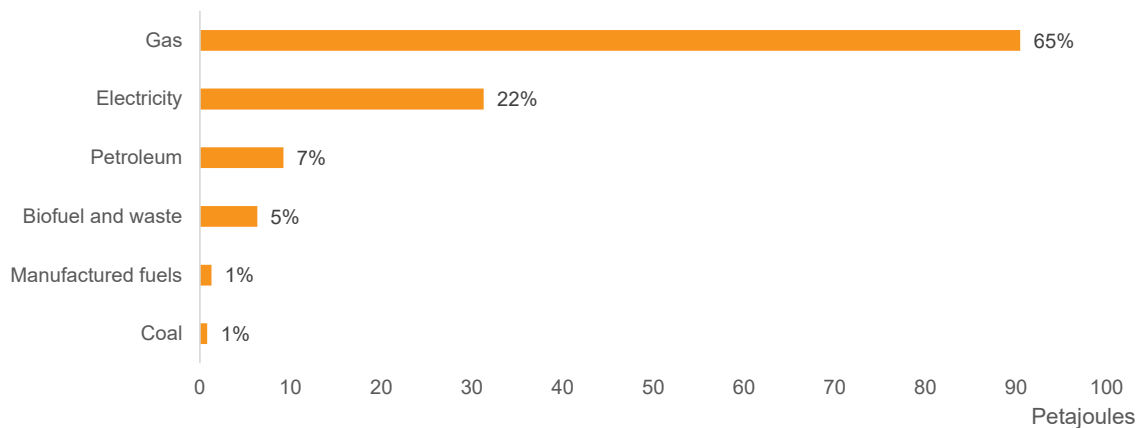


Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

Scotland



Residential total final consumption by source, Scotland, 2023



Source: DESNZ, 2025. Subnational total final energy consumption.

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

The Heat in Buildings Strategy outlines Scotland's approach to reducing emissions from heating homes and buildings, as mandated by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, aiming for heat decarbonisation by 2045. Additionally, new Energy Performance Certificate regulations are set for introduction in 2026, aiming to enhance clarity on energy efficiency and heating system costs for both domestic and non-domestic buildings. These reforms broadly align with the revised EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The Heat Networks Delivery Plan, governed by the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021, is also a statutory plan in this context.

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

In November 2023, Scotland published a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to track progress on the Heat in Buildings Strategy (2021). This framework ensures that milestones are met and is reported annually as required by the Climate Change Act 2009. The Annual Heat in Buildings Progress Report is publicly accessible. Additionally, the Scottish Greenhouse Gas statistics report monitors carbon emissions reductions from



heating homes and buildings, providing a comprehensive overview of progress in heat decarbonisation.

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

Yes.

Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

Scotland has its own climate policies and initiatives but participates in international climate negotiations as part of the broader UK delegation. This dual approach allows Scotland to address local climate challenges while contributing to national and international climate goals.

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

Local authorities in Scotland are mandated to produce Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) to enhance heat planning. These strategies can be developed jointly at a regional level, promoting collaboration among municipalities. To date, two regional examples of joint strategies have been established, demonstrating a proactive approach to local heat planning.

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

The governance of heat decarbonisation in Scotland falls under the Scottish Government's Energy and Climate Change Directorate, which oversees the implementation of policies and strategies aimed at reducing emissions from heating.

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

Yes, heat decarbonisation is included in the buildings sector of Scotland's emissions reduction targets, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing heating emissions as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

While the Scottish Government acknowledges the importance of heat pump installations in achieving clean heating solutions, it has adopted a technology-neutral approach without setting specific targets for the number of heat pumps to be installed. The Heat in Buildings strategy emphasises the need for an increase in heat pump installations from current levels.

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

The Heat in Buildings Strategy sets a target for decarbonising heat in buildings by 2045. Existing requirements in the Climate Change Act 2009 mandate the establishment and reporting of a renewable heat target.



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

The New Build Heat Standard, effective from 1 April 2024, prohibits the installation of fossil fuel heating systems in all new buildings. Following a review in 2024, the standard was updated to allow wood burning stoves and peat heating systems, addressing concerns from stakeholders in rural and island communities.

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

No.

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

The Heat in Buildings Strategy sets a target for decarbonising heat in buildings by 2045.

Has the country undertaken energy pricing reforms to support electrification?

The Scottish Government continues to urge the UK Government to utilise its reserved powers to rebalance gas and electricity prices, which would help alleviate fuel poverty and encourage the adoption of electric heating systems.

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

No.

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

The Scottish Government continues to urge the UK Government to utilise its reserved powers to rebalance gas and electricity prices, which would help alleviate fuel poverty and encourage the adoption of electric heating systems.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

Yes, financing for heat pump installations is available in the form of grants and loans, covering up to 80% of costs with a maximum of £7,500. Additionally, a rural uplift of £1,500 is available where appropriate, making heat pump systems more accessible.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

Yes, capital and pre-capital support is available for district heating projects through Scotland's Heat Network Fund and the Heat Network Support Unit. Households and businesses can receive grant or loan funding to assist with the costs of connecting to a local heat network.



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

As part of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) reform, user-centred research and design have been conducted to ensure that reformed EPCs provide relevant and understandable information on energy efficiency and heating measures for current and prospective building owners and tenants.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Information not found.