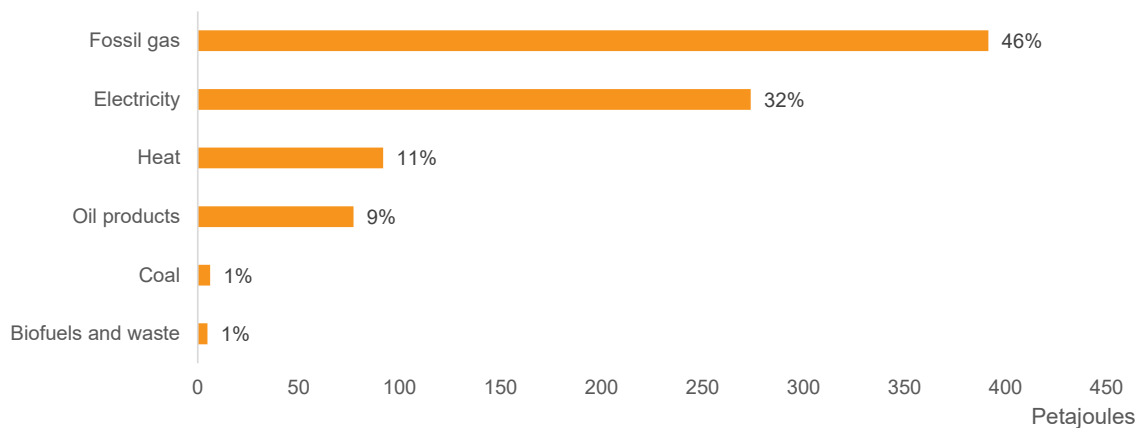


Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

South Korea



Residential total final consumption by source, Korea, 2023



Source: IEA, 2025.

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

The Korean "Integrated Energy Supply Act" governs district heating and cooling systems, aiming for efficient and environmentally friendly energy supply. The government focuses on expanding district heating to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lower heating costs, targeting an increase in households supplied by these systems.

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

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy plans to supply district heating to an additional 680,000 households by 2028, increasing the total number of connected households to 4.46 million. Korea District Heating Company publishes an annual report on district heating in Korea, tracking progress towards these targets.

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

No.



Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

Local district heating corporations manage district heat supply, such as the Seoul District Heat Corporation and Incheon District Heat Corporation, ensuring localised control and operation of heating systems.

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

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy plans to supply district heating to an additional 680,000 households by 2028, increasing the total number of connected households to 4.46 million. This national-level planning aims to enhance energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Ministry of Environment oversee heat decarbonisation efforts in South Korea, coordinating policies and initiatives to promote cleaner heating solutions.

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

Not specifically.

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

No, but the new government has a plan to implement targets for heat pump deployment soon.

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

Not specified for a clean heating obligation or standard. Korea will expand the use of carbon-free heat sources, as well as prepare a roadmap for low-carbon technologies such as electric boilers and hydrogen. The classification of clean heat sources will be clarified in the law to establish a foundation, and a new clean heat energy certification system will be introduced to promote investment and improve revenue structures.

The 'heat map' will also be advanced through heat networks and information on unused heat by region. The ministry will establish the legal basis for building the heat map while securing grounds for acquiring information on unused heat energy. The dedicated agency will be transferred from the Korea District Heating Corporation to the Korea Energy Agency to increase data collaboration.

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

From 2020, Zero Energy Building Certification for public buildings is mandatory in Korea. This certification aims to minimise energy load and utilise renewable energy, promoting green building practices.



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

No. See information above.

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.

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

No.

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

Discussions are ongoing regarding carbon pricing mechanisms in Korea.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

Some financial supports by central and local government. According to a law Article 9 (Establishment of new and renewable energy technology distribution and utilization/distribution project expenses) and Article 10 (Use of established project expenses) of the “Act on Promotion of New and Renewable Energy Development and Utilization”:

- Building Support Project: When installing geothermal heat (heat pump) in a private building, the government provides free support for a portion of the installation cost.
- Eco-friendly energy supply business: energy-saving facilities utilizing renewable energy technologies to aquaculture farms, lead eco-friendly green growth through efficient use of energy, and promote stable management of aquaculture farms through reduction of energy use costs.
- Convergence support project: Energy source convergence project that simultaneously introduces two or more types of renewable energy sources such as geothermal (heat pump), solar energy, wind energy, and solar energy.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

When using district heating, there are projects supported by the government or related organizations. Representative examples include the Energy Voucher Project, the Korea District Heating Corporation Special Rate Support Project, and the Heating Efficiency Improvement Project. These projects aim to reduce heating costs for vulnerable groups or to improve energy efficiency by supporting the replacement of old heating facilities.



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

Yes. The government and organisations are actively working to improve public understanding of energy issues through campaigns, advertisements and public hearings.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Yes, the government invests in R&D projects to develop clean heat skills, enhancing the workforce's capabilities in this area.

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

A significant barrier to broader heat pump adoption is the lack of specific policy direction from the government. While renewable electricity is heavily emphasised, renewable heat sources like heat pumps are often overlooked, making it crucial to establish quantitative deployment targets. To develop effective policies, governments need to continuously analyse the domestic heat pump market and industrial status. This requires the urgent creation of detailed statistics on heat pump production and distribution, categorised by purpose and heat source. Additionally, a certification system is necessary to officially recognise and quantify the amount of renewable energy these installations supply.