



Positive innovation

Talan successfully developed a roadmap with the **Irish District Energy Association (IrDEA)** to inform the **expansion** of their **district heating** capabilities.



## THE CHALLENGE

Ireland faces a significant challenge in meeting its climate targets, particularly for the decarbonisation of heat, which accounts for nearly **38%** of Ireland's total **energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**. District energy has been identified as a key technology to advance **emissions reduction objectives** in the built environment. However, its deployment currently remains low, serving **less than 1% of heat demand**.

Key policy areas in need of support to **unlock deployment** include the development of dedicated legislation, comprehensive consumer protection regulations, robust technical standards, and broadly available funding mechanisms.

Without urgent policy intervention, Ireland **risks missing its 2030 target** of reaching 2.7 TWh of district heating output.

### Our roadmap for Northern Ireland could:

Alleviate the fuel poverty that **29%** of the population face.

Reduce the **-1,300** annual deaths from poor air quality.

Create **100-150** new roles in the Dublin District Heating System.

# THE SOLUTION

The IrDEA, in collaboration with Talan, developed a **comprehensive roadmap** for the rollout of district heating informed by the IrDEA membership and international best practice. The roadmap outlines a phased approach to policy and market development, drawing lessons from both emerging and mature district energy markets including England, Scotland, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.

## Key recommendations include:

**Funding Reform:** Adapt existing schemes like the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) and introduce dedicated grant funding for feasibility studies, construction, and commercialisation.

**Legislative Action:** Enact primary legislation to establish licensing, technical standards, and consumer protection.

**Ownership Flexibility:** Encourage mixed ownership models (public, private and joint ventures) to stimulate investment and innovation.

**Consumer Protection:** Implement voluntary standards initially, with plans to mandate protections such as dispute resolution, price transparency, and metering.

**Regulatory Oversight:** Integrate district energy into existing competition law and empower the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to oversee compliance.

# THE IMPACT

If implemented, the roadmap could transform Ireland's district energy landscape by:

- **Enhancing Energy Security:** District energy networks offer flexibility and resilience, supporting grid stability and reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels.

- **Creating Jobs:** The expansion of district energy infrastructure is expected to generate hundreds of skilled and unskilled jobs, particularly in urban centres like Dublin.

- **Improving Air Quality:** Transitioning from solid fuels to renewables via district energy could prevent up to 1,300 premature deaths annually.

- **Reducing Emissions:** District energy could meet over 64% of building heat demand, significantly contributing to net-zero goals.

- **Alleviating Fuel Poverty:** By offering low-cost heating, district energy can help reduce the 29% energy poverty rate recorded in 2022.

With our clients we are delivering modern energy solutions.

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