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chpa

Bringing Energy
Together

Combined Heat & Power
Sustainable Energy Services
District Heating & Cooling

GLA report: CHP and district heating most effective for decarbonising cities

Combined heat and power (CHP) and district heating infrastructure delivered the majority of London's emissions savings in 2010 and have the greatest potential for future deployment, according to a review of the capital's energy policies published last week by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The report reveals that CHP accounted for 50% of CO₂ savings last year, with 30% due to end-user efficiency and a further 10% from renewable energy. Overall, new CHP projects have led to annual CO₂ savings of 36,392 tonnes, equivalent to retrofitting cavity wall insulation in approximately 56,500 semi detached homes.

Analysis of the future potential for decentralised energy published alongside the review shows that energy supplies on heat networks offer the greatest possibilities and could provide up to 27.5% of London's energy demand in 2031. GLA modelling found that compared to centralised renewables, decentralised energy provides cheaper energy, at a lower capital cost, while saving the most carbon per pound spent.

As well as enabling economies of scale in existing low carbon heating technologies, the report also notes that heat networks are necessary to open up the possibility of other energy sources such as surplus heat from industry, biomass CHP and energy from waste. Without heat networks, 90% of biomass feedstock reserves are expected to go unused, compared to 13% if networks are built.

Commenting on the publications, CHPA Director, Graham Meeks, said:

"This analysis conclusively demonstrates the importance of taking an integrated approach to decarbonising our urban areas. Greater use of district heating will allow the UK to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions for more homes and businesses, while enabling the most efficient and effective use of valuable renewable energy supplies."

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Notes to editors:

Decentralised Energy for London programme

Set-up with €3.3m funding, 90% of which was secured from the European Investment Bank's ELENA facility, the Mayor's Decentralised Energy for London programme will provide London boroughs and other project sponsors with technical, financial and commercial assistance to develop and bring decentralised energy projects to market.

The 'London Decentralised Energy Capacity Study' and 'Monitoring the impact of London Plan Energy Policies' documents can be downloaded [here](#).

About District Heating

A district heating scheme comprises a network of insulated pipes used to deliver heat from the point of generation, in the form of hot water or steam, to an end user. District heating networks provide the means to transport heat efficiently. Heat networks can also be supplied with heat from a diverse range of sources including; power stations, waste-to-energy facilities, biomass-fuelled boilers and CHP plants, gas-fired CHP units, heat pumps, electric boilers and even solar thermal arrays. Click [here](#) for district heating case studies.

About CHP

Combined heat and power (CHP), integrates the production of usable heat and power (electricity), in one single, highly efficient process. Delivering a minimum of 10% energy savings, it makes the very best use of renewable and fossil fuels. This efficiency means less stress on precious fuel resources and lower carbon emissions.

CHP works by recovering heat from the power generation process and putting it to work in industry, buildings and homes, often delivering significant cost and CO₂ savings. CHP currently provides 7% of UK electricity and in 2010 provided emissions savings of 13 million tonnes of CO₂. For more information about CHP, click [here](#).

About the CHPA

The Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA) is the leading advocate of an integrated approach to delivering energy services using combined heat and power and district heating. The Association has over 100 members active across a range of technologies and markets and is widely recognised as one of the leading industry bodies in the sustainable energy sector.

For more information about the CHPA see: www.chpa.co.uk