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UP-RES – Urban Planners with Renewable Energy Skills

Barriers and Opportunities to DHN within the UK

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Part of the BRE Trust



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Objectives of the course: Provide Local Authority Planners with skill and knowledge to:

- Develop / integrate sustainable energy policies into the UK planning process – Sustainable Urban Energy Planning
- Translate these policies into day-to-day work – evidence bases and feasibility studies
- Focus on Renewable Energy integration
- Focus upon new build but also on existing stock - holistic approach
- Highlight relationships and synergies that exist

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Course Content

- Current EU and UK policy drivers
- Reducing energy demand of buildings & decarbonising energy supply for heating
- Introduction to DH – application, benefits, barriers and identifying sites
- Sustainable Urban Energy Planning
- Creation of evidence bases / feasibility studies for DH
- Policy writing and assessing planning applications
- Integration of renewables into DH

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What is UP-RES?

- 7 Partners – across 5 Countries: **UK**, Finland, Germany, Spain and Hungary
- Deliver pilot training to urban & regional planners on District Heating and Cooling

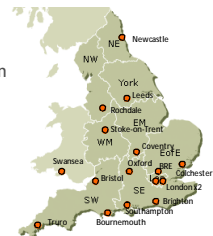
UK Context

- 2 day short course on District Heating and associated Renewable and Low Carbon Technologies
- Aimed at Local Authority Planning Officers and their supporting network (Architects, consultants)

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Locations

- 20 events completed
- Locations include: Bristol, Newcastle, Brighton, London, Stoke-on-Trent, Bournemouth, Oxford, Leeds, Swansea, Bridgend
- Strategic locations across England and Wales
- Areas that have potential – due to large cities and towns and growth areas
- Bespoke course in Glasgow



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Barriers identified

- Political support?
- Complex knowledge –reliance upon individuals
- Energy not considered as a major planning issue
- Early engagement and multiple stakeholders -resources for pre-application discussions with developers



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What have we found? – UK Context

- Majority at the start of the process.....
- Difficulties in getting everyone around the same table and missed opportunities
- Complexities of UK planning System
- Complexities of Local Authorities
- Pre-Feasibility the way forward?



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Barriers Identified cont...

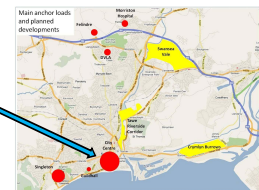
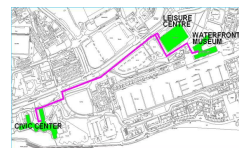
- Money and Business Models – understanding viability and ESCO's
- Short term targets and visions vs. long-term approach
- Bad examples from the past still thought about



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Future possibilities? - Swansea, UK

- Long term visions that incorporate spatial planning and energy at an early stage.....but start small!!



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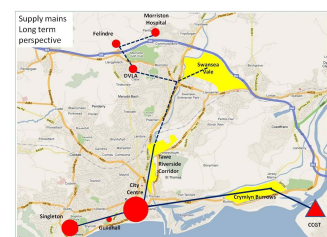
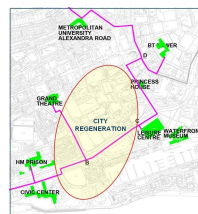
What have we found? – UK Context

- Significant interest in the UK!
- Real case studies – it is happening!
- Increasing knowledge of District Heating (and Cooling)
- National DECC Heat Map provides easy, logical information
- Affordability and fuel poverty – big driver
- Using DH as a way of reducing revenue costs (taxes)
- Integration with BREEAM



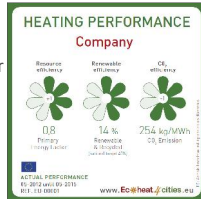
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Future possibilities? - Swansea, UK



How can Ecoheat4cities label help?

- How can the label help the problems or barriers identified during UP-RES courses?
- Could the label be used as a potential solution or tool for integrating DH?
- Label identifies the renewable share, CO2 efficiency and energy factor of the potential or existing District Heating system
- 3 key objectives
 - Setting targets
 - Communicating
 - Comparison



How can Ecoheat4cities label help?

- Use labelling system to convince decision makers / sceptics
 - Environmental benefits compared to other BAU options
 - Use comparable cities that have used the label to push DH – by highlighting benefits
- Help achieve carbon targets for new developments
 - Set targets based upon Renewables or CO₂ factors
 - Compare different solutions for DH – renewable vs. gas?
 - Use label as a condition for developers to meet – sign of quality
- Label can be used to quantify existing schemes – retrospective labelling
- Help promote wider sustainability to residents and attract private investors

Thank you for listening

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Thank you