

District Energy Vanguards Network Newsletter

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Editorial: Energy – Hot Topic at Party Conferences

Ed Milliband's [speech](#) to the Labour Party conference has ignited the subject of energy.

Much of the reaction has been about a proposed 20-month energy price freeze but only latterly has the focus turned to another comment made in that speech, which was that the UK's energy *"system is broken and we are going to fix it"*. The price freeze is only an interim measure whilst this much bigger question is tackled.

A [letter](#) issued the following morning by Mr Miliband to the energy companies provided a little more clarity, stating that first thing needed to be done was to legislate *"to build competition and transparency into the market"*.

The question to be asked is 'where will this competition come from'?

It is increasingly recognised that local authorities have a role to play in the provision of energy services to their residents and businesses. Councils are already involved in energy decisions around planning, large contracts for the purchase of gas and electricity for municipal buildings and street lighting and also the delivery of energy efficiency improvements to homes. They now turning to support development of renewable generation schemes, direct waste to anaerobic digestion plants and also invest in and build district heating networks.

This does not necessarily mean exclusive municipal provision of energy. That may be a local choice but it is one possible approach where there is a range of models. A new heat network set to go live shortly is being developed by Southwark Council with Veolia, a

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private company, taking heat from the SELCHP energy from waste plant. Such a system will provide the delivery of cheaper heat to tenants and help protect against future price shocks when international gas prices spike. Last week Aberdeen Heat & Power, a community-based not-for-profit set up by the Council, scooped a Global District Energy Climate Award in New York. A key feature that impressed the international judging panel was the commitment to providing benefit to the community through affordable low carbon energy. The key point is that both are local and resulted from initiatives made by the local Council.

This posits a future where energy is provided through a multiplicity of businesses with a variety of models, not just the 'Big Six'. This will provide customers with real choices in a competitive market and expose practices that cost them dear in high energy bills. Or, put in other words, *"to build competition and transparency into the market"*.

This is not an ideological battle as all parties can buy into the concept of 'local energy' with the most appropriate model selected to suit local circumstances and political tastes. But we have to thank Ed Milliband for dragging it into the centre of the stage. Let the debate begin.

Michael King

Editor

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UK Policy

Open consultations

9 Sept – [Draft London Sustainable Design Planning Guidance released](#) – issued by the Mayor and includes references to CHP and DH. **The consultation closes on 21st October.**

20 Aug – [CLG housing standards review consultation](#) – proposes that local energy standards be handled through Building Regulations (i.e. building-by-building) rather than planning (which can cover whole developments). While planning authorities would retain powers to develop strategic policies for area-wide infrastructure (including district energy) some authorities are concerned the change would add further uncertainty to the connection of new developments. **The consultation closes on 22nd October.**

6 Aug – [Next steps to zero carbon homes: Allowable Solutions](#) – proposes that Allowable Solutions could be provided by private or public sector bodies with a further option of the national fund – these bodies would compete to offer carbon reduction projects at the most cost effective rates to developers. It also argues against a "local preference" approach, reducing certainty at a local level that funds could be leveraged into local energy projects. **The consultation closes on 22nd October.**

Reports and documents

10 Sept – [London's Zero Carbon Energy Resource](#) – this study looking at waste heat arising from industrial and commercial activities; and the heat that exists naturally within the environment (air, ground, water).

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20 Aug – [CLG report: towards more sustainable homes](#) – this report sets out the housing standards review challenge panel's views on the current system of building regulations and housing standards.

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UK News

27 Sep – [the Shoreditch Heat Network \(Hackney Homes\) has been short listed](#) in the Green housing performance category of Inside Housing's Sustainable Housing Awards. **The awards ceremony will take place in London 18 October.**

25 Sep – [Aberdeen not for profit ESCo wins global DE award](#) – [Aberdeen Heat and Power](#) has become the first British company to win a [Global District Energy Climate Award](#).

24 Sep – [Position for DH Supervisor in Basildon](#) – an experienced engineer is sought to work within a DH team, The successful applicant will be responsible for overseeing current and future projects, as well as managing other engineers.

20 Sep – [Government announces £6 million funding for local authority heat networks](#) – the grant funding programme will help Local Authorities in England and Wales develop new heating and cooling networks, and expand existing networks.

13 Sep – [interview with Councillor on Southwark DH project](#) – Councillor Hargrove gives the low-down on Southwark's anti-fuel poverty DH scheme which is currently under construction.

11 Sep – [Sutton Council secures funding for DH project](#) – the Council is to set up an ESCo to develop DH pipework from an existing landfill site to the Felnex development in Hackbridge.

10 Sep – [UK Low Carbon heat market expected to rise to £0.5bn by 2016](#) – the key catalyst for this growth is the recently announced (domestic) RHI, scheduled for launch in 2014.

7 Sep – [Council planning committee approve advanced thermal treatment facility](#) – the proposal at Langlee, Galashiels, includes heating provision for local housing via a DH system.

4 Sep – [DECC appoints Investment Director of new Heat Networks Delivery Unit](#) – Stephen Brooks has up until recently been Managing Director of Ignus Renewable Energy Ltd, which designs and develops biomass CHP projects.

2 Sep – [Council approves extension of DH system to heat Dunfermine Hospital](#) – the Queen Margaret Hospital will be connected to the existing DH scheme from the Broomhead flats energy centre.

30 Aug – [Vacancy for Building Services Manager – includes DH systems](#) – Berneslai Homes manages more than 19,000 properties on behalf of Barnsley Council. **Closing date: 27 Sept.**

27 Aug – [EfW and CHP-DH will feature in East Anglia energy future](#) – the EfW plant under construction at Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, will save on landfill costs and provide jobs.

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21 Aug – [Glasgow Council to create a green energy company](#) – the aim of the company will be to generate energy, reduce the council's energy bills, to tackle fuel poverty, cut carbon emissions and create new jobs.

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Europe

18 Sept – [DC enables recovery of heat energy for domestic use \(Helsinki\)](#) – over the summer months, Helsinki's DC system recovered 32,000 MWh of excess heat for use in the DH network.

17 Sept – [OPCON: Saxlund to deliver DH plant to Ljusdal \(Sweden\)](#) – the new biomass plant will have an output of 10 MWh and will be delivered during spring/summer 2014.

17 Sept – [Riga invests in new I&C technologies to optimise its DH system](#) – the new biomass plant will have an output of 10 MWh and will be delivered during spring/summer 2014.

16 Sept – [DH companies look to solar thermal to increase viability \(Italy\)](#) – in recent years CHP plants have often been running fewer hours and gas boilers are needed to cover the demand, which makes DH less viable for utilities.

12 Sept – [EU Parliament adopts Resolution to boost micro-generation](#) – the resolution will help to remove barriers to the deployment micro-generation technologies while empowering consumers to produce their own electricity and heat.

11 Sept – [NU Office with highest LEED Platinum score](#) – the highly efficient new office block near Munich uses innovative design and an absorption heat pump operated by DH.

10 Sept – ["hyper-hybrid" academic building completed in The Hague](#) – the AvB Tower utilizes excess energy provided by an adjacent residential building via a DH system for heating and cooling.

9 Sept – [Zurich EfW plant will be powered by sludge](#) – after drying the sludge will be used as biofuel for the production of power and DH. The plant is due to come online mid-2014.

7 Sept – [EU project combines road noise mitigation with solar DH](#) – the project is situated in the Swedish municipality of Lerum.

6 Sept – [EBDR open EUR 10 million tendering for CHP plant \(Croatia\)](#) – the plant has a planned capacity of 3 MWe and 20 MWt and will provide DH and DC to Rijeka University, the City Hospital as well as residential buildings.

3 Sept – [Fortum to inaugurate largest biomass CHP plant in Latvia](#) – the plant has a capacity 23MWe and 45 MWh and will provide up to 85% of Jelgava's DH capacity.

3 Sept – [DH is key to heating Denmark's first CO2 neutral public building](#) – a new type of energy concept using DH instead of electricity to operate a heat pump results in lower CO2 emissions.

2 Sept – [Geothermal heat to be introduced in Helsinki suburb](#) – the objective is to phase out fuel oil in favour renewable sources to heat the school complex in Östersundom.

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30 Aug – [Alstom wins contract for heat recovery unit in Linköping](#) – the advanced flue gas cleaning system will reduce emissions well below EU requirements and also recover heat for the DH system in Linköping.

26 Aug – [Friends of Earth Dublin report cites DH as a key technology](#) – the FoE Dublin report cites DH as one of the key technologies which could dramatically reduce energy consumption, GHG emissions and costs in public buildings.

22 Aug – [EfW in Sweden provides 20% of DH needs](#) – to continue fuelling the EfW plants that provide electricity to 250,000 homes and 20% of the country's DH, Sweden is now importing trash from the landfills of other European countries.

20 Aug – [The Future of Community Heat: Lessons from Germany](#) – the BioEnergy village of St. Peter near Freiburg have established a co-operative DH network powered solely by biogas.

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North America

25 Sept – [Global District Energy Climate Awards 2013 announced \(PDF\)](#) – the applications and winners are all municipal schemes serving more than 10,000 citizens.

16 Sept – [Heartland area could achieve zero emissions via DH](#) –one of the objectives of the Alberta Energy Mapping Project is to evaluate the potential of DH to utilise waste heat from industrial operations and thereby help create a zero-emission zone in the Heartland area.

11 Sept – [Ely \(Minnesota\) makes slow progress on biomass DH project](#) – trees regularly removed from the forest to prevent fires could all go to biomass but funding is the key problem.

11 Sept – [Leading Canadian finance company advances \\$160m \(CAD\) to Enwave](#) – Enwave provides steam-based DH and uses cold water from Lake Ontario to provide cooling to more than 150 buildings in downtown Toronto.

7 Sept – [biogasification CHP system becomes operational at New York University](#) – the new system uses wood pellets and natural gas to provide the campus with 65% of its heating needs and 20% of its electrical power.

6 Sept – [DH from nuclear becomes more realisable with modular reactor](#) – each reactor generates 45MWe and 160MWt making it suitable for process heat and steam applications, such as refining, desalination and DH.

6 Sept – [ground-breaking biomass-fired CHP system launched in Vancouver](#) – the University of British Columbia will host the plant which will use new gasification and syngas conditioning technology.

6 Sept – [Winnipeg housing scheme features geothermal DH](#) – the 400 units will also enjoy high levels of insulation and a much reduced carbon footprint.

3 Sept – [state-of-the-art CCHP facility becomes operational](#) – the new facility provides Montclair University (New Jersey) with cost-effective and energy-efficient delivery of electricity, steam for heat and chilled water for air-conditioning via a new DH system.

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29 Aug – [Wood biomass and DH potential in B.C.](#) – a new report indicates substantial emissions savings and fewer forest fires are possible via biomass and DH in B.C. (Canada).

28 Aug – [Efficient DE systems reduce regional GHG emissions](#) – outstanding examples of urban environmental and economic performance will be recognised at the Global District Energy Climate Summit in New York on 23rd Sept.

26 Aug – [Hartford steam company \(HSC\) lose important customer](#) – HSC provide DH and DC to a wide ranging customer base in Hartford, Connecticut.

24 Aug – [Space Heating & Cooling in the US – Industry Risk Rating Report](#) – this report evaluates the inherent risks associated with companies supplying DE for heating and cooling.

21 Aug – [Akron steam-heat system may be transferred to Children’s Hospital](#) – Millions of dollars in improvements are needed at the Akron Recycle Energy System plant to make it more efficient and reliable, according to the mayor.

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China, Asia and Australasia

11 Sept – [Oman Government's Research Council floats DC tender](#) – the tender is for the development of a district water cooling system for the Council’s innovation park in Muscat.

4 Sept – [Gas-fired CHP system to replace coal boilers at Charles Sturt University \(Australia\)](#) –the plant will deliver heat to the DH network and reduce the energy consumption for the campus.

3 Sept – [Winning bidder announced for Dubai \(UAE\) district cooling plant](#) –Trans Gulf emerged from a rigorous process to win the contract to develop Empower’s new Business Bay DC plant.

30 Aug – [Danish ambassador and business delegation visit Wuhan](#) –the purpose of the trip was to understand Wuhan’s urban development plan and policies and open doors for Danish companies to the market in Wuhan including DE.

15 Aug – [Empower records 5.2% leap in DC consumption](#) –the Dubai based DC provider, Empower, announced a peak consumption in July of 83.4M Refrigeration Tonnes (RT) per hour compared with 79.3M RT per hour for the same month in 2012.

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Conferences and workshops

26 February 2014 – [CoRE Social Housing: DH Schemes – Worth Considering?](#) – DH schemes have become a more viable option for social housing due to new, more efficient technologies and improved funding streams.

20-21 November – [UK District Energy Vanguard Workshop on Finance](#) – will be held in Glasgow and will focus on financing district energy schemes. The workshop is being organised in partnership with Scotland's 2020 Climate Group and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation. Vanguarders from all parts of the UK will be invited.

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26-28 November – [the fifth Annual Middle East District Cooling Summit \(Doha\)](#) – the summit includes an exhibition and a two-day conference programme followed by a series of workshops.

6-7 October – [the seventh edition of The Climate Control Conference \(Doha\)](#) – is themed 'Essentially District Cooling' and will seek to highlight critical issues such as DC regulations, water, end-user concerns, etc. to put DC on a growth trajectory in the region.

3 October – [CHP, Renewables & Power Road Show \(London\)](#) – this is the second of a series of regional Conferences and Road Shows with a focus on the latest CHP, Renewable, Biomass & Independent Power and other markets. A summary of the first road show which attracted in excess of 200 industry professionals can be seen [here](#).

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General interest, technology and research

2 Sept – [EfW – maximising efficiency](#) – according to the author, EfW plants should exist within the heart of industrial and residential communities to utilise the heat value of the waste.

19 Aug – [How Solar Power and Ice Energy can Play Together](#) – can thermal energy storage help shift solar power to cover evening peak AC loads?

12 Aug – [Will AC Put a Chill on the Global Energy Supply?](#) – Michael Sivak of the University of Michigan predicts a substantial increase in global energy demand due to greater uptake of AC.

8 May – [EESI briefing to Congress on energy resilience](#) – “Energy Efficient Infrastructure for More Resilient Local Economies: the Role of District Energy, CHP, and Microgrids”.

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Abbreviations used

AC – air conditioning

ACEEE – [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#)

AD – anaerobic digestion

CCHP – combined cooling, heating and power

CHP – combined heat and power

CLG – [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

CTF – [Clean Technology Fund](#)

DECC – Department for Energy and Climate Change

DE – district energy

DH – district heating

DHC – district heating and cooling

DHN – district heating network

EBRD – [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#)

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ECCC – [Energy and Climate Change Committee](#) – House of Commons Select Committee

ECO – [Energy Company Obligation](#)

ESCO – [Energy Service Company](#)

EfW – [Energy from waste](#)

GHG – greenhouse gas

H&S – health and safety

I&C – information and control

IBRD – [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#)

IDEA – [International District Energy Association](#)

ITT – Invitation to Tender (European equivalent to RFP)

PV – Photovoltaic

Ofgem – [Office of Gas and Electricity Markets](#)

RFP – Request for Participation (N. American equivalent to ITT)

RHI – [Renewable Heat Incentive](#)

RT – [Refrigeration Tonnes](#)

SUDS – [Sustainable urban drainage systems](#)

TSE – Treated Sewage Effluent

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