



MEDIA FORUM

The heat and cold networks continue to develop

*Article proposed by ENERGIE PLUS,
Official media partner of the European Energy Transition Conference*

The national annual survey of heat and cold networks has just come out. Carried out by the SNCU (National Urban Heating and Air Conditioning Union) in partnership with Amorce, it confirms the continuing development of the sector.



The networks, which today number 669 in approximately 600 towns and cities, cover a distance of 5,015 km and have supplied 24,643 GWh of heat. The 197 networks of less than 3.5 MW, which represent one quarter of the networks surveyed, cover 214 km, i.e. 4 % of the total length of all the networks combined. The infrastructures have increased by 5 % over 2016. 80 % of them, representing 86 % of the deliveries of heat, are renewable. Biomass comes first out of the renewable sources of energy, but overall gas remains in pole position. Wood supplies 21 % of the equipment. With 465,000 tonnes of wood mobilized in addition, biomass has enabled the production of an additional 1,200 GWh of heat. The development of geothermal energy and the recovery of industrial heat or the heat produced by data centers is also being pursued. The overall CO₂ content of the networks continues to fall and is now at 126 g/kWh. The number of carbon neutral networks is ever on the increase and there were 122 in 2016 as against 90 in 2015.

Since 2009 the number of networks has doubled - quite a boom due to the setting in place of the Heat Fund which has enabled these technologies to compete with fossil-based energies. However the professionals in the sector fear that the drop in the fund will have a negative impact on the network boom. Twenty two cold networks are also listed. The deliveries of cold were slightly below 900 GWh in 2016. These were mainly used for the air conditioning of offices, tertiary buildings, hospitals, universities or airports.



(Article which appeared in the Energie Plus 594 review)
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