

CARES Community Heat Development Programme (CHDP)

Participant Questionnaire

Please refer to the CARES CHDP guidance ([Community heat development programme · Local Energy Scotland](#)) when completing this questionnaire. Please complete this questionnaire and submit along with your CARES application form and the evidence of participant commitment form.

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1. Project Overview
a) Please provide a brief description of your proposed community heat project (max 200 words):
District heating network in Forres, Moray. A route only 1 km long would pass about 50 large old hard to treat / expensive to heat houses as well two primary schools (Applegrove and Anderson's), Forres Academy, swimming pool and hydrotherapy suite, gym, library and community centre, and the Royal British Legion club. Such a network would also reach Forres High Street with many more shops, hotels, community buildings, churches and residences potentially able to connect. Forres Town Hall and Tolbooth are both community run and within a short distance of the proposed route, so could be tied in. The proximity of Moray Council's main premises in town would provide a substantial base load heat demand so it is thought would help the project economics.
b) What are the motivation(s) or rationale for undertaking this project and what are you looking for as outcomes?
The project ambition is to reduce CO2 emissions from residential, community and council buildings in Forres in a way that is sustainable and financially competitive.
2. Your Community or Householder Group:
a) Please tell us a little bit about your group: <i>Are you an existing organisation or a new group? Are you a group of householders? Are you an incorporated organisation such as a charity or community interest company, or are you planning to be?</i>
We are just a group of householders. I have initiated the proposal and sought support from the council and from those people whose houses could be tied into the heat network.
b) Please tell us a little bit about who is involved in leading on and developing your project? <i>Please include a brief description of their skills, knowledge and experience relevant to your project and the time they have available to your community heat project.</i>
In the first instance, Andrew McGhee will be leading the project. Andrew is a process engineer with recent professional experience of the design and operation of biomass boilers and district heating schemes. As the project develops, he will seek support from others in the neighbourhood with administrative and supporting tasks,

including forming a small leadership committee. Andrew works part time (3 days / week) so has time available to spend on the proposal.

- c) Does the community group have any existing renewable energy projects or installations on/in their buildings or properties? If yes, please give a brief description.

None as a group. Some of the households have their own renewable energy systems (solar / log burners etc) but nothing collective.

3. Your community buildings

- a) Please provide a brief description of the nature of the properties involved in your project? (e.g., block of flats, tenements, groups of houses, a hamlet, village, town etc)

The proposal is based on supplying heat to houses which lie on the route of the proposed heat network through Forres. The route is selected to supply the council's main facilities in town (schools, swimming pool, gym, library and community centre) – this has been done to provide a good baseload of demand, improving the project economics. The proposed route passes about 40 – 50 houses, mostly constructed in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. They are mostly solid walled, so difficult and expensive to fully insulate. The Forres branch of the British Legion is also on the route. This operates from a converted church and is thought to be a big heat user.

- b) How many domestic properties will be involved?

If you are planning a large-scale community heat project and do not yet know the exact number, please give a number estimation and stipulate whether this is the potential number or the actual number that could be involved.

The proposed route passes 43 houses, but this could easily be increased by extending the route or branching from it. There are many hundreds of houses within easy reach.

- c) What is known at this stage about the tenure of the buildings and any required adjoining buildings or land that is close by that may be required or used?

For example, rented, owner/occupied, holiday let, former wash houses etc.

Most of the houses are owner occupied. Any substantial construction (eg the energy centre itself) would probably have to be on council land under some kind of arrangement. The council's climate change group has been kept apprised of the proposal and have expressed interest, and indicated that they may be considered as potential participants, without any commitment.

- d) If you are considering involving any other types of buildings, as well as dwellings, please provide details for the number and nature of businesses and/or other building types that could be included in your heat project:

For example, 3 pubs, 1 coffee shop, 1 supermarket

For example, GPs, Schools, churches, care homes, swimming pools, community centres etc.

1 secondary school (Forres Academy)
2 primary schools (Anderson's and Applegrove)
1 leisure complex including swimming pool, gym and hydrotherapy suite
1 community building (The Royal British Legion, Forres branch)
1 community centre and library
1 church

e) Please provide a high-level/outline description of the types of buildings and estimated make-up of a project:

Examples:

- o *Collective purchase: X houses, X detached stone build, X 1940s semi-detached, X 1950s ex- council houses etc.*
- o *Communal heat project: Block of flats built around 1980 with 20 flats.*
- o *For a district heat project please estimate e.g., no's. / 50% new build, no. / 25% 1960s estate, no./ 25% pre-1900 stone built. IF you are considering a village scale project and you do not have this information yet, please provide an outline overview of the mixture of types of houses.*

Of the 43 houses along the proposed route, I estimate 30 - 35 are stone built around the turn of the 19th / 20th centuries. Most of these are detached or semi-detached. The remainder of the houses are of more recent construction, approx. 1960s.

4.Current Heating:

a) List types of heating (primary heating) and no. of properties on each?

For example: no. /75% oil, no. / 20% coal, no. / 5% logs. For larger scale projects you might not have collected this information yet – please provide an overview of how you think people currently heat their homes.

Mains gas is available and I assume most or all people heat their homes with this.

5. Community engagement

a) Have you engaged with the households/properties/businesses that could be included in your proposed scheme? Yes/ No

Yes.

b) What engagement activities have you carried out thus far?

Letter drop to 43 houses.
Email contact with the Climate Change Officer at Moray Council to gauge their interest in decarbonising the council's facilities in town.

c) How would you describe the level of interest?

High. From a single mail drop 1/3 of people responded positively with one note from an elderly gentleman saying that he would not be pursuing it but supportive from the sidelines. I expect many more would be supportive if the scheme was to gain traction.

d) Are there any large heat users that you think are likely to be critical to your project? Y/N

If there are any large heat users that you think are likely to be critical to the project – have you engaged with the owners or organisations that can take decisions on heat provision for that building?

Yes – as noted above, the council's facilities in town.
All of the facilities mentioned in 3d above are within 1 km.
The Royal British Legion may also be a big user, but I have not approached them yet.

e) Do you have a good level of written commitment from the potential project cohort, that demonstrates sufficient support to allow a meaningful study to be completed – please provide this.

Notes of interest and support have been uploaded separately.

6. Identifying Potential Heat Sources

You might not have identified any possible heat sources or solutions yet, but if you have we would like to know more:

a) Have you identified any potential heat sources/technologies for your heat project?

I think the most likely to be viable is biomass combustion. There are suppliers of woodchip in the local area.

A heat pump using the Mosset Burn as source may be viable, but I suspect the Mosset Burn would not be big enough. (Flow data in 6c below)

b) Are there any industrial sites with waste heat within the area of your project?

The nearest is Benromach distillery but it is approx. 1 km away from the nearest point and the other side of the A96.

c) Would the project be in close proximity to rivers or other sizeable bodies of water (e.g. lochs)? If so, please also provide some information or descriptions

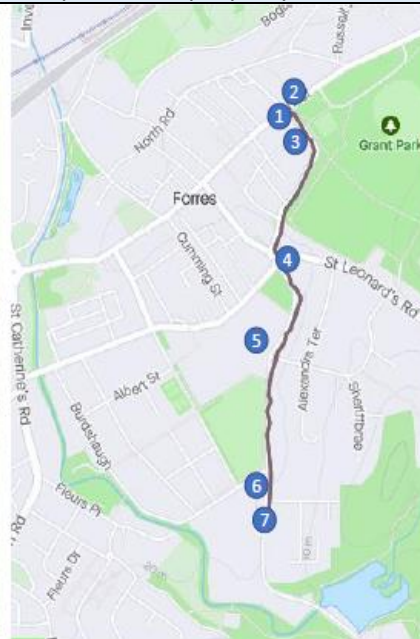
Sanquhar Loch forms a part of the Mosset Burn which runs through town, near Forres Academy. It is a relatively small watercourse though; I suspect unlikely to be adequate for heat pump source.

Data indicates mean flow 0.3 m³/s and 95% exceedance flow 0.05 m³/s. (Ref

<https://nfa.ceh.ac.uk/data/station/meanflow/7009>)

7. Additional Information

a) Please could you provide a map with the property locations clearly marked?



- 1 – Library and community centre
- 2 – St. Margaret's Church
- 3 – Anderson's Primary School. Mostly 1920s construction, roll 240
- 4 – Royal British Legion
- 5 – Applegrove Primary School. 1950s construction, roll 300 pupils
- 6 – Swimming pool, gym and hydrotherapy centre
- 7 – Forres Academy. School roll 800

Also passing approx. 50 homes – mostly large, old and hard to insulate.

Length of indicated pipe route – 960m

Benromach distillery is on the extreme NW corner of the map.

The mosset Burn can be seen running west and north from Sanquhar Loch which is visible on the SE corner of the map.

b) If you have already identified a potential heat source and/or location for a possible energy centre Please mark this clearly on your map.

Not identified.