Industry Overview

BetterLIFE

INDUSTRY

Heating and cooling (H&C) account for around half of the European Union's total energy consumption. However, the sector's transition to renewable energy has been relatively slow, with renewables covering only 26.2% of 2023's energy consumption in the H&C sector. Article 25(6) of the recast Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) 2023 requires municipalities with more than 45,000 inhabitants to develop Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LHCPs). These plans must assess local energy demand and supply, integrate renewable and waste heat, and include investment plans ensuring decarbonisation is tailored to each city.

However, most Member States still lack the necessary legal, technical and financial support to enable local and regional authorities (LRAs) to design and implement LHCPs.

In addition, multiple regulatory frameworks including the Gas Regulation and REPowerEU support the reduction of reliance of gas but there is no clear directive. Few existing LHCPs include Gas Network Decommissioning Plans (GNDPs) to support the phase out of fossil gas.



FACTS

Heating and cooling account for ~50% of Europe's energy use, but only ~25% comes from renewable sources.

EU targets call for a 1.1% annual increase in renewables share overall, rising to 2.2% for district heating and cooling.

Municipalities with more than 45,000 inhabitants must create and implement local heating and cooling plans.

Few EU municipalities have the necessary legal, technical and financial support to develop these plans.

RESOURCES

- EU Green Deal
- Fit-for-55
- RePowerEU
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- RED III and the Renewable Cooling Delegated Act
- EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

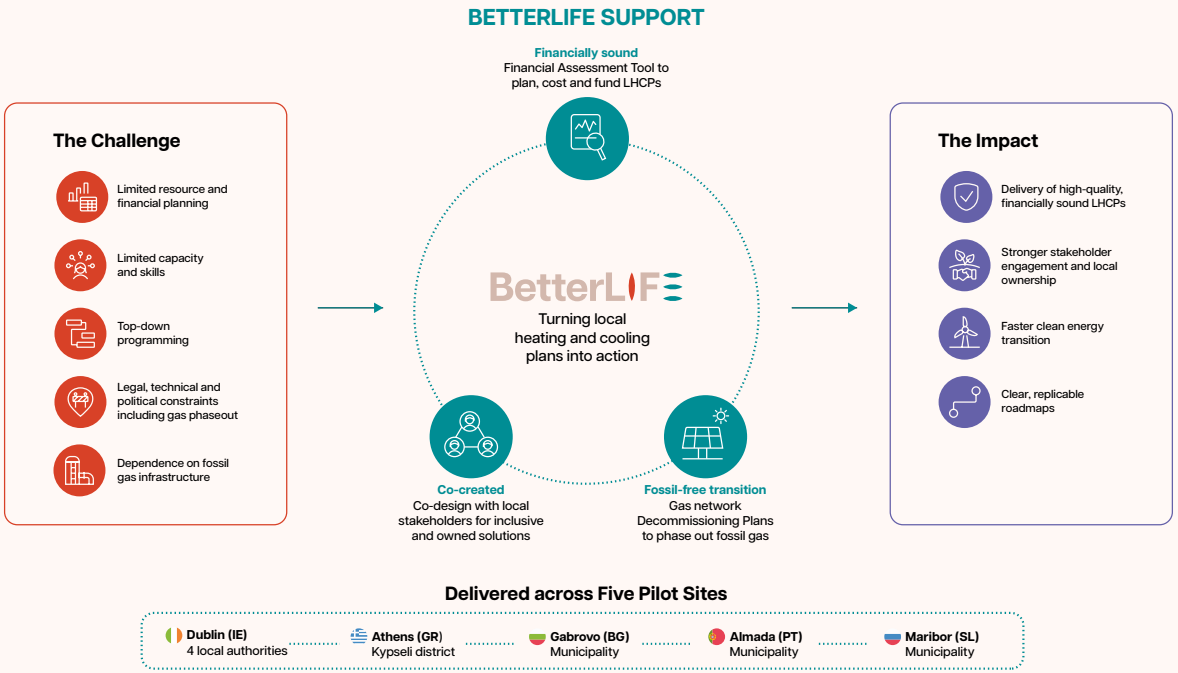
Project Overview

BetterLIFE

ABOUT

BetterLIFE helps local and regional authorities (LRAs) overcome challenges to implementing Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LCHPs). Working together with residents, businesses and local industry, the project ensures plans are practical, financially sound and incorporate Gas Network Decommissioning Plans (GNDPs) to support the phase out of fossil gas. Through five pilot projects in different climate and socio-economic conditions, BetterLIFE will deliver clear, replicable roadmaps to help boost clean energy transition across Europe.

BetterLife-project.eu



PARTNERS

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KEYWORDS

- Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LHCPs)
- Local and regional authorities (LRAs)
- Gas Network Decommissioning Plans (GNDPs)
- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Clean energy transition
- Renewable energy

GENERAL INFO

- € 1,749,954. 56 Budget
- 5 pilot sites
- 12 partners
- 36 duration months

For more details about the Partners and Budget, please visit the LIFE Public Database