

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for Waste to Energy Communication

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Feedback:

Industrigruppen Återvunnen Energi (The Industry Group for Reuse of Energy, IÅE) consists of Swedish major chemical, pulp and steel industry who have a potential to sell waste energy to district heating.

IÅE was founded in 2005 to promote the full potential use of the climate and environmentally friendly waste heat from industry for district heating. District heating has about 50 percent of the total heating market in Sweden and could theoretically be the smartest way to use residual heat from industry, but also other heat sources such as server rooms.

A smart strategy to use more waste to energy must prioritize the use of waste heat. In a hierarchy for energy and the use of waste, our opinion is that waste heat from industries and other sources must have a priority over the use of waste as fuel. In practice it is more difficult to move heat than moving waste. A strategy that gives priority for the use of waste heat saves primary energy and more waste heat from industrial processes could then be used for district heating. "

In fact, today about half of the potential waste heat from the Swedish industry is used for district heating. Waste heat constitutes 8 percent of the 55TWh total energy sold to consumers in district heating systems.

The district heating networks in Sweden are local monopolies, both private and municipally owned. We have very good examples where energy from industry is used in the heating system and in some cases we even have industrial symbiosis with several industries and companies working together to get better use of waste energy, see appendix A and B.

In other cases there is no cooperation at all between industry and district heating companies. Current regulation gives the district heating companies the right to refuse the use of waste energy. In those cases waste energy is lost.

A case that gained a lot of publicity was when the municipality of Oskarshamn refused to even consider an offer to use waste heat from a nearby industry and instead built a new heating plant.

In our opinion the regulation for district heating networks should allow for third-party access. With third-party access, a lot more waste heat from industry and other sources could be used in district heating.

In those places where they already use waste heat, the future conditions will be more predictable. Thus, promoting even more cooperation. But most important, third-party access would open up markets for waste heat where there is no cooperation at all today.

Current fuels for district heating such as biofuels and residential waste could be of better use in cities and markets with no industrial waste heat.

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