

DE-ployment

Helping cities and governments turn district energy ambitions into reality.

District Energy (DE), including district heating and district cooling, is a proven solution for decarbonizing cities, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening energy resilience. But in spite of its technical maturity, many regions continue to face barriers to deployment, including fragmented policies, limited institutional capacity, financing challenges, and lack of practical guidance.

DE-ployment was developed under the IEA Technology Collaboration Programme on District Heating and Cooling (IEA DHC) to help governments, municipalities, utilities,

developers, and other stakeholders navigate these challenges. Rather than focusing solely on technology, the project provides practical resources to support every stage of DE market and project development, from assessing market readiness to implementing bankable projects.

The DE-ployment ecosystem combines a practical implementation guide with a suite of complementary digital tools designed to support informed decision-making, knowledge sharing, and continuous learning.

TOOLKIT

Explore the DE-ployment Toolkit

01 · READ

Deployment Guide & Toolkit

Enabling district energy markets, an eight-step project process, business and implementation models, and practical checklists (IEA DHC, 2026).

<https://iea-dhc-guidelines-wiki.readthedocs.io/en/latest/about/index.html>



02 · ASSESS

DE-cision Assessment Tool

Check market readiness with a 42-question questionnaire, map stakeholders by power and interest, and compare district and building-level options with a life-cycle cost analysis.

<https://ngci.enss.concordia.ca/beta-dhc-tool/>



03 · LEARN

Case Study Database

Fourteen integrated case studies across seven market types and nineteen thematic best practices, on a filterable map of cities.

<https://iea-dhc-guidelines-wiki.readthedocs.io/en/latest/toolkit/case-studies/index.html>



04 · EXPLORE

Knowledge Wiki

Access an evolving library of technical guidance, financing resources, policy examples, and practical references, updated as the market evolves.

<https://iea-dhc-guidelines-wiki.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>



GET IN TOUCH

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Developed by the Next-Generation Cities Institute (Concordia University), DEVCCO and Aiguasol Ingeniería within the IEA DHC Technology Collaboration Programme. Guide, tool, case-study database and wiki are free and open. Scan the code to save the contact.



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