

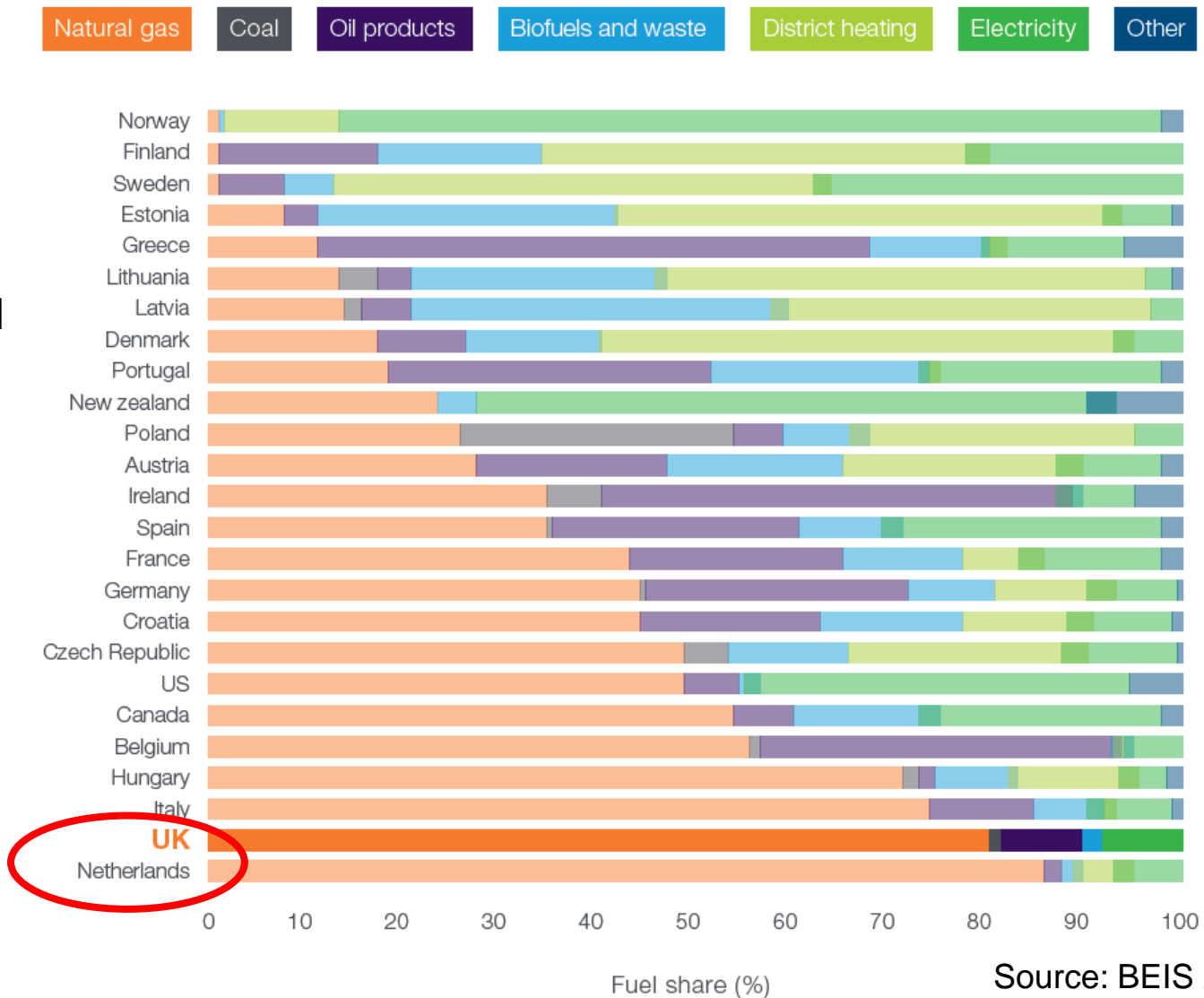
Going Dutch? Governance of heat transitions in the UK and the Netherlands



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UK and NL – similar starting point

Fuel share for heating demand (residential and commercial)



Source: BEIS 2018

Both are seeking to decarbonise heat...



- 2008 Climate Change Act
- 2012: *The future of heating: a strategic framework for low carbon heat* (DECC)
- Dec 2020: Energy White Paper (BEIS)
- Imminent 2021?: Heat and buildings strategy (BEIS)



- 2015: Heat Vision
- January 2018: Groningen earthquakes - Government decides to phase out gas use by 2030, including for residential heating
- 2018 Climate Accord

Common expectations of lower demand, and a higher proportion of heat from renewables sources and via district heat networks (Lowes 2019)

...but in different ways



No current deadline for ending natural gas use

Expectation of 'Van gas los' (getting rid of gas) by 2030

Carbon budgets recommended by a technocratic body and set by central government

Energy and climate targets set through a consultative Polder-style process, coordinated by the Social and Economic Council (SER)

Emphasis on developing options before deciding on strategic policy choices in early-mid 2020s

Greater urgency driven by Groningen earthquakes

Centralised high-level heat strategy to date - implementation may include role for decentralised stakeholders but government likely to want to see a market-led transition driven by incentive-based policy instruments

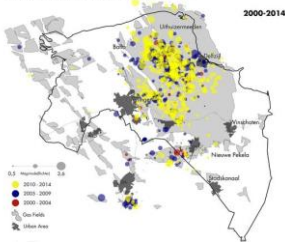
Strong decentralisation - all Dutch municipalities required to develop a 'climate and energy plan' through consultative consensual processes with stakeholders by 2021; 30 'energy regions' given task of developing 'regional energy strategies'

Some differences between Scotland vs E&W

Rationale for project

INCREASE OF INDUCED EARTHQUAKES

In the south of the Netherlands, near the city of Groningen gas extraction has been taking place for quite some time. A sharp increase in induced earthquakes has been noted in recent years. This might one day become a global issue. The gas is needed for the gas consumption of the whole country, but this is at the expense of the people living in this area.



- Both countries may valuably learn from the experience of the other, but because NL is moving ahead more quickly, the UK can especially learn from the NL experience
- Local area energy planning is almost inevitably going to play some role in heat decarbonisation in the UK (ESC/ETI 2018), so the NL experience will be important to understand
- The institutional contexts in the two countries are is different, but if these differences are acknowledged this does not mean that valuable lessons cannot be transferred successfully



Research questions

1. **What are the relevant governance arrangements** for heat decarbonisation at and between national, local and other levels?
2. How are these governance arrangements influenced by **underlying institutions** in each country, (including administrative, electoral and political systems) and by competing ideas put forward by different **discourse coalitions** for heat transition and its governance?
3. What are the **resulting activities and outcomes** in areas of interest in each country?
4. What **functions is governance playing** (i.e. in shaping incentives, the allocation of resources etc.) and **how far does governance meet commonly prescribed characteristics** (i.e. transparency, predictability, accountability etc.)?
5. **What lessons can be learned** from more or less successful elements of governance in NL, and how can successful elements be transferred to the UK institutional context?

Methodology and data sources

- Comparative case study approach
- Sources of evidence will include:
 - grey literature, policy documentation and legislation in both English and Dutch;
 - secondary research;
 - semi-structured interviews with participants in and close observers of governance of heat transition and gas phase out at national, regional and local levels
- Tracking local activities and outcomes:
 - NL: *Aardgasvrije Wijken* front-runners programme of 27 municipalities, and in two case studies
 - UK: Select and follow two initiatives, one in Scotland and one in England or Wales (Edinburgh, Coventry?).



Gas Distribution



Dissemination and impact plan

- ***Expected outputs***
 - 2-3 peer-reviewed papers
 - Project report
 - Policy brief and slide packs on lesson learning for targeted policy audiences
- On-going dissemination of findings through a simple ***project website***, including blogs and podcasts, and e-mail updates
- ***Mini-conference*** in spring 2022, to feed into UK policy debates on live issues
- ***Smaller workshops*** with invited participants focusing on ***lesson learning*** for the UK from NL (London or Birmingham) and Scotland (Edinburgh) late 2022/early 2023
- ***Follow-up bilateral meetings*** with policy makers in UK (BEIS, MHCLG etc.) and Scottish governments, MPs/MSPs/Select Committees, Ofgem, Committee on Climate Change to present key messages

Project timing and structure

- 18 month project, runs from September 2021 to March 2023

PI:

- Dr Matthew Lockwood, Sussex University
+ RF



Co-Is:

- Dr Niall Kerr, University of Edinburgh
- George Day, Energy Systems Catapult



Host in the Netherlands:

- Casper Tigchelaar, TNO Netherlands



Advisory group:

- Dr David Hawkey, Scottish Government; Dr Casper Tigchelaar, TNO; Dr Richard Lowes, Exeter University; Prof Janette Webb, Edinburgh University; Lucy Padfield, ADE/Ramboll; Emily Morris/Holly Jeffers, BEIS; Dr Julia Wittmeyer, Erasmus University.