

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



Advisory Group meeting
2 November 2021

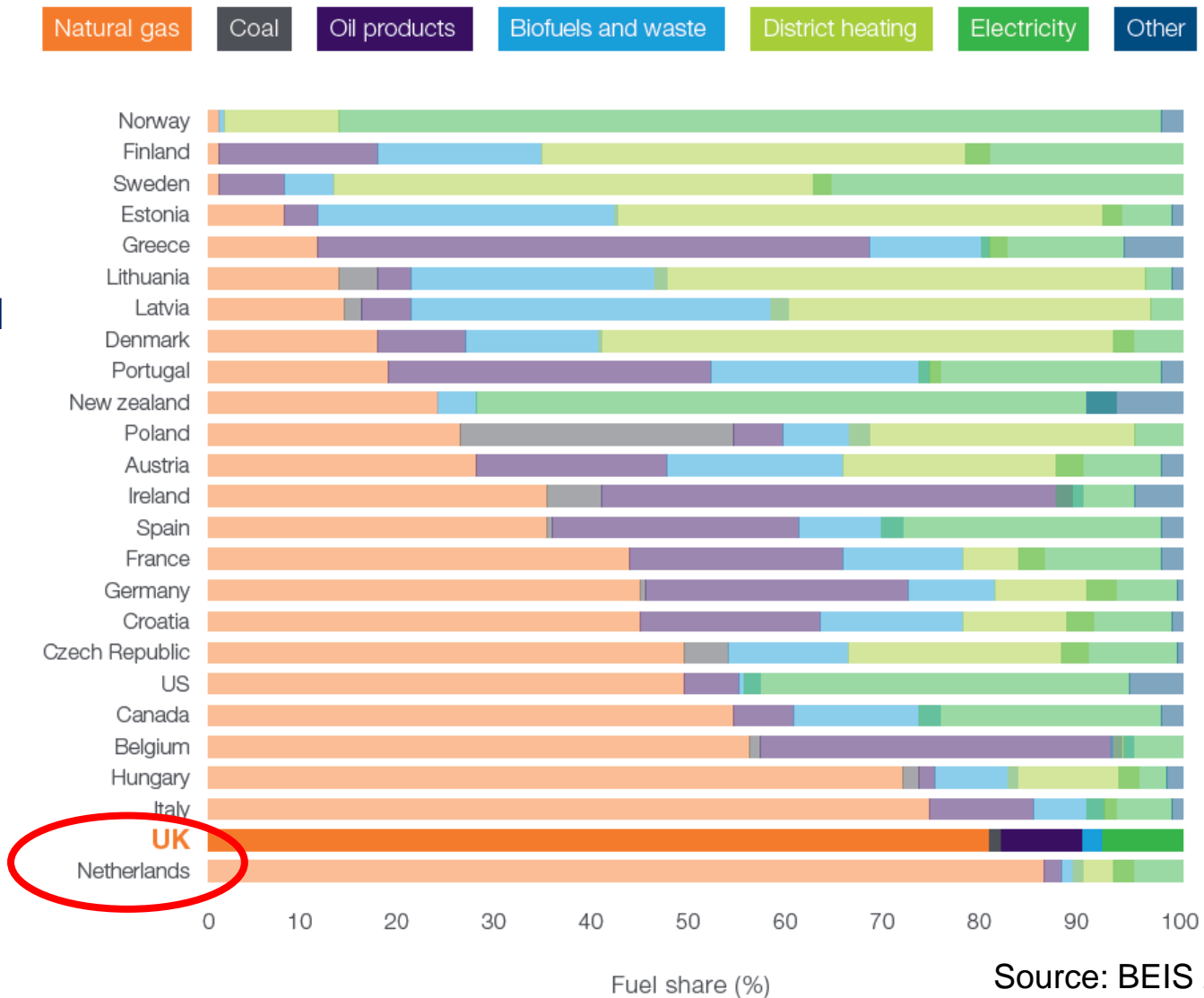
Overview

1. Context
2. The project
3. Some questions for discussion

1. Context

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)
- Heat and buildings strategy (BEIS) 2021; GoS Heat in buildings strategy 2021



- 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



'Phase out the need for gas heating' by 2030 (Scotland)/2035 (rUK)

Expectation of 'Van gas los' (getting rid of gas) by 2030 - urgency driven by Groningen earthquakes

Carbon budgets recommended by a technocratic body (CCC) and set by central government

Energy and climate targets set through a consultative Polder-style process, coordinated by the Social and Economic Council (SER); similar approaches to processes such as standards

Centralised high-level heat strategy to date at UK level – lots of experiments in local energy planning/pilots; some role for local stakeholders signalled in 2021 HBS, but still unclear how systematic this will be?

Strong decentralisation

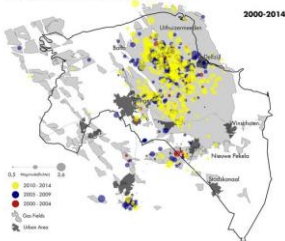
Scotland – Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) by city governments being piloted, expected to become statutory(?)

- all Dutch municipalities required to develop a plan for how to go gas-free at the neighbourhood level by 2021.
- consultative consensual processes with stakeholders
- 30 'energy regions' given task of developing 'regional energy strategies' by 2023

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
- UK can especially learn from the NL experience; local area energy planning may play some role in heat decarbonisation in the UK (?), so the NL experience will be important to understand
- NL could also learn from external perspective of the project/comparison with UK
- Institutional contexts in the two countries are different, but if these differences are acknowledged this does not mean that valuable lessons cannot be transferred successfully



2. The project

Key issues for the project

- (i) What are the governance arrangements for heat decarbonisation and natural gas phase-out in the UK and NL?
- (ii) How have these arrangements been shaped by different political and institutional contexts, and different coalitions?
- (iii) How are these arrangements addressing key challenges, e.g. public support (*draagvlak?*), energy networks, markets and planning fit etc.?
- (iv) Does the NL have any useful lessons for the UK, especially for the governance of heat transitions at a local level, and vice versa?
- (v) Given (ii), how will governance approaches need to be adapted if transferred from one country to the other?

Work plan

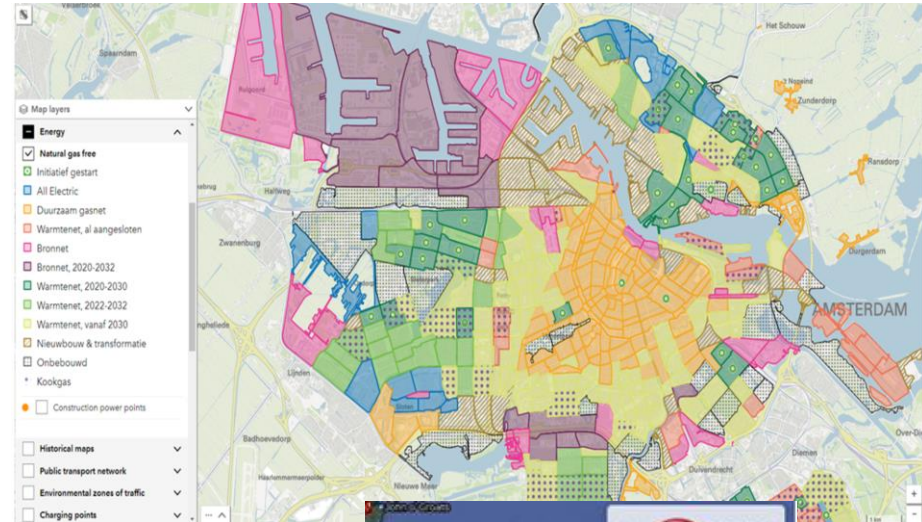
Work packages	Months																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
WP 1 – Project management				*																
WP 2 – Governance mapping										●										
WP 3 – Institutional context and discourse coalition mapping and analysis													●							
WP 4a – NL local activities and outcomes tracking																				
WP 4b – UK case study tracking																				
WP 5 – Assessment of governance functions, characteristics and outcomes																				
WP 6 – Lesson learning/policy transfer recommendations																		●		
WP 7 – Dissemination										◆							●	◆	◆	●

Key milestones

- Events:
 - ◆ Mini-conference
 - ◆ Workshops
- Outputs:
 - Papers submitted
 - Project report
 - Policy brief
 - Slide packs

Case studies of activity

- Detailed description of what is actually happening in a small sample of city/town/rural cases
- Distinguish between:
 - heat decarbonisation *planning*
 - heat decarbonisation *pilots* (e.g. Natural gas-free neighbourhoods (PAW) in NL, PFER in UK)



Governance challenges

- Public engagement with and legitimacy of heat transition/gas phase out
- How the social and technical are brought together in local energy planning
- How local actors can access information and data on energy

- Possibilities for local authorities to coordinate infrastructure investment
- Providing a framework for the future of gas networks

- Managing uncertainty about technology options and costs; allocating risk
- Managing inter-relationships between heat transition governance and planning, building control, housing policy etc.
- Managing the mix of market and regulatory instruments aimed at households as consumers vs (local and regional) planning treating households as residents
- Reconciling heat transition strategies across different levels of governance

Project timing, structure, progress

- 18 month project, runs from September 2021 to March 2023
- Dr Matthew Lockwood, Sussex University
- Dr Anna Devenish
- Dr Niall Kerr, University of Edinburgh
- George Day, Energy Systems Catapult
- Project started September 2021
- New Co-I identified and Research Fellow appointed
- Governance mapping work starting



Role of AG

- Steering us in the right direction at the outset (this meeting)
- Helping us to identify people to involve in the project, including the 2022 workshop (this meeting and on-going)
- Helping us to frame and disseminate findings (meeting in late 2022/early 2023)

3. Questions for discussion

- Have we identified the right issues, e.g. central government-local government relationships, policy making styles, role of the gas industry?
- Which cities/towns/regions should we look at as case studies?
- Who should we be talking to?
- Workshop in 2022

Additional slides

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

