

Pekela

1. Background

Pekela is a small municipality located in the northeast of the Netherlands in the province of Groningen. In 2021, it had 12,176 inhabitants (CBS, 2022a). In 2021, Pekela had 5,782 housing units, of which owner-occupied homes constituted about 63%, and rental properties 37%. Housing associations owned 69% of residential rental properties and private landlords owned the remaining 31% (CBS, 2022b). In terms of the age of the housing stock, 26% of the dwellings were built prior to 1945; 8% after 2005. In terms of the housing type, 88% were single-family homes, 12% multi-family homes (CBS, 2022c).

In 2021, 95% of homes in Pekela had an individual natural gas boiler, 2% electricity (there is no data on the rest of the 3% of homes). There were no homes heated through district heating (CBS, 2022d).

2. Heat transition vision

2.1. Vision development and stakeholder engagement

According to the Climate Agreement, each municipality in the Netherlands must develop a heat transition vision outlining a strategy for making 20% of all homes in the municipality sustainable by 2030. The municipality of Pekela developed a draft heat transition vision but has not yet finalised the vision (as of November 2022) (ECW, 2022). To develop the vision, the municipality hired external consultants. Consultants at *Witteveen+Bos* have examined the technological feasibility and associated costs. The estimated total heat demand for the municipality is 12 TWh per year, with a peak demand of 4.1 GW. The estimated total heat supply capacity is 12 TWh per year, with a peak capacity of 4.1 GW. The estimated total heat demand for the municipality is 12 TWh per year, with a peak demand of 4.1 GW. The estimated total heat supply capacity is 12 TWh per year, with a peak capacity of 4.1 GW.

There are several ways to financially support the reduction of natural gas consumption in the living lab. First, the PAW funding and the national investment subsidies for sustainable energy and energy saving (ISDE) can be used to assist the residents of Boven Pekela and Doorsneebuurt in implementing insulation measures and purchasing and installing heat pumps and solar panels (up to 100% of the cost). The residents can also apply for low-interest loans from the municipality of Pekela and the national government (Pekela Geeft Gas, 2022b). However, very few people in the living lab applied for these financial support measures to take action in decarbonising home heating (23 people participated by the beginning of 2022). That said, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the energy crisis in Europe have made many more people interested in participating¹.

References

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