

Hoogeveen

1. Background

Hoogeveen is a medium-sized municipality located in the northeast of the country in the province of Drenthe. In 2021, it had 55,603 inhabitants

neighbourhood (see more information about the pilot in Section 3.1). The municipality is conducting analysis on whether heat networks could be a suitable solution for some neighbourhoods and the possibility of using local heat sources (e.g., surface water of the Hoogeteense Vaart canal) (Hoogeveen Municipality, 2021).

A neighbourhood-level implementation plan has been developed for the Erflanden district that considers switching existing homes to hydrogen. Until 2030, the municipality does not plan to draw up neighbourhood-level implementation plans for any other neighbourhoods. However, if opportunities arise from residents' initiatives or the provincial or central government, the municipality will respond accordingly (Hoogeveen Municipality, 2021).

The municipality of Hoogeveen has been recently cash-strapped, so it does not see the opportunity to provide financial support for heat transitions. In addition, due to limited capacity and resources, the municipality envisions challenges for the planning and implementation of heat transitions in other neighbourhoods (PAW, 2021). A municipal employee shared these concerns, saying, 'õ

people to do the work, and there is an enormous amount of work ². Although resident engagement and heat transition implementation take place at the local level, the municipality stressed the importance of the central government's involvement in creating capacity for planning and implementation of heat transitions and th

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