

Helsinki Energy Challenge

Answers to the questions in webinar on 4 May 2020

Helsinki

Could we please receive the PPT material shared during the webcast?

The PowerPoint material used during the broadcast can be downloaded here:
<https://energychallenge.hel.fi/events-and-webinars>.

It would be nice to know more about planned Evaluation Criteria:
Are all the criteria equally important or are some of the criteria worth more "points" than others? Minimum or maximum cost impact / climate impact?

All proposed solutions will be evaluated according to the same criteria and, due to the nature of the contest, they do not have any specific weight or order of importance. Regarding the cost and climate impact: we have not set minimum or maximum cost/ climate impact. As described in the section 3.5 of the Competition program, in the case of climate impact: the bigger the impact on the emissions reduction, the higher the score. Regarding the cost impact - we are looking for solutions that can be implemented and used at a feasible cost to the city and end-users; participants are required to present the total cost of their solutions. In the Applications, the estimation of the proposed solution's climate impact as well as cost impact is enough.

Are software solutions also eligible for the Energy Challenge?

We welcome different types of solutions to the Helsinki Energy Challenge, so also software solutions are eligible. We are looking for solutions that will significantly affect the cessation of coal use by 2029 and speed up the City of Helsinki's journey to becoming carbon-neutral by 2035. All proposed solutions will be evaluated against the same evaluation criteria, presented in the Competition program, section 3.5.

The evaluation criteria says "The solution utilises as little biomass and other natural resources as possible", and we have interpreted this as biomass as a form of raw material (e.g. wood pellets or similar) simply replacing the old coal power plants, that on a short-term basis would cause an increase in GHG emissions. If the material used for the solution however purely consists of biomass waste (e.g. from industry or households), would this still be considered as "biomass" in regards to the evaluation or as "waste"?

We do not want to replace the coal-fired heat production with biomass-fired production, regardless the source or type of biomass. However, as the challenge questions describes - we are looking for answer to the question: How can we decarbonise the heating of Helsinki with minimal use of biomass. The competition criteria includes assessment of the natural resources needed as well as the impact on emissions, where also (biomass) waste as a feedstock, if proposed in the competition entry, is taken into account. The evaluation depends on the potential other use of this waste stream and the emissions related to utilising the waste stream.

The challenge solution should take into account the already planned actions of Helen. On some topics such as heat recovery in datacenter (1 site) and in industrial sites (2) some sites are mentioned on the challenge documents, Helen webpages or in press releases but are there other sites planned on these topics?

There are plans where there is an investment decision made already as well as plans that are still in planning phase (no investment decision yet). Those investment decisions that have already been made, should be taken into account – such as the decision on the construction of a new bioenergy heating plant in Vuosaari, as a replacement for part of the production capacity of Hanasaari coal-fired plant. However, those replacement plans, that are only indicative and there is no investment decision yet, can also be treated by the Challenge participants as indicative plans only, thus, plans that may not materialize as such. So the challenge participants can either consider them as plans that will materialize or propose something else. The challenge participants can of course use other publicly made material as their background information when preparing their proposal, but most important is to take into account the background material published on the challenge website: <https://energychallenge.hel.fi/heating-helsinki-today>

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