

Sheffield city centre district heating scheme



Sheffield has an award winning city centre district heating scheme, that delivers over 140 buildings with low carbon heat through more than 45km of underground pipes, providing all their heating and hot water needs. The buildings connected to the network range from offices and public buildings to hotels and residential premises. At the heart of the scheme is the city's energy from waste plant that treats 225,000 tonnes per year of household waste and provides up to 21 MW of electricity to over 22,600 homes. This enables Sheffield to enhance its green credentials by sending less than 15% of its waste to landfill, making it one of the best cities in the UK for landfill diversion.

The scheme originated in the 1970's but the EfW plant was later replaced in 2006, built to the latest technical and environmental standards by Veolia Environmental Services. Generating heat from the EfW plant and connecting the buildings to the network reduces the reliance on fossil fuels and improves local air quality. Every year the network prevents on average over 21,000 tonnes of CO₂ from being released across the city, helping to make Sheffield a cleaner, greener city. It also allows businesses to avoid the Climate Change Levy and connecting to it contributes to them being able to achieve an excellent BREEAM rating.