

Old Oak and Park Royal Energy Network (OPEN)

Pre-Planning
Public Engagement Strategy
August 2025



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Local voices, lasting impact

This engagement strategy sets out Hemiko's approach to engaging communities, stakeholders, and local organisations as part of our planning application for the proposed Old Oak and Park Royal Energy Network (OPEN), a new low carbon heat network that will deliver clean heat and bright futures for residents and businesses in the area.

The document outlines how residents, businesses, and local organisations can engage with and provide input into the project as we shape our proposals ahead of a planning application submission. Early feedback will play a key role in informing the design and delivery approach of the energy hub heat network.

In addition to outlining opportunities for engagement in the run-up to the planning submission, this strategy also explains how Hemiko intends to maintain a meaningful dialogue with local communities throughout the lifespan of the project — from planning and construction through to operation.

Hemiko is committed to inclusive, transparent engagement. We will work to ensure that a broad range of voices are heard, including young people, underrepresented groups, local businesses and public services. Feedback will be shared with the local planning authority as part of the application process, and we will continue to listen and respond to community priorities as the project progresses.



Heat network for Old Oak & Park Royal

A new utility enabling the creation of a low carbon regeneration area



The Old Oak and Park Royal Energy Network (OPEN) is a heat network being delivered in partnership by Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and Hemiko.

It will deliver low carbon heat to serve 9,000 new homes being delivered as part of the Old Oak and Park Royal regeneration area, along with substantial existing and new public sector, commercial and residential properties including hospitals, offices and university campus buildings.

The ambition is to deliver low carbon heat across Old Oak and Park Royal, and to expand the network into the surrounding boroughs.

Heat network key facts

Heat sources	Data centres
Connections	New build residential and mixed use, existing public sector and commercial
Grant secured	£35m GHNF + £5m Carbon Offset
Construction start	Spring 2026
Heat on	2027/28
Current status	Pre-planning

	First phase	Full build out
Heat provided	38 GWh / yr	100 GWh / yr
Hemiko investment	£84.4m	£192.8m
Carbon saved	4,600 tCO ₂ /yr	20,600 tCO ₂ /yr

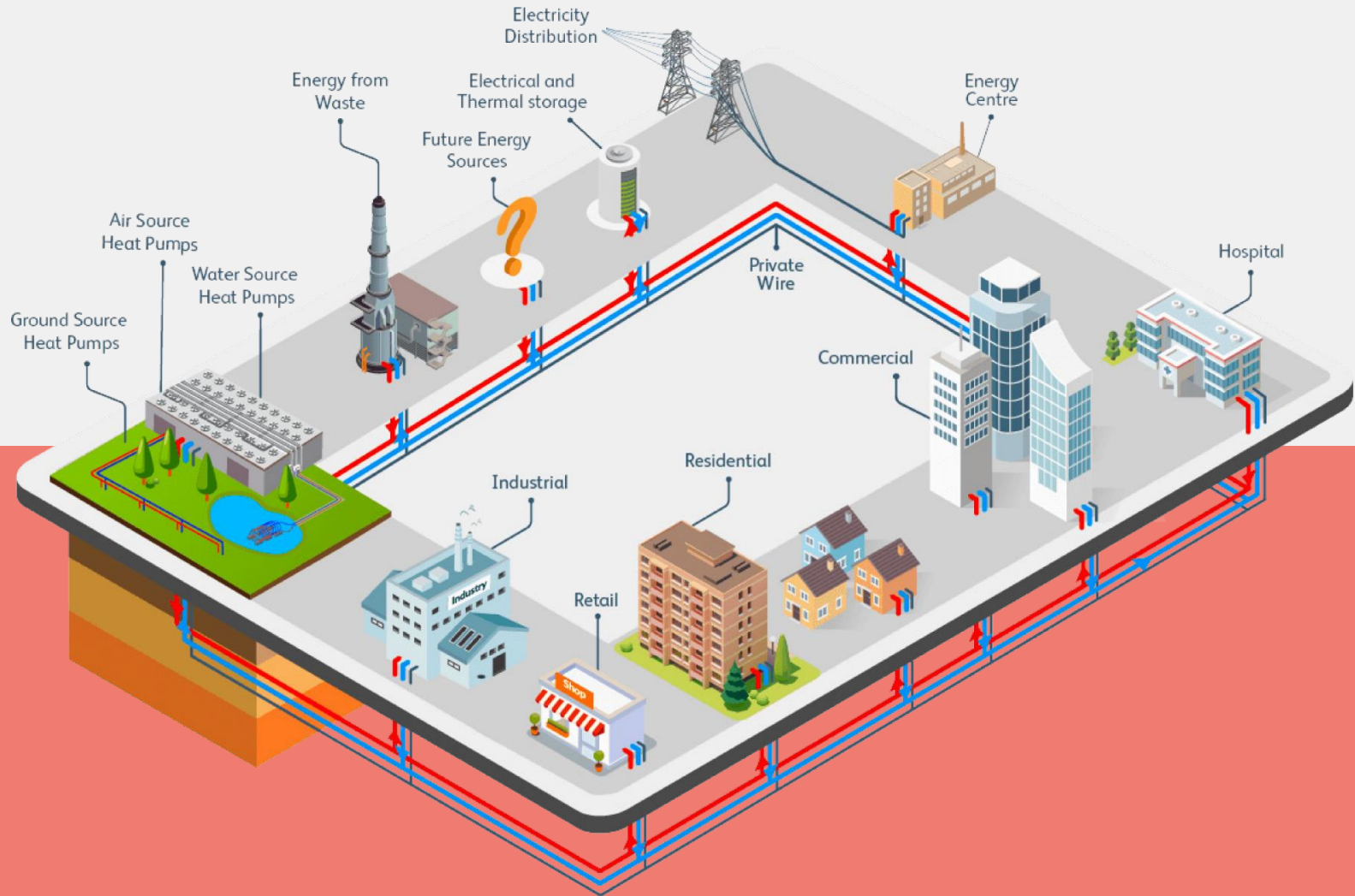
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What is a heat network?

Heat networks are a low carbon alternative to gas boilers, providing both heating and hot water. They are the cheapest way to supply low carbon heat.

They work by collecting unused or wasted heat from the local area to create hot water, which is then sent via a network of underground pipes into homes and buildings.

Every town and city will need a scaled heat network by 2050, with at least a fifth of UK heat to come from heat networks.



This illustration is for informational purposes only and is not a technical representation of the proposed heat network.

Who is delivering the heat network?

The heat network is being delivered through a partnership between Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation and Hemiko.

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Hemiko are a heat networks utility provider.

They were selected as the partner for OPDC following a competitive tender. They will invest in the low carbon heat networks, build it and run it. They will do this working in close collaboration with their partners, OPDC.

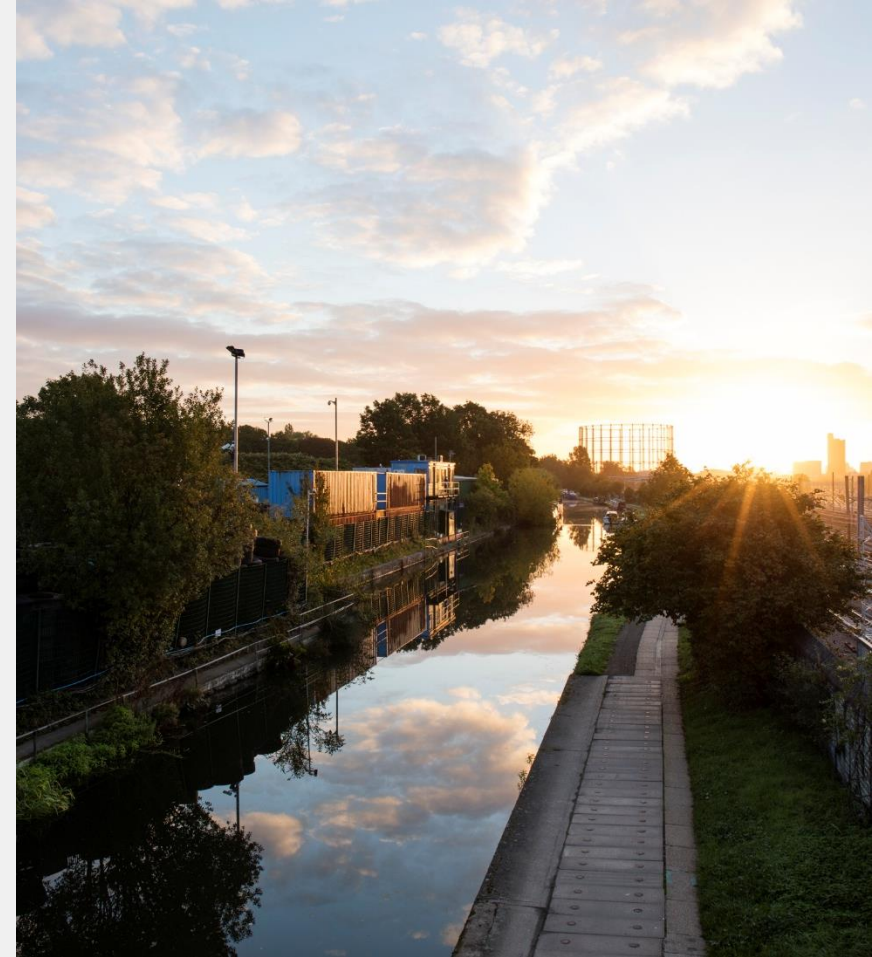
They are developing scaled heat networks in Worthing, Wolverhampton, Lincoln and Westminster, amongst others.

OPDC
OLD OAK AND
PARK ROYAL
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

OPDC is the Mayoral Development Corporation established to regenerate the Old Oak and Park Royal area spanning across Ealing, Brent and Hammersmith & Fulham.

OPDC has a statutory objective to lead the Old Oak and Park Royal regeneration, with policies flowing down from the Mayoral Policy and London Plan. They are the planning authority for the area, amongst other things.

Hemiko and OPDC will collaborate to ensure the heat network delivers customer and community excellence, in adherence with best practice and regulatory rules.



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Where can I learn more?

Hemiko is delivering a range of events in advance of planning submission, ensuring that our heat network is designed with the community and for the community.

Engagement	Description	Date	Medium	Location	Attendance
Community Review Group	This group gives local people an opportunity to have their say about the planning and urban design process.	7 July 2025	In person	Park Plaza London Park Royal	This is a closed group, consisting of members who were appointed through an application process.
Public Engagement Event (In-Person)	These events are an opportunity for the community to read our information boards, speak with members of staff, and have your say on key aspects of the energy hub before our planning submission is finalised. These sessions will take place outside of work hours, with one session hosted online, to make it as easy as possible to feed in your views on the project.	7 August 2025	In person	Minerva Works Circular Economy Hub, 1-2 Minerva Rd	RSVP to open@hemiko.com or sign up via our registration form .
Public Engagement Event (Online)		8 August 2025	Online	Zoom (link to be shared in advance)	
Pre-Planning Public Engagement Event	This session will provide an update to residents and businesses on how their input has fed into the planning applications, shortly ahead of submission.	Early September 2025	In person	The Lab at Oaklands Rise	RSVP to open@hemiko.com

Accessibility and Inclusion: Hemiko is committed to ensuring that all our events are inclusive and accessible. If you have any concerns about participating in our sessions — whether related to physical access, communication needs, or other requirements — please don't hesitate to get in touch via joseff.reed@hemiko.com. We will work with you to identify suitable measures to enable your full participation.

How to get involved?

Attending one of our public engagement events.

Hemiko is working closely with OPDC to publicise our public engagement events, taking place 7 and 8 August, and make sure that local people get a say in the development of this important project.

In advance of the session, Hemiko will leaflet businesses and residents in the Old Oak area, create a mailing list for project updates, and share invites to our public engagement events with local organisations (e.g. Park Royal Business Group, Park Royal Design District, West London Chambers), with support from OPDC.

We are able to offer bespoke briefings on the project to community groups or representatives, please reach out to open@hemiko.com if this is of interest.

Why attend?

Taking place both virtually and in-person, our public engagement events are an opportunity for local people to feed into the design of our energy hub on Minerva Road, which will supply heat to buildings across the local area.

Our design team will be on hand to hear the views of the community about the look, feel, and character of the building, as well as our proposed measures to promote the culture of the area and the local environment. This feedback will inform our final planning application, which will be submitted later this year.



Register for our public engagement events here.

Keeping communities informed and engaged

Alongside events that we will be hosting as part of the formal planning process for OPEN, Hemiko will be engaging the local community throughout the duration of the project. This includes:

- ✓ Door-knocking and leafleting
- ✓ Community engagement events
- ✓ Targeted outreach to businesses nearby
- ✓ Meetings with community representatives
- ✓ Advance notification letters for events and works
- ✓ Setting up a regular project newsletter
- ✓ Sponsorship of local events
- ✓ Engaging with local schools and colleges
- ✓ Creating dedicated social media pages for the project
- ✓ Launching a project website and contact page



For more information

For general enquiries

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