

Turn data centre waste heat into a regional asset

A pre-feasibility study for the clean transition siting permit and for local heat: how much heat is really usable, who can take it – district heating included – and whether the legal “majority” threshold is met. Ready in four weeks.

4 weeks

from funding decision to final report

€30,000

fixed price, excl. VAT

€18,000

applicant's share with 40% energy aid

< €60,000

below the national procurement threshold

What each of you gets

MUNICIPALITY

A decision basis for the permit

An assessment of the siting permit's waste heat condition, plus new companies, jobs and tax base.

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Heat users to contact

A register of heat users and sites within about 30 km, and who to call first.

ENERGY COMPANY

Low-carbon heat for the network

A monthly calculation of how much data centre heat your network can take via heat pumps, with no obligation to take it all.

The permit requires heat reuse

“A data centre can be processed as a clean transition siting permit when most of its waste heat is reused.”

Finnish Building Act 43 a §, clean transition siting permit (summarised)

The municipal building control assesses the condition. It needs a justified calculation tied to the source data. Summer months decide: In winter there are takers for the heat. In summer, the same heat flow needs other sinks.

There is far more heat than the town can use

450 GWh

of heat per year from a 60 MW data centre, about 7.5 GWh per IT megawatt

→ Heat arrives evenly all year

3–4%

of that is what a small municipality's district heating network can take, and only in winter

→ District heating alone cannot reach the majority

15 km

from the data centre site to the nearest district heating network in the example project

→ Heat users must be brought close

Three work packages

WP1

Heat balance and heat quality

- Source data from the developer, municipality and energy company
- Monthly heat balance
- Direct use or heat pump
- Data gaps and responsibilities

WP2

Heat sink mapping

- Users and greenfield sites within about 30 km
- Demand, temperature, seasonal profile, distance
- Contacting at least six potential users
- Employment impact estimate

WP3

Majority assessment and permit path

- 2–3 sink portfolios with monthly coverage
- Assessment against the 43 a § waste heat condition
- Permit path recommendation
- Final report and decision workshop

Ready in four weeks from the funding decision

BEFORE START

Energy aid application

Avans prepares it. You review and submit it.

WEEK 0

Agreement and NDA

Contact persons, data request and data delivery channel.

WEEK 1

Kick-off workshop

System boundary and decision questions set in 90 minutes.

WEEK 2

D1 Heat balance

Monthly heat flow, temperatures, assumptions and data gaps.

WEEK 3

D2 Heat sink register

Sinks, capacities, seasonal profiles and contact results.

WEEK 4

D3 Majority assessment

Coverage calculation, permit path, report and decision workshop.

Requires source data in week 1 and comments on interim results within three working days. When applying for energy aid, the application is filed before the agreement and week 0 starts from the funding decision.

A fixed price and a clear path forward

PHASE 1

Pre-feasibility study

Fixed price, excl. VAT · ready in four weeks · with energy aid the applicant's share is €18,000

€30,000

PHASE 2

Feasibility

Business case and impact on the municipal economy

Separately

PHASE 3

Technical plan

Detailed technical and implementation plan

Separately

40% energy aid – Avans prepares the application

Who applies: A municipality in the public sector energy efficiency agreement (JETS), or an energy company in an energy efficiency agreement. The development company can coordinate.

Avans prepares: The eligibility check (incl. scoping to your own energy use, e.g. district heating), project plan, cost breakdown and study attachment – at no extra charge.

You: Review the application and submit it in the Business Finland online service: about 1–2 hours.

When: Before starting. The study begins after the funding decision.

Pre-study, excl. VAT

€30,000

Energy aid 40%

- €12,000

Applicant's share

= €18,000

The pre-study is not a full feasibility study: the tight scope keeps the price fixed and the answer fast. Sources: Motiva 2025; Business Finland energy aid funding terms 1 Jan 2026. Eligibility and scope are confirmed before applying.

TEAM



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Let's solve the heat before it locks in.

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