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Nations Launch Clean Heat Forum

Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom: Today a group of nations, companies, and organizations announced the launch of a global collaborative effort to accelerate the adoption of clean heating solutions for buildings. The **Clean Heat Forum** will be launched under the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), a global platform with over 200 members, including 34 countries. The platform unites all stakeholders along the buildings and construction value chain towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector. The GlobalABC is the home for international action on building decarbonization and resilience. Heating with fossil fuels is responsible for a large share of direct greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, which in turn accounts for around 9% of global energy-related emissions.

While we have clean heating solutions – like highly efficient heat pumps, district energy solutions, deep retrofits, and better building design – at our fingertips, adoption has lagged and these solutions remain inaccessible to many. By bringing public and private sector leaders together, the Clean Heat Forum will fill a critical gap, enabling participants to co-create and share best practice policies, standards, and public engagement strategies to reduce one of the largest sources of climate-disrupting air pollution. Accelerated deployment of efficient and clean heating technologies, appropriate building design, and associated solutions will also help reduce health and energy burdens, increasing prosperity and creating more employment.

The UK Government's Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility, **Lord Callanan**, said:

“Decarbonising heating remains one of the most significant challenges for reaching net zero emissions – but also provides major opportunities in reducing local air pollution and creating high-skill jobs.”

“To help countries overcome the barriers for decarbonising heat, greater collaboration will be required so policymakers can share best practice, scale markets for clean heating and energy efficiency solutions across multiple countries, and better facilitate private sector partnerships.”

*“It is for this reason that we launch the **Clean Heat Forum**, under the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction today.”*

Scotland's Zero Carbon Buildings Minister, **Patrick Harvie**, said:

“Emissions from buildings are a global challenge – whether from heating them in a cold country like Scotland, or keeping them cool in hotter parts of the world. We want to work with other like-minded countries to tackle these challenges head-on – working together on the important technical, financial, and regulatory issues needed to transform the world’s building stock.

I am delighted that, during COP26, we deepened our long-standing partnership with Denmark, signing a new Memorandum of Understanding deepening our collaboration on heat and energy efficiency.

We must work together to tackle climate change, which is why I am proud that Scotland has now become a founding member of a broader alliance of like-minded governments, industry, and civil society in the Clean Heat Forum, alongside others such as Germany and Denmark. We encourage other countries to work with us in a shared endeavour to tackle common challenges in the decarbonisation of heat across the world.”

Dennis Holte Skov-Albertsen, Country Coordinator for the Danish Energy Agency (DEA), said:

“At the Danish Energy Agency we are working with energy authorities across the world, sharing experiences and best practices along the lines of green transition of energy systems. Therefore it feels natural for DEA to support the creation of the heating alliance working across borders on decarbonisation of the heating sector. In other words the objectives of the heating alliance very much fit our DNA and what we are promoting on a daily basis – together we can achieve more, do it better, and hopefully get to the end goal faster.”

Jules Kortenhorst, CEO of RMI, said:

“This unique alliance emerges at a time when creative, collaborative climate solutions are more critical than ever – particularly for challenging sectors like buildings. Accelerating the global transition to clean, efficient heating is essential for meeting climate commitments and ensuring healthy homes and workplaces for all.”

Clem Cowton, Director of External Affairs at Octopus Energy Group, said:

“Clean heat solutions like heat pumps are more efficient, safer, and better at warming our homes than fossil fuels. With industry and governments collaborating through the Clean Heat Forum we can turbocharge global investment to scale products and infrastructure and ensure a heat pump can be as cheap as a new gas boiler within the next couple of years. There’s no time to waste in reducing the world’s reliance on expensive, dirty forms of heating. Let’s get on with the job.”

Richard Sedano, CEO at the Regulatory Assistance Project, said:

“The global heat transformation requires a transformation of energy policy and governance as well. RAP is pleased to contribute our policy network and expertise to help the Clean Heat Forum reach its goal of widespread clean heating.”

Initial members include:

- UK Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- German Energy Agency
- Ministry Of Energy & Mineral Resources, Jordan
- Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government
- Danish Energy Agency
- City of Prague
- RMI
- REN21
- KT-Energy LLC
- E3G
- RAP
- EHPA
- Octopus Energy Group