



WaterWarmth

This report presents a shared vision for aqua thermal energy systems in 2050, developed together with the WaterWarmth project partners.

The vision describes a fair, sustainable, and community-based heating system. In this system, local non-profit cooperatives manage decentralized but connected energy networks. These networks provide affordable, reliable, and clean heat while protecting aquatic ecosystems. Technology and smart management systems also play an important role.

To turn this vision into action, workshops were held with partners from Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Together, they created transition pathways for the period 2025–2050. These pathways include actions in four areas: behaviour and culture, policy and regulation, technology and knowledge, and market and organisational change.

The pathway is divided into three phases:

- 2025–2030: building the foundation and testing pilot projects
- 2030–2040: scaling up and improving governance
- 2040–2050: full implementation and system transformation

The report also uses an innovative method that combines co-creation with AI support (GenAI) to develop the vision. However, there are some limitations, such as time constraints and limited participation. Therefore, the pathway is seen as a first version that will be improved through future workshops and stakeholder involvement.