



## Helen's Ambitious Renewable Energy Projects Lead Finland Towards Carbon Neutrality

For this edition of the Euroletter, we would like to highlight our Finnish member, **Helen**, and its **renewable projects**. Helen provides heating, cooling, electricity, regional and renewable energy solutions, and electric transport for **over 560,000 customers** in Finland. It **aims for carbon neutral energy production by 2030** and is making significant investments in a sustainable, modern energy system, targeting the replacement of over 2,000 MW of fossil energy production capacity by 2025.

Helen's commitment to sustainability is evident in two new **renewable energy projects** for **Helsinki's district heating sector**, which recently received a €150 million loan from the European Investment Bank. These projects aim to replace fossil-fuel-based district heating with a more sustainable and efficient renewable energy mix, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

The two projects include a 90 MW **heat pump plant** using recovered energy from purified sewage water and the **conversion** of a 163 MW **coal plant to biomass pellets**. Both projects are expected to yield positive economic returns by generating clean, renewable heat at a lower cost compared to alternatives in Finland, thus providing broader social benefits.

Additionally, Helen is **constructing two new air-to-water heat pump plants and several electric boilers** within the Helsinki area. The most recent project in Patola is designed to advance Helsinki's heat production towards carbon neutrality, with an **expected annual CO2 emissions reduction of 56,000 tons**. The Patola air-to-water heat pump plant is the first of its size in the world. Construction will begin at the end of 2024, with **production** set to **start** during the **2026–2027** heating season.