

Sweden: Subsidies and Consumer Protection Programmes

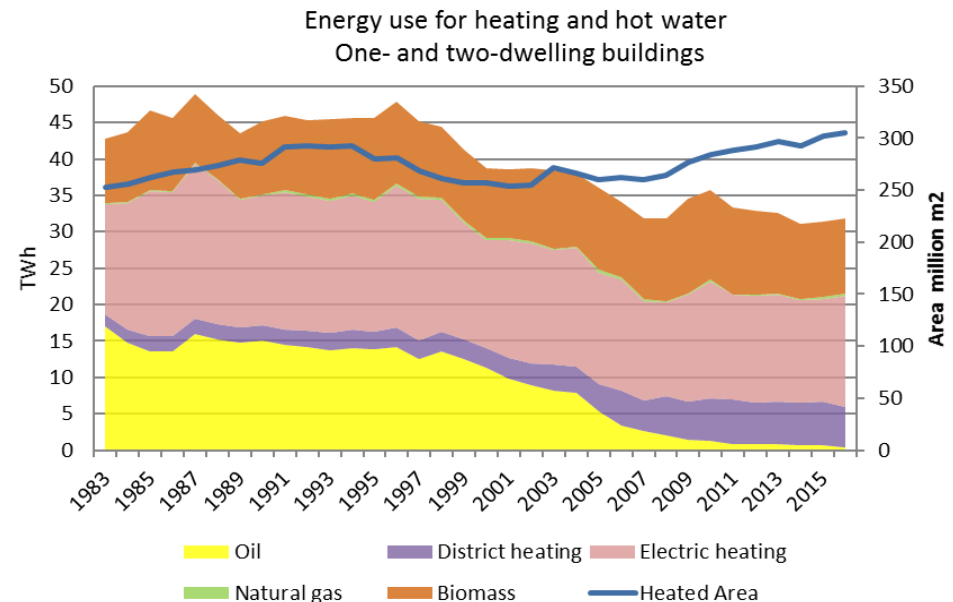
Timeframe: 2006 - present

Overall picture:

- Promotion of biomass and heat-pumps through subsidies – reimbursement up to **30%** of material and labour costs
- Technical standards for heat pumps, certification trainings, information campaigns
- Independent complaints board - Heat Pump Court

Impact:

- Replacement of oil boilers, direct electric heating and electric boilers with heat pumps in **52%** of one/two-family homes
- Decline in the share of electric heating supplying residential and service sector buildings from **30%** in 1990 to **12%** in 2014
- Improvements in heat pump performance by **13-22%** through established quality assurance schemes



Source: Lopes C., Heat Pumps in Sweden. Factors behind the market developments, SEAD Policy Exchange Forum – Low Carbon Heating Systems, 2018

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Policy success factors:

- A 30-year R&D programme focussed on heat pumps run by the Swedish Energy Agency
- The highest carbon tax in Europe - **\$168**/tCO₂ in 2014
- Large scale investments in information campaigns, technological evaluations



Source: <https://www.energimyndigheten.se>

Policy challenges:

- Developing favourable market conditions for heat pumps in other countries
- Social equality impacts of the tax and subsidy schemes: low income or vulnerable people require judicious use of revenues from the scheme for their benefit