Waste incineration and wood heating network tariff

2027 waste incineration and wood tariff – June 2026 edition

Structure of the waste incineration and wood heating network tariff

The district heating tariff is made up of the energy charge P_1, the capacity charge P_2 and the connection fee P_3.

The **energy charge** covers the variable costs, which include fuel costs (wood, gas) and electricity costs for operating heat pumps. In addition, some personnel and maintenance costs are also included in the variable costs. This charge includes a weighted inflation factor to take into account indexed inflation for energy sources in particular. The **capacity charge** depends on the subscribed maximum heating capacity and covers the fixed costs for operating the heating network, which are independent of energy consumption. The capacity charge also covers part of the capital costs for the building connection. With the **connection fee**, customers pay a share (contribution margin) of the costs of creating the building connection to the district heating network.

Energy charge P_1 (CHF/MWh excl. ETS contribution and VAT)

P_1 (CHF/MWh) = 35 CHF/MWh × weighted inflation factor[1] × return temperature surcharge factor[2]

[1] 15% Zurich Consumer Price Index (ZIK)
30% electricity (ZIK item 4070)
20% firewood (ZIK item 4111)
35% gas (ZIK item 4050)

[2] (1 + return temperature surcharge); incentive for optimised return temperatures.

Return temperature surcharge: The energy charge is subject to a surcharge on heat consumption with an elevated return temperature as an incentive to optimise the system configuration. The surcharge is only charged during the heating season (October-March). The surcharge factor is calculated by periodically determining the volume-based mean of the return temperature on the district heating meter. The difference between this mean temperature and the maximum permissible return temperature according to the technical conditions gives the surcharge amount in per cent (e.g. average return temperature 62.4°C minus 50°C = 12.4 per cent, rounded to a 12 per cent surcharge). The maximum surcharge is 20 per cent.

Indexing: ewz updates the index values every January and adjusts the prices for the current year accordingly. The index value is calculated using the average of the monthly index values for a given year. The index value for the 2027 tariff year is considered the starting value (average for 2026 = 100 per cent). Updating the index values does not constitute an adjustment of the district heating tariffs within the meaning of section 4.4 of the heating supply contract.

Emissions trading system (ETS): The costs for participating in the emissions trading system (ETS) and for acquiring the necessary CO_2 certificates are billed annually via the specific consumption (MWh) per customer.

Capacity charge P_2 (CHF/year excl. VAT)

Capacity range: 0–250 kW
P_2 (CHF) = (900 CHF + 145 CHF/kW × L[4]) × Zurich Consumer Price Index (ZIK)[3]

Capacity range: > 250 kW
P_2 (CHF) = (900 CHF + (145 CHF/kW × 250 kW) + (105 CHF/kW × [L[4] – 250 kW])) × ZIK[3]

[3] ZIK index value for 2027 = 1.00

[4] L = subscribed capacity in kW

Connection fee P_3 (CHF excl. VAT)

The connection fee P_3 is a standardised reference value. The binding amount is included in the district heating offer.

New building:

$P_3 = (25{,}000 + 263{,}000 \times L^6) \times ZIW^5$ for $L^6 \leq 1$ MW

$P_3 = (109{,}000 + 179{,}000 \times L^6) \times ZIW^5$ for $L^6 > 1$ MW

Existing building:

$P_3 = (25{,}000 + 179{,}000 \times L^6) \times ZIW^5$

[5] Index value for 2026 = 1.14

[6] L = subscribed capacity in MW

Comments: ewz creates connections when the cost-effectiveness audit yields a positive contribution margin and it is possible to provide the necessary heat output. Customers can voluntarily pay a higher connection fee so that they are within the range of a positive contribution margin.

High-density areas: Special agreements can be reached for new customers in order to achieve a high connection rate.

Notes

VAT is charged at the applicable rate.

Outlook for the introduction of uniform district heating fees

By merging all public thermal grids with ewz, the aim is to create a uniform fee model – regardless of area and energy source. The basis for the new model is currently undergoing parliamentary discussion in the City Parliament. As a result, the fees for this service area could tend to be higher in the future than they are today. Once the fees have been set (expected to apply from 2029), you will be notified in good time.

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