# Bradford data centre to power AI growth and low-carbon future



Bradford is set to host a new data centre designed to drive AI innovation and strengthen digital services across northern England. The proposed facility, located near a major city centre route, is part of a wider redevelopment plan that includes a flagship low-carbon energy hub.

The centre will house advanced computing infrastructure for organisations with intensive data processing needs. It aims to attract AI and tech-driven businesses while supporting universities—both in Bradford and beyond—as a regional anchor for academic and commercial digital collaboration.

At the heart of the development is its integration with the city’s emerging district heat network, led by green energy firm 1Energy. This £70–75 million project will use one of the UK’s largest air source heat pumps to supply low-carbon heating to buildings including Bradford City Hall, the Combined Court Centre and the Magistrates’ Courts. HM Courts and Tribunals Service has already committed to a 20-year connection, with the network expected to cut emissions by 8,000 tonnes annually and become operational by 2026.

By 2027, the network will deliver heating via insulated underground pipes to a broad range of civic and educational buildings, including the University of Bradford and Bradford College. The university has hailed the system as transformative, estimating tens of millions in savings as it phases out outdated boilers.

The data centre will further contribute by capturing and redirecting excess heat to the 1Energy system, helping reduce energy costs for other users. Four emergency generators will ensure uninterrupted operation, reinforcing the centre’s role in maintaining critical digital services.

City Hall’s separate £2 million upgrade to its heating and hot water systems adds to the city’s decarbonisation push, supported by government funding.

Bradford’s alignment of digital infrastructure with green energy exemplifies a forward-looking approach to sustainable urban development. The project’s collaboration between public institutions, academia and private firms reflects a pragmatic model for responsible AI growth.

As other cities confront the dual challenge of digital expansion and climate responsibility, Bradford’s integrated model offers a compelling template—fusing technological ambition with environmental stewardship.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c8jpy318w4ko> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-68712671> - Bradford's Combined Court Centre and Magistrates' Court are set to become among the first in England to be heated by renewable energy. HM Courts and Tribunals Service has signed a 20-year agreement to connect the courts to the Bradford Energy Network, which will utilise air source heat pumps. The £70 million heat network is expected to be operational by 2026, aiming to save 8,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide across the two buildings. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-68712671?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn8l0ge6qe0o> - A new low-carbon heating network supplying civic buildings in Bradford city centre is being developed as a 'blueprint' for similar schemes nationwide. The Bradford Heat Network will use air source heat pumps to warm water, which will then be distributed through underground pipes to customers. Due for completion by 2027, the network will connect the University of Bradford, Bradford College, and several council-run buildings, including Bradford City Hall. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn8l0ge6qe0o?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy1znkxrggo> - Bradford City Hall has been awarded approximately £2 million to help decarbonise its 19th-century building. The government funding will cover hot water and heating works, aiming to improve air quality and the health of the city's residents. The planned new heating system will replace the existing gas-fired boilers, aligning with the government's efforts to phase out high carbon emissions sources. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy1znkxrggo?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/news/archive/2024/city-wide-heat-network-will-save-university-tens-of-millions-in-replacing-aging-boilers-1.php> - The University of Bradford has joined the Bradford Energy Network, a city-wide heat network, to save 'tens of millions' in replacing its aging heating boilers. The network includes around six miles of super-insulated underground pipes and will supply heat to major buildings across Bradford, with the university being the network's largest customer. The partnership represents a significant step towards achieving Net Zero and addressing environmental issues. ([bradford.ac.uk](https://www.bradford.ac.uk/news/archive/2024/city-wide-heat-network-will-save-university-tens-of-millions-in-replacing-aging-boilers-1.php?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://1energy.uk/networks/bradford-energy-network/> - 1Energy is developing the Bradford Energy Network, a £75 million low-carbon heat network in Bradford, set to be completed by Summer 2027. The project aims to generate heat using one of the UK's largest air source heat pumps, providing low-carbon heat to approximately 10,000 homes. The network will supply heat to major buildings across Bradford, including the University of Bradford, Bradford College, and several council-run buildings. ([1energy.uk](https://1energy.uk/networks/bradford-energy-network/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-68712671> - Bradford's Combined Court Centre and Magistrates' Court are set to become among the first in England to be heated by renewable energy. HM Courts and Tribunals Service has signed a 20-year agreement to connect the courts to the Bradford Energy Network, which will utilise air source heat pumps. The £70 million heat network is expected to be operational by 2026, aiming to save 8,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide across the two buildings. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-68712671?utm_source=openai))