

Making data work: the role of the Data Board

The Data Board is a decision-making body within Data Safe House, where providers and requesters of energy data come together to discuss the use of data stored within the platform. Which data may be used, for what purpose, and under what conditions? These discussions foster mutual understanding and trust, enabling more efficient data sharing. This in turn leads to greater clarity on future investments and infrastructure needs, supporting strategic planning for all parties involved.



Structure of the Data Boards

Data Safe House consists of one national and six regional Data Boards. Each of the six industrial clusters has its own **regional Data Board**, which decides on data sharing within the cluster. Every participating organisation appoints one voting representative to the Board, which is presided by a Data Safe House Manager.

From each cluster, the industrial parties jointly appoint one representative to sit on the **National Data Board**. In addition, the National Data Board includes representatives of the national and regional grid operators, as well as all six Data Safe House managers. This national board establishes uniform agreements on matters such as data formats, the IT platform, and validation and audit methodologies.

Data Boards meet quarterly. Depending on the topics and decisions at hand, they may convene more or less frequently.

Topics covered

- Organisational progress and processes
- Data requests and related decision-making
- Feedback on how shared data is used

Data requests

Any party – whether a participant or an external organisation – may submit a data request. Each request must clearly specify the intended purpose, target users, time period, level of detail, and the datasets required.

Requesting parties

Examples of organisations that may submit data requests include:

- **Grid operators**, in the context of the Cluster Energy Strategy (CES), the Multi-Year Energy and Climate Infrastructure Programme (MIEK), and their investment plans
- **Research institutes**, such as PBL, RVO, and TNO, for advisory or policy reports
- **Cluster organisations**, for the development of industrial zones
- **Government agencies**, for instance in relation to tenders for offshore wind farms

Decision-making process

Data Boards may have different decision-making procedures (e.g. unanimous approval or a fixed quorum). Importantly, each data provider retains the right – with justification – to withdraw from a data request. For specific questions regarding the process, please contact the Data Safe House manager of your cluster.

Strictly non-commercial

The purpose of the Data Board is to facilitate data sharing and constructive dialogue between providers and industrial consumers of energy sources. Data Safe House applies a strict policy: discussions relating to prices, clients, market shares, investment strategies, or any other commercial subjects are strictly prohibited during these meetings, to ensure compliance with Dutch competition legislation.

Four key benefits of the Data Board

1 Optimal use of data

The Data Board helps requesters clarify their needs and enables providers to share data in a targeted way. The Board determines who can access which data, to what level of detail, and for what purpose.

2 Insight

The dialogue offers insights into how data is used, how analyses are interpreted, and why some parties may choose to share or withhold data.

3 Dialogue

Industrial parties, grid operators, and other requesters engage in meaningful dialogue about data use. This mutual understanding leads to better alignment on investment and planning, and may even uncover alternative solutions to accelerate sustainability or mitigate grid congestion.

4 Feedback

Requesting parties provide feedback during Data Board meetings on how they processed the data. This is valuable input for providers, particularly regarding future infrastructure needs and energy transition developments. It also gives industry the opportunity to respond and ask questions about the interpretation of the findings.



How the Data Board operates

- One designated representative per participant in each regional Data Board.
- Organisations with multiple locations may participate in several Data Boards.
- Representatives act with a clear mandate from their organisation.
- Each participant also appoints a permanent substitute.
- Topics that conflict with Dutch competition law are strictly prohibited.

Any questions?

If you have questions about the Data Board, please [contact the Data Safe House manager](#) for your industrial cluster. Join us and share your sustainability plans in Data Safe House!

