

Debate Pack
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The future of low-carbon off-gas grid home and business heating

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1

Overview

A debate has been scheduled in Westminster Hall at 1.30pm on Thursday 16 June 2022 on the future of low-carbon off-gas grid home and business heating. The subject of the debate has been nominated by the Backbench Business Committee and the debate will be opened by David Jones MP.

1.1

Government policy statements

Accessing the mains gas grid is the most common way in England, Wales and Scotland to heat a home.¹ Across Great Britain, however, approximately 4 million households are off the gas grid; they do not have access to mains gas and rely on alternative sources of fuel such as heating oil or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).² The [Energy Saving Trust](#) reports that it is “typically far more expensive to heat your home off-grid, which creates significant problems for the rural poor”.³

In 2017, the Government set an ambition in its [Clean Growth Strategy](#) to “phase out [during the 2020s] the installation of high carbon forms of fossil fuel heating” in both new, and existing, businesses and homes that were currently off the gas grid.⁴ It emphasised that it was looking to reduce the emissions produced from heating the “850,000 homes currently not connected to the gas grid in England and that use oil for heating” and acknowledged that most of these homes were “in rural areas”.⁵ More recent figures for England show that around 1.1 million homes are not connected to the gas grid and use fossil fuel heating, of which 78% use heating oil, 13% use LPG and 9% coal.⁶ For further statistics see section 1.5 below.

Since 2017, the Government has made a series of policy statements about phasing out the use of fossil fuel boilers in existing homes, as well as halting their installation in new build homes. This is part of wider efforts to decarbonise the energy used in buildings to help achieve [the Government’s Net Zero targets](#).⁷

¹ Citizens Advice Scotland, [Off-gas consumers: Updated information on households without mains gas heating](#), June 2018

² Energy Saving Trust, [Why outside the grid does not mean outside of help](#), 19 March 2019

³ Energy Saving Trust, [Why outside the grid does not mean outside of help](#), 19 March 2019

⁴ HM Government, [The Clean Growth Strategy. Leading the way to a low carbon future](#) (opens PDF), October 2017, p13

⁵ HM Government, [The Clean Growth Strategy. Leading the way to a low carbon future](#) (opens PDF), October 2017, p75&79

⁶ BEIS, [Phasing Out the Installation of Fossil Fuel Heating in Homes Off the Gas Grid](#) (opens PDF), October 2021, p6

⁷ HM Government, [Powering our Net Zero Future, Energy White Paper](#), December 2020, CP 337

Most initial Government statements focused on moving away from relying on fossil fuel boilers to heat new homes. At the 2019 Spring Statement, for example, the Chancellor committed to “introduce a future homes standard, mandating the end of fossil-fuel heating systems in all new houses from 2025”.⁸ This was confirmed in the [Government Response to its consultation on the Future Homes Standard](#), published in January 2021. In its Response, the Government stated that it intended to “set the performance standard of the Future Homes Standard at a level which means that new homes will not be built with fossil fuel heating, such as a natural gas boiler”.⁹

The Government has also made a series of commitments to phase out the use of fossil fuel boilers in existing homes. The [Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#), published in November 2020, promised to “set a clear path that sees the gradual move away from fossil fuel boilers over the next fifteen years as individuals replace their appliances and are offered a lower carbon, more efficient alternative”.¹⁰ Additional details were provided in the Government’s [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#), published in October 2021. In the Strategy, the Government set out its ambition to:

- phase out the installation of new and replacement natural gas boilers by 2035 and;
- phase out the installation of high-carbon fossil fuel boilers in properties not connected to the gas grid by 2026 (and 2024 for nondomestic buildings).¹¹

These targets also featured in the [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#), which was published on the same day as the Net Zero Strategy. The Heat and Buildings Strategy emphasised that “no-one [would] be forced to remove their existing boilers”.¹² Rather, the Government stated that it would “be taking an approach that goes with the grain of markets and consumer behaviour to minimise costs and disruption”.¹³

1.2

Government consultations

To identify how this approach could be achieved in practice, the Government opened a consultation on “[phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating](#)”

⁸ [HC Deb, 13 March 2019, c351](#)

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [The Future Homes Standard: 2019 Consultation on changes to Part L \(conservation of fuel and power\) and Part F \(ventilation\) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings. Summary of responses received and Government response](#) (opens PDF), January 2021, p4

¹⁰ BEIS, Prime Minister's Office, [The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#), November 2020

¹¹ HM Government, [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#) (opens PDF), October 2021, p139-140

¹² HM Government, [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#) (opens PDF), October 2021, p10

¹³ HM Government, [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#) (opens PDF), October 2021, p22

[in homes off the gas grid](#)".¹⁴ The consultation ran from 19 October 2021 to the 12 January 2022. A consultation examining similar issues, but in [businesses and public buildings off the gas grid](#), ran simultaneously.¹⁵ A Government Response has not yet been published to either consultation.

Several approaches to reaching the targets were proposed in the consultation aimed at businesses, with views sought on:

- using the natural replacement cycle as the trigger for phasing out fossil fuel heating systems
- introducing the policy using a phased approach with the largest buildings first, followed by smaller buildings
- taking a heat pump first approach to the replacement of those fossil fuel systems
- allowing the limited use of alternative low carbon systems where a heat pump is not suitable
- the cost trajectory for the installation of these low carbon technologies and the ability of businesses to pay.¹⁶

1.3 Low carbon heating technologies

In its consultation on phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid, the Government proposed a “‘heat pump first’ approach to replacement heating systems”.¹⁷ In those places where heat pumps cannot be practicably installed, views were sought on an alternative of “requiring high performing replacement heating systems”, such as “high temperature heat pumps and solid biomass systems”.¹⁸ The use of liquid biofuels for heating – produced from renewable, biological sources such as vegetable oils or energy crops – was considered in the consultation document. At this stage, however, the Government concluded that “further

¹⁴ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid](#), 19 October 2021

¹⁵ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating systems in businesses and public buildings off the gas grid](#), 19 October 2021

¹⁶ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid](#), 19 October 2021

¹⁷ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid](#), 19 October 2021, p6

¹⁸ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid](#), 19 October 2021, p6 & p13

evidence” was required to establish what role they could play in the “future low carbon heating mix off the gas grid”.¹⁹

The consultation wording of the 2026 target was also slightly different from that in the Net Zero Strategy. In the consultation, the Government was explicit that its aim was to end “new fossil fuel heating installations in homes off the gas grid from 2026”, thereby clarifying that there is not an expectation that those off the gas grid, who have functioning fossil fuel boilers, will be forced to remove them from 2026.²⁰ Instead, the consultation sought views on “whether it is appropriate to end the use of fossil fuel heating in all homes off the gas grid, potentially by the late-2030s”.²¹

Heat pumps are described in the consultation as the Government’s “lead technology for decarbonising heat in off gas grid homes”, with the Government stating that they currently cost households off the gas grid approximately “£12 000 to install”.²² Previously, in its [Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#), the Government stated that it was aiming for “600,000 heat pump installations per year by 2028, creating a market led incentive framework to drive growth”.²³

The Heating and Building Strategy set out the Government’s approach to growing the market for heat pumps and making them more affordable. One way in which the Government intends to do this is by “incentivising early adopters through Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants”.²⁴ The £450m Scheme, which began in April 2022, provides upfront grants of between £5000 and £6000 to support the installation low carbon heating systems, like heat pumps and biomass boilers, in homes and small non-domestic buildings in England and Wales. It runs for three years, from 2022 to 2025. More information about the value of the grants and the eligibility criteria can be found on the gov.uk page on the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme \(BUS\)](#).

The Government’s aim, as set out in the Heating and Building Strategy, is for heat pumps to cost the same to buy and run as fossil fuel boilers by 2030.²⁵ The [British Energy Security Strategy](#), published in April 2022, states that government support for low carbon heating systems, like the BUS scheme,

¹⁹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid \(opens PDF\)](#), 19 October 2021, p28-29

²⁰ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid \(opens PDF\)](#), 19 October 2021, p10

²¹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid \(opens PDF\)](#), 19 October 2021, p6

²² Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid \(opens PDF\)](#), 19 October 2021, p10

²³ BEIS, Prime Minister's Office, [The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#), November 2020

²⁴ HM Government, [Heat and Buildings Strategy \(opens PDF\)](#), October 2021, p20

²⁵ HM Government, [Heat and Buildings Strategy \(opens PDF\)](#), October 2021, p20

has meant that “heat pumps are now priced much more competitively compared to gas boilers”.²⁶

The Strategy also highlights other ways it is intending to reduce the cost for consumers who want to move to low carbon heating systems, such as “zero-rating VAT for the next 5 years on the installation of energy saving materials, including insulation and low carbon heating, saving between £1,000 to £2,000 on the cost of an air source heat pump”.²⁷

1.4

External commentary on the Government’s approach

Questions have been raised as to whether the size of the grants available under the BUS will be sufficient to increase heat pump adoption. [Carbon Brief](#) reported analysis in October 2021, by Octopus Energy’s Centre for Net Zero, which indicated that the BUS funding would leave “significant unmet demand” on the grounds that the scheme is only available to a total of 90,000 households.²⁸ In the same article, others suggested that installing 30,000 heat pumps annually would not significantly boost the number already being installed prior to the introduction of BUS. The [Heat Pump Association](#) reports that 67,000 heat pump units were ordered in 2021.²⁹

A survey of 500 people, conducted by the consultancy [DG Cities](#), reported that 70% said that they were ‘very unlikely’ to purchase a heat pump in the coming year while less than half (46%) of respondents were aware of the grant. In addition, when presented with cost information, 60% said they would not use it. Barriers to adoption included perceptions about the cost and efficiency of heat pumps.³⁰

There does appear to be some support, however, for phasing out fossil fuel boilers. The [UK Climate Assembly](#), a randomly selected and representative group of 108 UK citizens, aged 16-79, published a report in September 2020 setting out the actions it thinks are required for the UK to meet its Net Zero targets. One of the policies, supported by 86% of the Assembly, was “a ban on sales of new gas boilers from 2030 or 2035”.³¹

²⁶ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Prime Minister's Office, [British energy security strategy](#), April 2022

²⁷ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Prime Minister's Office, [British energy security strategy](#), April 2022

²⁸ [In-depth Q&A: How will the UK’s ‘heat and buildings strategy’ help achieve net-zero? - Carbon Brief](#), 20 October 2021

²⁹ Heat Pump Association, [The inevitable growth of the heat pump industry](#), 7 April 2021

³⁰ DG Cities, [Heat pumps: the future of home heating or all hot air? \(opens PDF\)](#), May 2022, p2

³¹ Climate Assembly UK, [The path to net zero. Full report \(opens PDF\)](#), September 2020, p161

The Government has also been criticised for phasing out fossil fuel boilers almost a decade earlier in off grid homes, compared to those who are connected to the gas grid. In December 2021, [Farmers Weekly](#) reported comments from the Rural Services Network (RSN), which represents local authorities and organisations working in rural areas, as saying that:

rural areas should not be used as a test bed to trial systems for the rest of the UK. Under the proposal, a household off the gas grid whose oil or LPG boiler breaks down and cannot be repaired will be required after 2026 to install a new non-fossil fuel heating system. However, property owners on the gas grid who face such a breakdown will be able to replace like-for-like until 2035. RSN said while it was supportive of the aim to decarbonise the heating of buildings, it would be “grossly unfair” to rural communities to have different timescales to work to than elsewhere.³²

The liquid fuel industry has similarly criticised the plans for off gas grid homes and questioned their affordability. The industry body Liquid Fuel UK, for example, has argued that the Government should support “a mix of technologies” so that people have a “choice about how they heat their homes”. It added that the 2026 target could see “millions of homeowners, particularly in rural areas, unable to afford a move to electric heating systems” which, it stated are “currently more expensive than other options”.³³ The UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association also commented, in response to the publication of the British Energy Security Strategy, that the Government is not doing enough to improve energy efficiency and help homes and businesses reduce their energy consumption:

The government has proposed that, from 2026, [off-gas grid] households will be expected to install a heat pump should they need to replace their existing boiler. It makes no sense to install a heat pump in an energy inefficient building, yet that is exactly what these households will, in most cases, be forced to do. We estimate that the average cost of a heat pump, and the necessary energy efficient improvements, will be around £20,000 – which for most is completely unaffordable. Yet there is nothing in the new strategy to help these households.³⁴

1.5

Statistics

Properties off the gas grid

According to [Sub-national estimates of properties not connected to the gas network](#) an estimated **4.13 million** households across Great Britain were

³² [Heat pump proposals ‘grossly unfair’ to rural communities - Farmers Weekly \(fwi.co.uk\)](#), 6 December 2021

³³ [Liquid fuel body warns against ‘unaffordable’ 2026 off-grid fossil fuel heat ban - Heating and Ventilation News \(hvnplus.co.uk\)](#), 16 March 2022

³⁴ UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association (UKIFDA), [Statement: OFTEC and UKIFDA respond to the publication of the government’s British Energy Security Strategy](#), 8 April 2022

not connected to the gas grid in 2020. This was **14.4%** of domestic properties. The rate was highest in the South West (24%), Inner London (23%) the East of England and Wales (both 19%).

The estimates are calculated by comparing the number of domestic properties with the number of domestic gas meters. They should therefore only be seen as approximate estimates. They include properties in remote rural areas which have no gas grid in the area and some properties in urban areas which are close to the gas grid but not connected, particularly high-rise flats where gas connections present a potential fire risk.

This data excludes Northern Ireland where the gas grid is much less extensive. [The latest data on heating type for Northern Ireland](#) are for 2016 when only **24%** of households used mains gas for heating. **67%** used heating oil, by far the highest rate in the UK.

The different nations of the UK use different definitions of fuel poverty. The briefing [Fuel poverty in the UK](#) gives details of these definitions, estimates of the extent of fuel poverty and policies to alleviate it.

Fuel poverty rates in rural and off-grid areas

In [Wales in 2018](#) an estimated **14%** of households in rural areas were thought to be in fuel poverty compared to **10%** of urban households.

In [England in 2020](#) the fuel poverty in rural and urban areas was the same at **13.5%**, both above the rate in semi-rural areas of **10.1%**. At the same time **19.4%** of households off mains gas were estimated to be in fuel poverty, well above the rate for households with a gas connection of **12.3%**.

[In Scotland in 2019](#) an estimated **43%** of households in remote rural areas met the Scottish definition of fuel poverty. This rate was well above the overall rural rate of **29%** and the urban rate of **24%**. The rates did not vary greatly by gas grid connection; they were 24% of those on the grid and 27% for those off it.

2 Announcements and consultations from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

2.1 Consultations

[Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid](#)

Published 19 October 2021

This consultation sets out proposals to phase out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating systems in homes off the gas grid, as committed to in the [2017 Clean Growth Strategy](#).

It follows our 2018 call for evidence on the [future policy framework for decarbonising heat in buildings](#).

We're seeking views on our proposals to introduce targeted regulations that will drive decarbonisation of heat in off gas grid homes, including:

- an end to new fossil fuel heating installations in homes off the gas grid from 2026
- a 'heat pump first' approach to replacement heating systems in homes off the gas grid from 2026
- requiring high performing replacement heating systems where heat pumps cannot reasonably practicably be installed

[Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating systems in businesses and public buildings off the gas grid](#)

Published 19 October 2021

This consultation sets out proposals to phase out fossil fuel heating system installations in businesses and public buildings off the gas grid during the 2020s, as committed to in the [2017 Clean Growth Strategy](#).

It seeks views on:

- using the natural replacement cycle as the trigger for phasing out fossil fuel heating systems

- introducing the policy using a phased approach with the largest buildings first, followed by smaller buildings
- taking a heat pump first approach to the replacement of those fossil fuel systems
- allowing the limited use of alternative low carbon systems where a heat pump is not suitable
- the cost trajectory for the installation of these low carbon technologies and the ability of businesses to pay.

Government response to the Clean Heat Grant proposals

October 2021, page updated 16 February 2022

The government response to this consultation covers the Clean Heat Grant proposals within 'Future support for low carbon heat' consultation.

Having considered the responses the government intends to proceed with the scheme formally named the Clean Heat Grant and now known as the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS).

The response sets out decisions on the BUS, including:

- grant levels
- eligibility criteria
- types of heating systems, capacity and building requirements
- financial mechanisms, including annual budget caps and budget data

2.2

Announcements and programmes/schemes

Information about the Heat Pump Ready Programme

Updated 21 January 2022

The Heat Pump Ready Programme forms part of BEIS' £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP), which aims to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative clean energy technologies and processes through the 2020s and 2030s. As a key solution for decarbonising homes, heat pumps will be critical for meeting the UK's legally binding commitment to achieve net zero by 2050. Heat Pump Ready will support the development of innovative solutions across the heat pump sector.

Heat Pump Ready is aligned with other BEIS NZIP Programmes, in addition to Ofgem's Network Innovation Fund (NIC) and the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), delivered in partnership with Innovate UK.

The Heat Pump Ready Programme is split into 3 separate delivery streams:

Stream 1: solutions for high-density heat pump deployment. Up to £30 million of Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) funding from spring 2022

Stream 2: developing tools and technology. Up to £25 million of grant funding for projects to overcome barriers to heat pump deployment, beginning spring 2022

Stream 3: trial support and learning. Up to £5 million contract from spring 2022

[...]

Households save £200 on bills with energy efficiency investment

21 February 2022

Thousands of low-income households across England will see their energy bills reduced by up to £200 a year as the government announces £67 million to upgrade insulation in homes and install low-cost clean heating.

The funding announced today (Monday, 21 February) forms part of the government's **Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme** and will be allocated to local authorities across England to improve up to 4,300 low-income, off-gas grid households - which are reliant on alternatives such as bottled gas and oil to heat their homes.

[...]

Boiler Upgrade Scheme

Last updated 23 May 2022

The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). These grants can help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies.

The scheme is open to domestic and small non-domestic properties in England and Wales. It runs from 2022 to 2025.

[...]

3 Press coverage

[Off-grid homes out of pocket after Rishi's £400 handout](#)

Telegraph, 2 June 2022

[What are heat pumps and why is the UK government pushing them?](#)

Their use could help the UK meet its climate targets, but there are concerns over high installation and running costs

Guardian, 19 Oct 2021

[Heat pump proposals 'grossly unfair' to rural communities](#)

Farmers Weekly, 6 December 2021

[The Government's Off-Grid Heating Plans Won't be Cheap, so Who Will Pay?](#)

Homebuilding, 24 January 2022

4 Parliamentary coverage

4.1 Debates

[Boiler Upgrade Scheme \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2022](#)

04 Apr 2022 | Proceeding contributions | House of Lords | 820 cc269-504GC

[Energy](#)

23 Mar 2022 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 711 cc399-405

4.2 Parliamentary Questions

[Energy Company Obligation](#)

Asked by: Lake, Ben | Party: Plaid Cymru

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has taken steps to ensure that households that are reliant on (a) oil heating and (b) solid fuel qualify for financial support under the Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat scheme.

**Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) does not provide direct financial support. Homes currently reliant on oil and solid fuel heating in off gas-grid areas can benefit from insulation or certain types of low carbon heating measures, such as heat pumps.

In order to qualify, these households must be on relevant means-tested benefits or identified by their local authority or energy supplier as vulnerable. For owner occupier households, the homes must also be energy efficiency Band D-G. For the private rented sector and social housing, the homes must be energy efficiency Band E-G.

13 Jun 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 14592

[Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#)

Asked by: Whitehead, Dr Alan | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the inclusion of

hybrid heat pumps coupled with renewable heating technologies, such as bioLPG, in the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Hybrid heating systems will not be supported through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme. The Government acknowledges that in off gas grid areas, a future transition from heating oil and LPG to biofuels may allow the boiler element of a hybrid system to decarbonise and the Government recognises the work taking place within the oil and LPG industries to that end. However, the Government does not yet have sufficient evidence to take decisions on the potential role of biofuels in this context.

18 May 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 24

Heat Pumps

Asked by: Whitehead, Dr Alan | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he will take to help ensure a fair transition to net zero for able to pay homes off the gas grid who cannot afford both the retrofit costs and upfront cost of installing a heat pump to their property.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Government has committed to spend £6.6billion in this Parliament to further improve the energy performance of our buildings through a range of schemes. The Boiler Upgrade Scheme will provide grants of £5,000 for air source heat pumps and biomass boilers, and £6,000 for ground source heat pumps to support homes off the gas grid transition away from fossil fuel heating. In the Heat and Buildings Strategy, the Government set out ambitions to work with industry to reduce the upfront costs of heat pumps by 25-50% by 2025 and to parity with gas boilers by 2030.

18 May 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 23

Electricity: Rural Areas

Asked by: Whitehead, Dr Alan | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has made an assessment of the capacity of the electricity distribution network to simultaneously run a heat pump, charge an electric vehicle and utilise household appliances in rural, off-grid areas.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Electricity Distribution Network Operators monitor their networks and engage with customers connecting domestic heat pumps and electric vehicle chargepoints, including those in rural, off-gas grid areas. This information is used to inform their network planning and to secure funding from the independent energy regulator, Ofgem, through the price control process to ensure their networks can accommodate the increased demand.

21 Apr 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 153687

Home Upgrade Grant

Asked by: Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick | Party: Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the percentage of low carbon technology installations such as heat pumps that will be covered by the Home Upgrade Grant scheme.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Government has allocated a total of £1.1 billion to the Home Upgrade Grant, with delivery taking place from early 2022 to March 2025. It will provide support to low-income families living off the gas grid to transition to low carbon heating, including heat pumps. The Home Upgrade Grant funds all energy efficiency and low-carbon heating measures that can be modelled by Reduced Data Standard Assessment Procedure (RdSAP).

22 Mar 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL6750

Heat Pumps

Asked by: Farron, Tim | Party: Liberal Democrats

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to increase the number of (a) air and (b) ground source heat pumps to help decrease dependency on heating oil.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Government is providing targeted funding to support the installation of heat pumps in off-gas grid buildings. This includes the £1.1bn Home Upgrade Grant, which will improve the worst performing low-income, off gas grid homes through energy efficiency and low carbon heat measures, and the £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme, which will provide upfront grants to households and small businesses wishing to transition to low carbon heating, including buildings in off gas grid areas.

The Government has also consulted on proposals to end the installation of new fossil fuel heating in off-gas grid buildings, with a 'heat pump first' approach to replacement heating systems. We are currently reviewing responses to the consultation and will respond in due course.

18 Mar 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 138013

Housing: Heating

Asked by: Shannon, Jim | Party: Democratic Unionist Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he will take to (a) offer the 1.9 million homes who use oil and LPG to heat their properties greater choice and (b) support a range of different technologies to help these properties decarbonise.

Answering member: Greg Hands | Party: Conservative Party
| Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Electrification of heat is the only option proven to decarbonise off grid homes at scale. BEIS analysis suggests that it would be feasible to install low temperature heat pumps in around 80% of fossil fuel heated off gas grid homes.

The Government has consulted on proposals to end the installation of fossil fuel heating in homes off the gas grid from 2026, with a 'heat pump first' approach to replacement heating systems. Under these proposals, homes that cannot reasonably practicably install a heat pump will have a choice of heating technologies that are consistent with net zero. The Government is considering the responses to the consultation and will respond in due course.

14 Mar 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 134003

5 Further reading

5.1 Commons Library briefings

- [Help with heating and energy efficiency](#), October 2019
- [Housing and net zero](#), August 2020
- [District heat networks](#), April 2021
- [Heat networks and energy prices](#), April 2022
- [Fuel poverty in the UK](#), May 2022

5.2 Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

- [Carbon Footprint of Heat Generation](#), May 2016
- [Decarbonising the Gas Network](#), November 2017
- [Heat networks](#), September 2020

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