

Commit to Clean Heat: Phase out Fossil Fuel Boilers from 2035

Overview

- Domestic heating accounts for around 15% of UK carbon emissions, with most households reliant on fossil fuels, including natural gas and off-grid fuels such as heating oil, exposing them to volatile prices.
- The Government need to **Commit to Clean Heat** – to protect as many households as soon as possible from energy bill rises caused by global conflict.
- The Climate Change Committee has warned that current decarbonisation efforts for heating are falling short and [recommends a 2035 phase-out date](#) of fossil fuel boilers.
- Long-term clarity from the Government is key to providing certainty to industry and the public, giving them time to prepare for the transition to carbon-free alternatives, like heat pumps.

Background

- An ambition to ban new gas boilers was initially made under Boris Johnson's Government in the [Heat and Buildings Strategy \(2021\)](#).
- The Labour Government have introduced measures to incentivise the uptake of electric heating – such as the [Clean Heat Market Mechanism](#) and record investment under the [Warm Homes Plan](#).
- Year-to-date [MCS-Certified Heat Pump installations](#) are down for 2026 compared to 2025. Further action is required to boost uptake and meet Government goals.

Why 2035?

- In April 2021, Boris Johnson's Government introduced into UK law a target to reduce emissions by [78% by 2035](#) on 1990 levels. Transitioning to clean heat is essential to meet this target.
- The average lifespan of a fossil fuel boiler is 15 years. *Commit to Clean Heat* would ensure that we transition to clean heating by 2050, in line with the UK's net-zero ambitions.
- 2035 gives time for the upfront cost of heat pumps to fall and for running costs to improve. We've already seen evidence of falling costs – [DESNZ statistics](#) show an 11% real terms reduction in installation costs since the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#) was launched in 2022, while running costs can be improved immediately by reducing electricity prices and moving social and environmental levies into general taxation.

Economic Opportunities

- *Commit to Clean Heat* would create a surge in demand for workers in the heat pump industry, with an estimated [120,000 skilled, full-time workers](#) needed to meet demand by 2035.
- The existing workforce needs the policy certainty to transition and reskill. In England alone, there are currently around [76,000 roles](#) with relevant skillsets.

- Britain is the [largest producer of gas boilers in Europe](#), and there is an opportunity to harness this expertise to produce heat pumps.
- Currently, [less than 40% of heat pumps sold in Britain are made in Britain](#), but the recent Warm Homes Plan (WHP) sets a [new target of at least 70%](#).
- Heat pumps are a key industry in the [Modern Industrial Strategy](#), which identified an export potential of up to £500 million per year. [HPA analysis](#) shows that manufacturing could expand by up to 27x by 2035 for the UK market alone.

Energy Security Amidst Uncertain Times

- Clean heating reduces exposure to global fossil fuel price shocks. As the UK decarbonises its electricity, clean heating can be largely homegrown and carbon-free.
- In 2025, [over 50% of UK electricity was generated by renewables](#). As renewable capacity expands, we should be using it to heat our homes.
- [Some UK households using heating oil have seen prices double](#) due to the war in the Middle East. Households off the gas grid have an even greater incentive to switch to Clean Heat.
- Although [only 5% of UK households use heating oil](#), [they account for 17% of air source and 23% of ground source heat pump installations under the BUS](#), demonstrating that off-gas-grid homes are already leading the transition.

Heat Pumps Power Home Decarbonisation

- Heat pumps can work effectively in UK homes [from all historic periods](#). The Government's [Warm Homes Plan](#) found that "traditionally constructed buildings" are not as difficult to decarbonise as often perceived, and most can be retrofitted without any major issues.
- [DESNZ figures](#) show that 14% of applicants to the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#) lived in homes built pre-1900, and 6% were in homes built from 1900 to 1929.

Public Support

- Recent polling from Savanta, commissioned by The MCS Foundation, found that:
 - Across England, Scotland and Wales:
 - **58%** of respondents would support a commitment to clean heat, ensuring all new heating systems have zero-carbon emissions from 2035.
 - **58% of MPs** also support a commitment to clean heat by 2035.

Further Information

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