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When the going gets tough…

The cost of living crisis is a huge story across much of the world at the moment and is being felt at every level of society. Rightly, much of the focus in the UK and the Republic of Ireland is on the most vulnerable in society, and how they can be protected from rising food and energy costs.

The impact is also being felt by businesses. In the heating sector it's had three main impacts. First, it has led to a reduction in demand from customers. It's understandable that when household budgets are squeezed, non-essential spending is cut back. However, some heating-related spend should be considered essential – for example annual servicing or replacing an appliance can no longer be safely repaired.

The second impact is the rising cost of raw materials. These price rises are eventually passed on to consumers because reputable businesses can only absorb so much, but this makes consumers even more reluctant to spend and makes the cowboys that are willing to cut corners more attractive.

The third impact is that businesses that are forced to tighten their belts will be reluctant to invest in new skills, or diversify into new technologies such as heat pumps, which risks slowing progress towards net zero. It's vital that government understands this danger and rethinks its policy ideas. Yes, heat pumps are needed, but solutions that are cheap and easy to implement – like HVO – will be popular with consumers and should also be supported. This is why many in industry now advocate a more technology-neutral approach – something OFTEC strongly supports.

Despite these problems, I remain optimistic. We must not underestimate the challenges, but the heating industry is extremely resilient. The recent Installer Show, at which OFTEC exhibited, showcased a dynamic and optimistic industry ready for the challenges of the future. As the old saying says, when the going gets tough…

Nick Hawkins

Chairman
OFTEC

OFTEC launches new autumn webinar program

In March, OFTEC held a webinar on the changes to Part L in England that came into effect in June. Since then, there have been significant changes to Part L in other parts of the UK too and it's important that all technicians understand the new changes and how they affect their work.

To help you get up to speed, OFTEC is hosting a new webinar at **6pm on 28 September 2022** to provide an overview of the changes to Part L throughout all the UK. The webinar will be led by freelance consultant, Joe Bath, and Kevin Steadman, OFTEC's Technical Manager.

The Part L changes have already had a substantial impact on the daily life of engineers in England. With changes now being rolled out elsewhere in the UK, don't miss this opportunity to get up to speed and what they mean for the future of the heating industry – as failing to do so could prove costly.

The Part L webinar is the first of our new autumn program. Other OFTEC webinars will be focused on:

Part L, calculation tools and an in-depth discussion with the directors behind the ingenious software that is Heat Engineer ltd. 19th October 2022, 6pm.

HVO and the Future Ready Fuel campaign, with a detailed look at the current trials and the future of HVO as a heating fuel. 21st November 2022, 6pm.

Look out for emails inviting you to join these exclusive events for OFTEC registered technicians.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oftec-webinar-series-2022-registration-406122121197

Staff changes at OFTEC

David Taylor

Simon Gray

Joe Bath

OFTEC is delighted to welcome David Taylor, who has joined as an independent inspector for Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. A former president of the Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation and training consultant for C.I.T.B and South Eastern Regional Colleges, David has vast experience in the heating industry, making him a valuable addition to OFTEC's inspection team. During his spare time David is a member of Bangor Rugby Football Club and, outside the rugby season, he enjoys fly fishing and golf.

OFTEC also welcomed Simon Gray to the OFTEC team as training officer. Simon has considerable experience of training and mentoring gained in a career spanning 24 years in medical services. He has achieved numerous competencies and qualifications and his knowledge and expertise will be extremely useful as OFTEC develops its training options for renewable heating technologies. Simon and his girlfriend Tina recently celebrated the birth of their new son, Sean, to their growing family. Simon enjoys family time and hobbies including movies, music, and Formula 1.

OFTEC said farewell to technical manager, Joe Bath, who has left his role to start his own consultancy business. We wish him every success in this new venture and are delighted that he will continue to undertake special projects for OFTEC.

The InstallerSHOW, what an event that was!

In June, OFTEC exhibited at the annual InstallerSHOW – the UK's biggest heating, plumbing and electrical trade show – which took place at the UK's top exhibition venue, the NEC, Birmingham. The show had doubled in size from previous years with over 300 of the industry's leading innovators in heat, water, air, and energy exhibiting.

The show was a huge success for OFTEC. The exhibition stand was very busy at all times, with many engaging conversations with registered technicians, industry experts and novices alike.

OFTEC used the event to officially launch its new heat pump training courses and assessments to the industry, at what is an exciting time for OFTEC and the renewable sector. The exhibition stand also showcased OFTEC's role as a one-stop registration solution for all non-gas heating technicians, whether working in traditional or renewable technologies.

Alongside the registration and training information, OFTEC also had information about its work on renewable liquid fuels such as HVO, and the role they can play in decarbonising off grid homes.

Paul Rose, OFTEC CEO, said: "InstallerSHOW gave us access to thousands of industry professionals at a time when we were launching an important new service. Our aim in exhibiting was to promote the highest professional and technical standards for technicians and businesses working in the industry and, in doing so, support the needs of heating users across the UK. Heat pumps will have an important role to play in the future of heating, so I'm pleased we can play our part by offering our new high quality training course. I'm confident there will also be a significant role for renewable liquid fuels, so it was great to be able to highlight the need for a technology inclusive heat policy."

The event was such a success that OFTEC has already booked to attend again in 2023.

OFTEC's annual conference strikes a positive note for liquid fuels

In June, OFTEC held its annual mini-conference, this year hosted alongside the InstallerSHOW at the NEC in Birmingham. It was the first face-to-face conference OFTEC has held since the Covid pandemic and the event provided the perfect opportunity to review the current heat policy situation, and the development of renewable liquid fuels such as HVO to replace kerosene. Even the national rail strike failed to dampen the enthusiasm of delegates, which for the first time included registered technicians as well as trade association members.

OFTEC chairman, Nick Hawkins, welcomed delegates and set the scene for the day, which featured four presentations, each focused on a different aspect of the decarbonisation story.

Paul Rose, OFTEC CEO provided an update on the current heat policy position across the UK and Republic of Ireland, while OFTEC technical director, Andy Mathews gave a presentation on the ongoing HVO demonstration project. This was followed by a report on the Future Ready Fuel campaign by Malcolm Farrow, OFTEC's head of public affairs, and a video recorded by two participants on the HVO fuel trial. The conference finished with a presentation by Ken Cronin, CEO of UKIFDA. Ken reported on new research into the availability of feedstocks used in the manufacture of HVO and other renewable liquid fuels.

The overall impact of the presentations was extremely positive, highlighting the opportunity for our industry to support the decarbonisation agenda by using renewable liquid fuels.

See article on p15 for more information on this very positive research.

OFTEC compliance update

OFTEC's compliance team works hard to ensure that all registered businesses and technicians uphold the highest standards. However, each quarter a few are suspended or have their registration revoked. This can be for various reasons and means they no longer have the right to display themselves as OFTEC registered. From 15 April 2022 – 15 June 2022 there was a total of 78 suspended while seven businesses had their membership revoked. Businesses have the right to appeal decisions made by OFTEC

Company No.	Business Name
500339	Thompson Plumbing & Heating
12944	Hall's Plumbing & Heating Ltd
103076	Simon Crossley
101994	L&H Plumbing & Heating (SW) Ltd
103718	JWS Plumbing & Heating
103447	Direct Plumbing & Heating

United Kingdom End to End cycle ride for Parkinson's UK

Paul Sharpe recently retired from OFTEC, having worked in several significant roles at different times since the early 2000s, and was a part of the fabric of the company. Paul decided as his first adventure after retirement, that he was going to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats with his son Ben, to raise awareness and raise funds for Parkinson's UK. Paul's friend Bryen has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's and Paul wanted to raise some money for the Parkinson's UK cause.

The epic ride was nearly 950 miles long. It started in Cornwall at the country's most south westerly point. It then went up through Wales and the Lake District before entering Scotland. there was a ride up the Great Glen, past Loch Ness, before ending at John O'Groats, the most northern point of mainland UK. They ended up riding for 13 consecutive days, averaging 80 miles a day and were on their bikes for about 6.5 to 7 hours a day. On some days the rides were much longer as it depended on the weather and road conditions. Riding so continuously meant that they had to take in about 3500 calories a day while still riding, a challenge I think we can all agree on!

Paul and Ben originally set out to raise £900 for the Parkinson's charity but once the ride was complete, they discovered that they had raised over £3500, a very grand achievement. Everyone at OFTEC congratulates both Paul and Ben and agrees that, after retirement, we may all start with a first adventure that's a little bit easier!

If you wish to contribute to Paul and Ben's fundraising effort, go to https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-and-paul-sharpe

£15m fleet investment

Wolseley is investing over £15 million in its commercial fleet, with more than 200 new vehicles equipped with industry-leading features such as, the latest camera and weighing technology, together with driver behaviour tracking.

The new vehicles, which are being introduced over the next 12 months, also provide better fuel consumption, helping to reduce carbon emissions. They will be used to deliver stock to Wolseley branches across the UK.

The new Wolseley commercial fleet includes 88 Mercedes Sprinter vans, 51 Volvo 26-tonne trucks, 57 DAF trucks – which range from 7.5 tonne to 18 tonne – and seven DAF XF next generation 44-tonne trucks.

Feedback from Wolseley drivers, who are enjoying the improved specifications – which include automatic gear boxes, air conditioning, and a higher spec interior – has already been positive.

Alan Newton, head of transport at Wolseley, said: "Driver safety and the safety of other road users is paramount to Wolseley and played a major part in deciding the new vehicles for our commercial fleet. All our new vehicles are fitted with the latest camera technology and driver behaviour tracking to ensure that all journeys are as safe as possible." www.wolseley.co.uk.

Grant wins big at National ACR & Heat Pump Awards

Grant UK scooped two awards at the National ACR & Heat Pump Awards. The company's Aerona³ R32 air source heat pump range was awarded Heat Pump Product of the Year while its 'With You on the Journey' marketing campaign won the award for Marketing Initiative of the Year.

The Aerona³ R32 air source heat pump range was announced as Heat Pump Product of the Year, acknowledging its excellent efficiencies, compact designs and installer friendly features. Grant's fourth generation of air source heat pumps, the Aerona³ is incredibly versatile, allowing installers to select the installation method that best suits their customer's requirements, whether that be using a low loss header, a buffer or plate heat exchanger. This flexibility combined with its A+++ ErP rating and seven-year guarantees through the G1 Scheme has made the Aerona³ a popular choice with heat pump installers.

Grant's second award of the night was for Marketing Initiative of the Year which was won by its 'With You on the Journey' customer support campaign. With the future of the heating industry set to transform over the coming years, Grant wants all its customers to feel supported as they transition into a low carbon future. The campaign serves to help customers on their journey to net zero, providing support at every stage with Grant's products and services.

"We feel immensely proud to have won two awards at an event which celebrated and recognised so many great people, products and services, comments Kevin Ellis, Grant's renewables sales manager. The Aerona³ range winning Heat Pump of the Year is a huge achievement – the product delivers reliable, efficient and sustainable home heating for our customers and this award acknowledges these benefits and so much more.

"The award for Marketing Initiative of the Year is one for the whole team here at Grant," continues Kevin. "All our staff are focused on helping customers with the support they need to change to a lower carbon future – whether that is in the form of products, training, design and beyond, Grant is here for all customers on their journey to net zero. To have this campaign recognised with an industry-leading award is something we can all take home and be proud of."

TG Lynes gives Enfield good causes £15k boost

Enfield-based charities, community groups, clubs and sports teams have been given a chance to secure a helping hand through a share of a £15,000 community fund.

Heating, plumbing and air movement materials supplier, TG Lynes launched its Helping Hands campaign over summer to help good causes make improvements to their facilities.

Groups close to the company's Enfield headquarters were invited to apply for support throughout July. The winner will secure £10,000 worth of product and labour to breathe fresh life into their buildings or facilities, while the runner-up will receive £5,000 worth of product and labour.

TG Lynes' Enfield HQ

Martin Hastings, managing director at TG Lynes, said: "We are thrilled to be launching Helping Hands and to be throwing our support behind good causes in Enfield.

"Funding is extremely tough for many charities and clubs at the moment as they battle rising expenses and the cost of living crisis. This support will make a tremendous difference to our two winners.

"As a business, we are committed to operating sustainably. Of course, that means reducing our carbon footprint, but it's also vitally important to us that we play a positive role in the local community.

"Our people are regularly involved in helping good causes improve their facilities. Helping Hands will allow us to take that support to the next level as we celebrate our 110th anniversary of serving the trade." www.tglynes.co.uk

ASCP accolade for FlueSnug

FlueSnug has won the Product of the Year Award 2022 for Safety, Energy Efficiency and Wellbeing at the ASCP Safety and Compliance Awards.

PipeSnug directors Alex Lever and Chris Burdett collect their award from Matt Isherwood of PH Jones.

ASCP UK provides a wide range of services and benefits to people responsible for managing wider safety and compliance issues across the social housing and facilities management sector and therefore the award is an important accolade for FlueSnug.

In a tough category, the product caught the eye of the judges for its simple, cost effective and energy efficient sealing around all 100mm boiler flues. Approved by major boiler manufacturers and installed in seconds, FlueSnug is the quickest, and most cost-effective way to comply with Part L of the Building Regulations, which now mandates the need for pipe collars or grommets onto a pipe where it enters or exits a home, helping to maintain the energy efficiency of the building.

"We are absolutely delighted to win this important award and our entry showed that FlueSnug can make a real difference to social housing building maintenance and compliance teams," says Alex Lever, PipeSnug director. "Using FlueSnug meets the Building Regulation requirements, saves heat escaping and cold air entering a property and saves money as it is far quicker than traditional pointing methods. We believe it is a transformative product in so many ways."

Traditionally boiler flues require pointing with sand and cement, which can weather over time and become porous to the elements. Consequently, Building Regulations came into force in June 2022 which mandates the use of pipe seals where pipes enter and exit a building. Providing a solution for just this issue, FlueSnug can be installed in less than five seconds and snuggly fits the 152mm core-drilled hole in the wall through which the boiler pipe and flue exits.

FlueSnug can be used both inside and outside the property for the best finish and prevents heat escaping and acts as a barrier to drafts, damp, insects and pests. The product also allows installers to quickly access the flue for any service or maintenance requirements, without the need to remove existing brickwork, mortar or sealant. FlueSnug can then simply be reinstalled once complete so no need to make good again afterwards, saving even more time and cost for installers and disruption to social housing tenants.www.pipesnug.co.uk

Golfers putt in big effort for charity

A tee-rrific golf day organised by Enfield-based TG Lynes raised more than £1,300 for charity.

Heating, plumbing and air movement materials supplier, TG Lynes welcomed 49 players to the Marquees Course at the prestigious Woburn Golf Club for its annual Charity Golf Day. A raffle and a Beat the Pro Challenge was held as part of the event, raising a total of £1,370 for TG Lynes' charity of the year, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Laura Janaway, marketing manager at TG Lynes, said: "The Charity Golf Day is always one of the highlights of the fundraising and social calendar. This year was extra special as we mark our 110th anniversary and managed to raise more than ever before. A huge thank you to our generous and supportive suppliers who dug deep to raise a fantastic amount, which will make a big difference to Noah's Ark and the invaluable work the charity does."

TG Lynes added extra excitement to the day by offering players the chance to win a sparkling new Vauxhall Vivaro Van, worth £30,000,

if they scored a hole in one at the 176 yard 17th hole. There were also prizes up for grabs for an ace on the remaining par threes, including a three-night golf holiday.

Laura added: "Though no-one managed to hit a hole in one and win the van, the competition certainly added an extra buzz around tee shots on the 17th. One of our players won a £100 golf voucher as a competition winner but very generously donated the value back to our chosen charity."

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice provides support to babies, children and young people with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses across London.

Natasha Davis Whitehead, marketing and communications manager at Noah's Ark, said: "We're thrilled to be TG Lynes' charity partner and thank everyone for taking part in this wonderful golf day at one of England's most prestigious courses.

"Support from companies such as TG Lynes makes a very significant difference to the offering we can provide, particularly in the wake of the pandemic which has stretched the resources of all charities."

TG Lynes stocks industry-leading brands and supplies thousands of products including valves, steel and copper tubes and fittings, press systems, composite and plastic plumbing, drainage solutions and support systems and tooling. An extensive plant hire service is also available. tglynes.co.uk

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Strong demand for new OFTEC heat pump training courses

New courses are central to OFTEC's technology inclusive vision for the future of heating

OFTEC used the InstallerSHOW in June to launch its new heat pump training and assessments in the UK and set out a technology inclusive vision for decarbonising the off-grid sector.

The new training courses mean OFTEC technicians can equip themselves with the skills they need to install a wide range of non-gas technologies, from heat pumps to renewable liquid fuels and lead the way in the transition to low carbon heating.

The move is a key element in the trade association's vision for a technology inclusive approach to decarbonisation, which recognises the diverse nature of the UK's building stock and the need for multiple heating solutions to achieve net zero.

Working in collaboration with industry experts, the new heat pump training course and assessment package has been developed by a selected working group alongside MCS, including Grant UK, Panasonic, Vaillant, Nationwide Training, Cert-Ain Certification and ERS Certification, as representatives of seven UK-based accredited certification bodies.

The air source heat pump installation, commissioning, and servicing, and system design courses are already available. A further course covering ground source heat pump installation, commissioning and servicing will be available soon.

The courses incorporate theoretical and practical assessment across different heat pump products to give technicians the flexibility to install the technology. It will be delivered through OFTEC's existing network of training providers and most heating technicians should already hold the necessary skills and experience to meet the course pre-requisites.

Already, 9 training centres are offering the air source heat pump course, with many more expecting to join by the end of the year.

Having successfully completed the courses, technicians can apply for MCS certification to install heat pumps through government schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) or Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) and they will also be able to self-certify their own installations as being compliant with Building Regulations.

David Knipe, training manager at OFTEC, commented: "This is an exciting development for OFTEC and a natural progression as we continue to diversify the training that we provide so that heating technicians can futureproof their business. We fully support the UK's commitment to drive down emissions and heat pumps have an important role to play.

"At the same time, we recognise that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, and we can't rely on a single technology. Alongside heat pumps, renewable liquid fuels and solid biomass both have an important role to play, depending on the requirements of the building in question.

"Hybrid systems may become more mainstream in the future and a technician holding both OFTEC's liquid fuel and heat pump registrations will have a distinct advantage in obtaining additional work.

"If we want decarbonisation to succeed, we must be pragmatic and adopt a technology neutral approach to give consumers a fair choice in how they go green. OFTEC technicians can lead the way in supporting homes and businesses as they make this transition."

Lord Callanan visits Worcester Bosch

Worcester Bosch recently welcomed the Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility, to showcase recent developments in low-carbon heat.

Lord Callanan was shown around the company's headquarters and manufacturing plant by CEO Carl Arntzen, alongside local MP, Robin Walker, and saw first-hand the company's hydrogen-ready boiler and other low carbon heating alternatives such as heat pumps and hybrid technology.

The visit was a direct result of the manufacturer's written response to the Government publication, the Heat and Buildings Strategy, released in last October. The day included a tour of the company's headquarters, visiting manufacturing operations, research & development department, and the training department. The visit concluded with a roundtable discussion on the application of renewable heating products into the different house types that prevail in the UK.

Carl commented: "I was delighted to show Lord Callanan around the factory and present to him some of the ground-breaking technology we have developed to support the move towards a low carbon future."
www.worcester-bosch.co.uk

New appointment for Hounsfield Boilers

James Pastfield – Hounsfield's new sales manager

Hounsfield Boilers has appointed James Pastfield as its new sales manager, ready for the company to expand further into the HVO market.

Previously a sales director at Longfield Media, James has a proven track record in sales, advertising and marketing. He also has an engineering background, studying motor vehicle engineering at college before switching to sales. It's this combination of experience that will help James spearhead the company's sales development.

James is excited for the new challenge: "Hounsfield Boilers is an innovative company which has led the way on HVO, and there are no better engineered oil boilers on the market. I enjoy the sales environment, talking with existing customers, bringing in new ones, understanding the customer needs and quickly getting on first name terms with them. Hounsfield has great products and I will enjoy helping the company grow."

Andrew Hounsfield, managing director, Hounsfield Boilers, added: "James is a fantastic addition to the team, he shares our passion to produce the best high-quality boilers that will last many years and be fuelled in a sustainable way, namely HVO."
www.hounsfieldboilers.co.uk.

Worcester Bosch scoops two awards

Worcester Bosch has been recognised for two awards at the ASCP Conference & Exhibition Awards. The company took home the Customer Service Award, as well as receiving highly commended for Product of the Year Award for its 7001iAW Air to water heat pump.

The manufacturer won its Customer Service Award for its Safe in Your Home Installer Campaign, which launched during the first national lockdown. It provided support to installers across the UK to ensure that both they and their customers felt safe during home visits, as well as further digital assets being available online.

Released at the end of last year, the 7001iAW air to water heat pump was awarded with the highly commended Product of the Year Award. The 7001iAW plays a crucial part in the manufacturer's commitment to move towards the development of greener technologies to help achieve net-zero carbon by 2050.

Martyn Bridges, director of technical services at Worcester Bosch, commented: "It's a privilege to be acknowledged for both our heat pump offering and our customer service.

"We pride ourselves in always pushing to surpass our current standards so we are extremely happy to be able to share this award, with both our staff and our customers, and will use it as a benchmark to continue pushing forward as the industry ever-evolves and progresses."
www.worcester-bosch.co.uk

Double appointment for Grant

Grant UK has welcomed a new area sales manager and sales support engineer to its team, both providing product support to engineers, merchants and specifiers out in the field.

Steven Paton is the new area sales manager for Perth, Kinross, Fife, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Moray, the Highlands and the Scottish Isles. Meanwhile, providing renewables technical support in the Midlands and East of England is new sales support engineer, Rob Dyer, who is working throughout the counties between Sussex and Norfolk and from Lincolnshire to Cheshire.

Steven has been involved in the heating and plumbing industry for 19 years, starting out as an apprentice, completing his Level 3 Mechanical Plumbing Apprenticeship before gaining his qualifications in commercial gas, LPG, oil and renewables. Throughout his career, Steven has been an engineer for a local plumbing and heating company, worked for a national energy provider, and was self-employed for seven years, running his own business, before working for a gas boiler manufacturer in technical product management. Over the years, Steven has regularly worked with Grant oil boilers and, more recently, has been involved in projects involving Aerona^3 air source heat pumps.

Steven Paton

Rob has been working in the heating industry for over 20 years. He began his career by specialising in controls wiring, working on large HVAC systems for commercial properties including Canary Wharf, Kings College Hospital, The Gherkin and Oxford University. Rob later moved into the domestic and commercial renewables sector working for an installation company, starting as an installer before going onto manage installations and becoming its MCS nominated technical person in biomass, solar PV, solar thermal and air source heat pump technologies. More recently, Rob set up his own company which provided maintenance solutions for renewable technologies as well as carrying out installations, many of which were Grant biomass, heat pump and solar thermal systems.

"I am looking forward to working with G1 installers, merchants and new customers, providing them with the sales and product support they need," commented Steven. "It is an exciting time to be in the heating industry with the transition to renewables and working towards the net zero targets ahead of us, and I am looking forward to taking this journey with our customers as part of the Grant team."

Rob added: "What I am looking forward to the most is helping people out. In my previous role, my work was focused around helping consumers and the end-user but as Grant's new sales support engineer, I will be able to help installers, sharing my experience and knowledge with them and giving them the confidence to be able to make the move from installing oil or gas boilers into confidently installing heat pumps."
www.grantuk.com.

Rob Dyer

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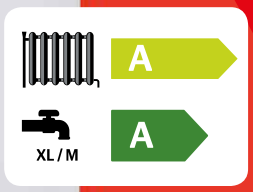

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www.warmflow.co.uk

Future Ready Fuel campaign update

The Future Ready Fuel campaign celebrated its first anniversary with a dramatic increase in visitors to the website. The number of site visitors shot up in April from an average of around 5,000 a month to almost 20,000 – and the number visiting has remained consistently high since then.

It's clear that the campaign message about the benefits of HVO are getting through, so we would like to thank everyone who has taken part so far. It's also clear that news of the Government's plans for off-gas grid decarbonisation are starting to reach rural households, encouraging them to search for information and leading them to visit the Future Ready Fuel site. In that sense, we can say that the publication of the Heat and Buildings Strategy has actually helped us. Many of the visitors to the site are filling in the questionnaire and downloading the MP letter, so they're clearly concerned about the Government's plans.

However, OFTEC's head of public affairs, Malcolm Farrow, re-emphasised how important it is for registered technicians to get involved in the campaign: "Just because we are making progress does not mean we can yet be certain about the future for liquid fuels. As we said in the summer issue of Oil Installer, we need as many registered technicians as possible to step up and support the campaign. With the new heating season looming, it's now or never basically.

"The installation of new fossil fuel oil boilers could be banned from 2026, so if you want a liquid fuel future for your business and your customers, act now!"

Order some of our free leaflets, give them to your customers, and tell them to sign up for news on the Future Ready Fuel website and write to their MP. It's people power that will get the Government to see sense, and we'll only succeed if we put maximum pressure on MPs."

Things you can do:

1. Give all your customers a copy of the Future Ready Fuel flyer – it's available as print or electronic version – simply contact the OFTEC marketing team by email marketing@oftec.org and we'll send it to you.
2. Download the Future Ready Fuel asset package and show your support on social media and websites.
3. Put links to the Future Ready Fuel campaign www.futurereadyfuel.info on your website.
4. Follow the Future Ready Fuel campaign on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and like the posts.
5. Display the 'I'm supporting the Future Ready Fuel campaign' logo on your website and social media channels.
6. Write to your MP – there's a draft letter ready for you to personalise and send – just contact the OFTEC marketing team using the email above and we'll send it to you.

Look out for the green house logo!

To support our industry as we begin to prepare for the deployment of HVO at scale, OFTEC has developed a suite of logos to support the campaign for renewable liquid fuels. The new logos enable manufacturers to label and promote that their products are compatible with HVO. The logos are based on the existing Future Ready Fuel logo so that a brand consistency can be achieved with the broader campaign for renewable liquid fuels.

Several variants are available, all featuring a house and droplet symbol, with the words HVO or HVO ready. Future Ready Fuel campaign supporter logos are also available for registered technicians to use. Simply contact OFTEC's marketing team to order yours now.

New research finds Renewable Liquid Fuel availability will far outweigh potential demand

In its Heat and Buildings Strategy, the Government stated that renewable liquid fuels like HVO may have a role to play in decarbonising off-grid homes, providing there is sufficient fuel to meet all both heat and transport requirements.

This question of availability has now been answered by a major new report by Portland Analytics, commissioned by the UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association (UKIFDA) on behalf of the Future Ready Fuel campaign. The research analysed projected feedstocks in Europe and North America and found that the potential availability of Renewable Liquid Fuels (RLFs) will far outweigh potential demand by 2030. The gap created means that there will be more than enough RLF to heat the off-grid homes in the UK currently using heating oil, enabling them to cut their carbon emissions by up to 88%.

Commenting on the new report, Ken Cronin, UKIFDA CEO, said "The industry commissioned this report to confirm whether there would be enough renewable liquid fuel from sustainable sources to cover the total demand – it firmly confirms that to be the case."

Paul Rose, OFTEC CEO, added "We are now calling on government to urgently work with the industry to remove the remaining barrier to allow up to 1.7m "hard to treat" oil heated homes in the UK to decarbonise by extending the current (RTFO) system, that reduces consumer prices for RLFs in transport and aviation to rural home heating."

At this stage it is unclear how quickly replacement renewable liquid fuels for heating can be rolled out in the UK. Determining factors include UK government policy and the extent of the penetration of heat pumps in the predominantly "hard to treat" rural housing stock currently on heating oil. A conservative estimate would be that 50% of homes could be converted by 2030, which matches the timescales of this study. This would require approximately 1 Mtoe per annum, between 0.4% and 0.5% of projected renewable liquid fuel production in Europe and North America.

Alongside HVO, the report also looked at other renewable liquid fuels that are currently in development. While these fuels are not yet being produced at commercial scale, the rapid growth in the HVO market provides dramatic evidence of how quickly this can change. HVO production from 2013 to 2020 increased from 2.2m metric tonnes to 6.2m and forecasts suggest that European production of HVO is expected to increase to 11.30m tonnes by 2025 and in the USA to 12.6m tonnes. Total world production is expected to reach almost 30m tonnes by 2025 – 14 times that in 2013.

OFTEC and UKIFDA will continue to monitor developments closely so look out for news in future issues of Oil Installer.

Support for MCS certification costs in Scotland

The Scottish Government, in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, has announced the MCS certification fund – a new grant scheme to support Scottish businesses and installers who are working in the low carbon and energy efficiency sector and need to scale up their business to meet anticipated demand in renewable low carbon heating systems.

This comes after the Scottish Government released its Heat in Buildings Strategy for achieving net zero emissions in Scottish buildings. This stated that, by 2045, all Scottish homes and buildings must have significantly reduced their energy use, and almost all buildings will need to switch to a zero-emissions heating system such as a heat pump. At current rates around 3,000 households per year install low and zero emission heating, but this needs to grow rapidly with at least 64,000 per year in 2025 and to peak at over 200,000 per year in the late 2020s according to the Energy Saving Trust.

The scheme will aid this increase in installers by providing a grant of up to 75% towards the MCS certification fees (first year fees) for air, ground or water source heat pumps. The scheme is on a first-come-first-served basis, however, and the funding is capped, so will only be available until the end of March 2023 or the funds run out, whichever is sooner.

To be eligible to apply for the scheme, you must:

- Be an SME in accordance with European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (i.e. have fewer than 250 FTE employees and a turnover not exceeding £42 million) and/or a balance sheet total not exceeding £36 million.
- Have at least one registered office in Scotland.
- Conduct heating installations in Scotland.
- Not be currently MCS certified for any kind of heat pump technology.

To find out more information and specific details of the scheme then please visit the Energy Savings Trust website https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/

MCS: Heat pumps, standards, and becoming MCS certified (energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Doing our bit for the environment

Until recently, for every one of the nearly 50,000 installation work notifications made to OFTEC every year, 50,000 individual consumer certificates were produced, printed, and dispatched via the OFTEC administration team.

To make our self-certification system environmentally friendly, last year we introduced an option for certificates to be emailed to your customers within 24 hours of you completing your notification.

Currently, 50% of certificates are now being emailed, with the homeowner receiving an electronic copy which they can print, or store on their PC.

Our aim is to have all certificates emailed to consumers in the future, cutting down on the amount of paper used, and enabling OFTEC to take a significant step to being more efficient. We would encourage you to do your bit for the environment and make use of this new electronic feature.

Unfortunately, consumer certificates cannot be emailed to you as Building Regulations require that they are sent direct to the homeowner/occupier, but you can obtain a copy free of charge via your OFTEC portal account once the local authority has been notified.

If, some time down the road, the homeowner needs a copy then you can retrieve this from your account on the OFTEC website portal, or they can use the certificate find service in the consumer area of our website https://www.oftec.org/consumers/order-certificates

Next time you submit a work notification look out for the homeowner email box to be completed.

The heat pump ball is starting to roll, oil installers must seize the opportunity

At the end of June the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) 2022 Monitoring Framework report was published, tracking the Government's progress in meeting carbon reduction targets. The report states that heat pumps are likely to provide the majority of heat supply in the future, which, says Griff Thomas from GTEC, is a golden opportunity for oil installers.

"According to the CCC report, the Government estimates that 80% of the 2030's workforce is already in employment, i.e. the existing pool of building services tradespeople are integral to future heat pump demand; an exciting proposition for OFTEC registered installers already trained or planning to upskill," says Griff.

"In the past, oil installers have expressed concern about the Government's singular focus on heat pumps, which may not be suitable for hard-to-treat homes where high heat loss or poor grid connection mean renovations would be too costly to justify.

"However, heat pumps are expected to meet the lion's share of heating demand from new builds from 2025 – including those in off-grid locations. A recent BEIS study found that heat pumps – air source, ground source and hybrid models – are suitable for most properties, regardless of age or era.

"Heat pump deployment is underway and last year saw a 47% increase in installations compared to the previous year, presenting business opportunities for oil installers to expand their services, covering all bases for rural heating demand, now and in the future.

"With momentum building, these are the factors at play:

BUS is an initial push, not the answer to mass deployment

"The report states that there were 54,000 new heat pump installations in domestic dwellings across the UK in 2021, marking a 47% increase on the previous year. Looking forward, the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) will replace 30,000 fossil fuels heating systems per annum for the next three years. It's clear from these figures that a significant number of installations are not reliant on any grant funding.

"Rather than a policy for mass deployment, the BUS is an initial step in building consumer confidence and developing the market. It's part of a long-term response that secures a 'holding pattern' ahead of 2025, following which we can expect to see some meaningful policies designed to hit the 2028 target of 600,000 heat pumps a year.

A reduction in upfront costs is essential for long-term success

"Cost is a great barrier to heat pump installation, but why is it so expensive to buy a heat pump? There are two factors at play here, small production runs and the cost of R&D.

"R&D is a significant investment with any new technology which manufacturers must recoup. To facilitate essential R&D, the Government is providing £60 million of funding through the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP) to improve the efficiency of heat pump manufacturing and develop 'smart grid ready' products.

"These smart capabilities, combined with an increase in demand driven in-part by the market-based mechanism from 2024, will see the supply chain stabilise and upfront costs significantly reduced (25% – 50%) before 2030.

Running costs must achieve parity with fossil fuel systems

"Oil may be less expensive than electric but a heat pump will produce around four times the amount of heat per kWh compared to the most energy efficient oil-fired boilers, and far more than older systems.

"The CCC suggests removing levies from electricity which would directly reduce heat pump running costs. But crucially, to achieve true parity, all heat pumps need to be intelligent enough to communicate with the smart network, which would allow consumers to take advantage of reduced rate 'heat pump tariffs'.

"There is so much money being pumped into this area and I believe we will see vast improvements in heat pump connectivity well before 2028.

Thousands of skilled heat pump installers needed!

"The heat pump deployment challenge is a golden opportunity for existing heating installers, who will make up the bulk of the future workforce. Progress is set to scale-up rapidly over the next few years as policies and technological developments accelerate the low-carbon sector forward. Thousands of new heat pump installers are required to deliver this large-scale change – it's time for oil installers to get excited about the future."

GTEC delivers heat pump training courses at locations throughout the UK, for more information visit: www.gtec.co.uk

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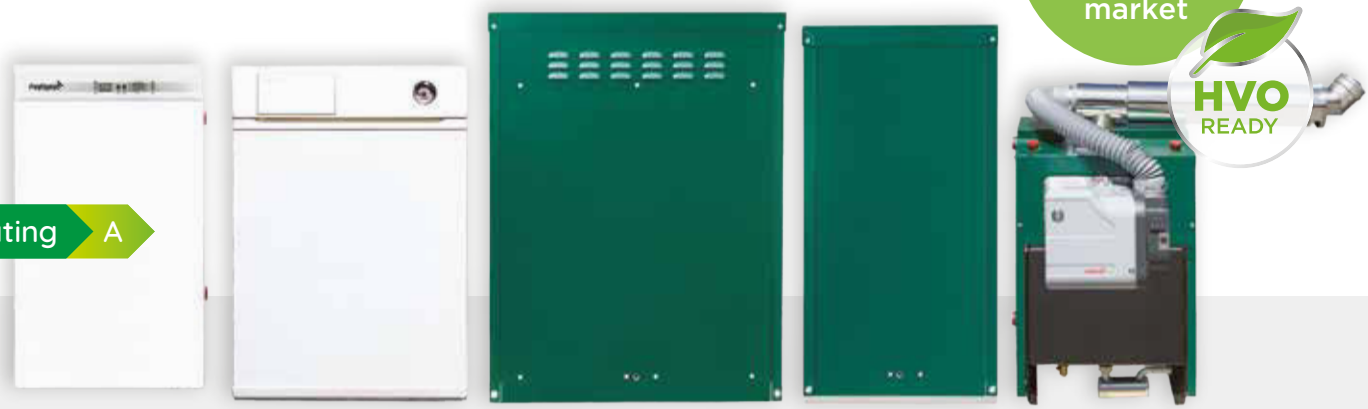

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New fuels could play an important role as government policy evolves

Generations of Irish families have relied on oil to heat their homes; indeed, nearly 700,000 homes in the Republic have oil-fired heating systems.[1]

That is almost four in every ten households, and OFTEC's members play a crucial role in supporting these customers and helping to reduce their carbon emissions. Every year, industry personnel carry out around 20,000 boiler upgrades, each of which can reduce CO2 emissions by almost 25%.

The Irish Government has rightly set ambitious climate action targets aimed at making the country carbon neutral by 2050.

Unfortunately, up until recently, political leaders were slow to recognise the important role which the liquid fuel sector can play in achieving this goal. As a result, progress in meeting targets has been slow.

The Climate Action Plan, for example, includes a commitment to retrofitting 500,000 homes by 2030.[2] Yet while 75,000 retrofits will be needed each year to reach this target, just 15,500 energy upgrades were completed in 2021.[3]

With the average cost of a full-scale deep retrofit amounting to €56,000,[4] even with government grants covering 50% of the cost, this option remains out of the reach of many hard-pressed families who are now being hit with ever-increasing fuel and carbon taxes.

In spite of the abundant evidence showing that the current approach is not working, the Irish Government has been reluctant to move away from the one-size-fits-all policy of pushing for massive deep retrofitting without thoroughly examining the other decarbonisation pathways.

Viable options do exist, however, options that could deliver significant emissions reductions of up to 86% at an affordable price.

Biofuels should be a crucial part of Ireland's policy for cutting emissions in the home heating sector, as they are already demonstrating their worth in other areas like transportation, where the Biofuels Obligation Scheme – recently expanded by the Environment Minister, Eamon Ryan – results in massive carbon emissions savings each year.[5]

Kevin McPartlan (FFI), David Blevings (OFTEC) and Nick Hayes (UKIFDA) outside the Dáil.

As previously reported, OFTEC recently joined forces with other organisations in the sector to launch the Alliance for Zero Carbon Heating.

As part of our work, we have been highlighting the evidence supporting the introduction of a fresh approach – including research by AECOM, showing that a switch from oil to a bioliquid blend could reduce emissions more than switching to a heat pump, and in a manner which is far cheaper.[6]

Not only has the Alliance been working to increase public awareness, we have also been bringing these issues to the attention of Irish politicians. This is starting to achieve real results, as the Irish Government begins to seriously consider the range of options for creating a greener future.

Following a recent meeting with the Rural Independent Group, the need for biofuels to become part of the home heating mix was raised with the Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, who conceded that "biofuels definitely have a role to play" in meeting our energy needs, while adding that there is "space for other solutions" in home heating.[7]

In 2021, the Irish Government launched a consultation on the introduction of a Renewable Heat Obligation which would require the use of renewable fuels in the heating sector. In our submission, the Alliance strongly supported the move.[8] Minister Ryan is due to make a decision on this soon,[9] and he recently noted that there are "a range of renewable energies that could be used to meet the obligation including bioliquids."[10]

The tide appears to be turning, and as government policy evolves, OFTEC and our partners will work to ensure that all options are on the table, so that all Irish households can make a contribution towards a better and more sustainable future for everyone.

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Navien helps heat Scottish family home

When an old, inefficient, atmospheric boiler at a family home in Coalburn, South Lanarkshire began to fail, a replacement was needed to ensure the three-bedroom, semi-detached property had sufficient heating and hot water. The homeowners consulted their local installer and, as a result, an external Navien LCB700 Blue Flame oil boiler was deemed the ideal upgrade.

The Navien boiler (and accompanying Smart Plus control) was fitted by Lanark-based, John Grainger Plumbing & Heating. Once the system was up and running outside the property, the new blue flame A+ rated oil boiler with Smart Plus technology proved to be extremely economical and efficient.

Commenting on the boilers, John Grainger, owner of John Grainger Plumbing & Heating, said: "I was already familiar with Navien, having read up on them and seen some product demonstrations. The LCB700 is a well-manufactured boiler, and it was the perfect choice for this project, especially as it was to be sited outside the house, which meant a robust and reliable unit was required."

He added: "In terms of the installation itself, the LCB700 boiler was lightweight and easily manoeuvrable, while there was also good access to all the parts and components inside. Everything was very straightforward, while Navien helped a lot, providing plenty of assistance and support throughout."

The Navien LCB700 Blue Flame oil boiler uses the latest blue flame burner technology to ensure the highest standards of performance and energy efficiency. Benefitting from ultralight lift weights from 58kg, all units utilise stainless steel heat exchangers and 60/100mm plastic flues. In addition, the boiler boasts low NOx emissions of only 57mg/kWh and achieves a superb ErP A+ (98%) efficiency when used with 3 Smart Plus Room thermostats.

John continued: "The Navien LCB700 boiler is an excellent product. Its blue flame technology definitely offers something different – I think it's a fantastic concept likely to be widely embraced even more in the future. Once I heard about it, I wanted to get involved; it's such a new style of boiler and burner, with some great technological advances, you can't help but be impressed. For this particular job, the previous boiler was 20 years old and so inefficient, so the LCB700 should help the family save money on their fuel bills."

Navien's Smart Plus Control Pack was also installed alongside the oil boiler. Smart Plus helps to improve energy efficiency and reduce running costs. In fact, when the LCB700 Blue Flame range is connected to the Smart Plus Control Pack, it delivers an A+ energy rating, as well as simple control of up to three zones, for the very latest in-home comfort.

Homeowner, Greg Gormley was certainly impressed with the new heating system: "The Smart Plus controls are intelligent, mobile and easy to use, while the boiler heats the house very well – the blue flame technology has had a positive effect indeed. What's more, the unit itself looks a million dollars, so we are over the moon. The ten-year warranty from Navien is definitely a bonus as well, providing us with extra peace of mind, while the aftersales support I've received from the company has been amazing; the whole Navien team has been great from the outset, I'd wholeheartedly recommend them."
www.navien.co.uk

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1. According to expected future ERP regulations
2. New flame sensing system launching in 2021
3. For models with high efficiency electric motors

Grant UK streamlines Vortex oil boiler range

Grant UK has streamlined its Vortex oil-fired boiler range, consolidating a number of existing models to make ordering products easier and more straightforward.

Grant's oil boiler range originally featured 63 models across its internal, external, floor standing, wall hung, boiler house and combi sub-ranges. In total, 20 Vortex Pro internal, Pro outdoor, Pro system and Boiler House models were consolidated down to 10 new models. For example, its Vortex Pro Utility 15-21kW and Vortex Pro Utility 15-26kW were consolidated into one model – the Vortex 15-26kW. The range of heating outputs available in the Pro range will remain the same so installers will still have the choice and flexibility that they expect from Grant oil boilers.

The range consolidation is not affecting all Grant boilers and the following models will remain unchanged: all Vortex Combi models

(internal & external); all Vortex Eco floor standing models (utility, external & system); Vortex Eco Wall Hung 16-21kW models (internal, external & system); and all VortexBlue blue flame models. In addition, the 12-16kW Vortex Eco Wall Hung models (internal, external and system) are being discontinued.

"The streamlining of our Vortex yellow-flame oil boiler range follows many discussions here at Grant," comments managing director, Paul Wakefield.

"We have always strived to give our customers choice when it comes to Grant products, which has resulted in the exciting growth of our product portfolio and it is one of the reasons why we developed 63 oil boiler models. However, we have identified that we can still deliver this choice to our customers while reducing the number of boiler models we supply. The Vortex consolidation will still provide customers with models with outputs ranging from 15kW up to 70kW and the consolidated boilers will be the same trusted Vortex technology that installers know and love."

To summarise the range consolidation, Grant has produced a useful download which details the Vortex models currently available alongside their new consolidated, equivalent models. This can be downloaded from www.grantuk.com/professional/support/manuals-brochures.

Royal superfan adds Jubilee boiler to her memorabilia collection

Royal warrant holder, Worcester Bosch surprised County Durham-based royalist, Anita Atkinson with a brand new, one-of-a-kind 'Jubilee' edition oil boiler, to help mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The boiler has a specially designed front that commemorates the Platinum Jubilee and was installed free-of-charge by Karl and Ross Hawes of local heating and plumbing company, KH Heating.

Mrs Atkinson is a self-confessed fanatical monarchist having curated a vast and extensive collection of around 12,000 pieces of royal memorabilia, that she displays in her museum in a converted barn in Weardale, Country Durham. She received an unexpected call from Worcester Bosch and was thrilled to hear that she would be getting her very own royal-themed boiler to add to her jaw-dropping collection.

Speaking of her new boiler, Anita said; "I was over the moon when Worcester Bosch got in contact with me. We've had our current Worcester boiler since 2006 so it was perfect timing for an upgrade. The Jubilee is all about community and coming together, so I also want to say thank you to KH

Heating for going above and beyond by installing the boiler."

Mrs Atkinson spent her jubilee weekend running a royal pop-up at a tearoom in Bishop Auckland. The event was held in collaboration with Bridge Creative, a social enterprise that creates opportunities that removes barriers to employment for adults with learning disabilities.

Vic Billings, director of marketing commented; "It is a historic achievement for the Queen to reach seventy years of service to this country, and we're honoured to have been warming communities for sixty of those. To celebrate both the jubilee and our own birthday celebrations, we wanted to find someone who really embodied the spirit of the jubilee celebration and gift them something meaningful.

"Anita stood out thanks to the enthusiasm she has evidenced by her majestic collection of royal artifacts. The fact she displays them for all to enjoy and also undertakes so much local volunteering, we knew that she was the ideal person for this giveaway."

Push ahead with HVO, says Riello

Riello is calling for the oil heating industry to push for faster government action on the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in oil burners. The call comes soon after the extension of trials with HVO as a replacement for kerosene and gas oil.

"We all know that there are now 'HVO-ready' burners on the market to future proof new installations, but we mustn't lose sight of the tens of thousands of oil burners already in use," urges Riello's Graham Barker. "These will need an easy switch from fossil fuel to the chosen alternative – with HVO seen as the preferred choice," he adds.

"At Riello we are fully behind the drive to renewable heating, but when it comes to oil-fired equipment, we need to change government's viewpoint that existing oil-fired heating systems are the 'low hanging fruit' that can be easily picked' to convert to electrification. We must emphasise how these systems can provide substantial carbon savings by switching to HVO, at an affordable cost to end users.

"Given the current record levels of high inflation and the cost of living crisis, the Government's priority should be on assisting consumers with their energy costs while also driving carbon reduction. If they continue on the current path of forcing a new technology of heating into off-grid homes, it will place further financial stress and burden on to homeowners, particularly in lower income areas, due to the very high upfront costs to correctly convert from an oil-fired heating system to a heat pump led system," Graham continues.

"The current government subsidies only cover approximately half of the upfront cost of the heat pump itself and do not take into consideration any of the upgrades required to the majority of off-grid homes to suit a heat pump installation. It is well documented that these costs can run into tens of thousands of pounds, and it would be the householder who has to bear these.

"This is a key issue as the suitability of the majority of housing stock currently using oil fired heating is not at the required efficiency levels to support a heat pump. For a heat pump system to be able to correctly maintain heating levels, many such properties would require considerable investment in their thermal insulation to make a switch to heat pumps viable," he notes.

A recent OFTEC survey of 1,000 rural properties showed 75% of respondents would be unlikely to consider heat pumps, even if government grants were available, because of the disruption of improving insulation. Moreover, between 600,000 and 1 million such homes would require upgraded electricity supplies to run heat pumps.

Graham warns: "There is also a further key consideration that is being overlooked and this is the necessary 'downtime' of a standard temperature oil fired heating system if it had to be replaced with a correctly sized low temperature heat pump system. As most boiler replacements are distress purchases due to a breakdown or failure – it is rare that a replacement boiler is purchased as part of a planned maintenance scheme – any replacement must be completed in as short a timeframe as possible to reduce the downtime. A direct replacement of an oil boiler can be completed within a day. Whereas if an oil boiler is to be replaced with a heat pump, as per current government plans post-2026, the downtime could rise into the weeks, or even months depending on the required upgrades to the property. Such works will involve considerable disturbance and disruption to the householder as their home is upgraded to suit a new, low temperature heating system as this is likely to involve the upgrade of insulation, replacement of heat emitters and the potential replacement of windows and doors.

There is also the fact that when upgrading to a heat pump, a buffer vessel is required to provide the heat source for the system. With a large volume of combi oil boilers installed in the UK and Irish markets, with many properties built with such a system in mind, is there space to install an additional buffer within the property?

"Given that heat pumps are not a viable alternative for many off-grid properties, we need to come up with another solution. Testing by Riello has shown that HVO is a direct drop-in for gas oil and a near drop-in for kerosene. As the latter is the main fuel source for the UK and Irish markets, we need to be clear what is required to switch over existing burners and how to roll out such a programme."

"The good news is that we estimate such an upgrade would cost around £500 – considerably less than installing a heat pump – while still delivering an 88% reduction in carbon compared to fossil fuels. It seems to be a no-brainer and I trust the industry will get behind a push to roll out HVO at the earliest opportunity.

"The recent update in SAP 10.2, the approved methodology for calculations used in the updated Part L building regulations, are a good first step in the right direction as they include a calculation for HVO. However, we must continue to push government on the benefits of converting to HVO and demonstrating how the oil industry can help with carbon dioxide reductions on our path to net zero emissions in 2050.

"Indeed, within the SAP calculations, the CO2e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) listed for HVO is 0.036kg per kWh and this is lower than both wood (biomass) at 0.053kg per kWh and electricity (heat pumps) at 0.136kg per kWh. This demonstrates the advantages of HVO over other renewable fuel sources.

"With HVO being included in the SAP 10.2 calculations and therefore recognised in Part L as an approved renewable fuel source, it supports the benefits of using HVO and how this needs to be accepted within government as an opportunity to convert existing fossil fuelled oil boilers over to HVO to immediately offer large carbon savings."rielloburners.co.uk

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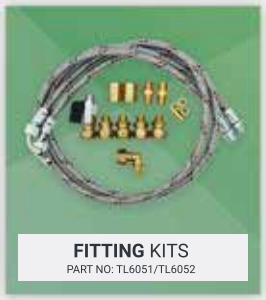
OUR RANGE:

COMBI BIO
PART NO: TL7000-C

COMBI BIO + GAUGE
PART NO: TL7000-CG

BIO TWIN
PART NO: TL7000-T



FITTING KITS
PART NO: TL6051/TL6052

SPARE FILTER
PART NO: TL7000-C-F

○ 01373 822220 ○ sales@atkinsonequipment.com ○ www.atkinsonequipment.com / www.fueldump.co.uk

OFTEC®

We want you on our team

The heating industry is changing fast and OFTEC is looking for experienced heating engineers with wide-ranging skills and experience to join our expanding team of field-based contracted inspectors.

OFTEC inspectors carry out the valuable work of auditing heating business and checking individual competence through on-site visits. As well as registering oil and solid fuel heating businesses there is increasing demand from renewables installers, so our inspection team needs to meet this new demand.

We have immediate vacancies throughout Great Britain for applicants that have in-depth experience of off-gas grid heating technologies including renewables under the microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) . Working under a service level agreement this is a great opportunity to be your own boss, but also represent a long-established registration scheme operator in your area, and help maintain the high standards of work our registrants provide to consumers.

To discuss this opportunity, please contact John Vinter, Inspection Services Manager, on 01473 618 558 or email jvinter@oftec.org.

www.oftec.org/careers

Hounsfield brings the heat to Channel Isles' luxury homes

Hounsfield Boilers have been installed in some interesting properties, from rock star mansions to rural bungalows, but a recent installation in Guernsey proved to be a very special project.

Peter and Frankie's five bedroomed, detached period cottage boasts a basement gym and swimming pool, set in stunning grounds. However, for the couple's trusted plumber, Andy Linehan of Aquatherm Ltd, the cottage's heating system had long been problematic. The system had not been fitted correctly; the oil boiler was plumbed and wired to be permanently on – the system needed a lot of attention. When the heat exchanger started leaking, Andy knew it was an opportunity to upgrade the system.

A few years previously, Andy had started hearing about Hounsfield Boilers on trade forums, how they were high quality and designed with engineers in mind, but had never seen one in the flesh. Advised by forum members to contact Hounsfield Boilers direct, he gave the company a call and was surprised to speak to Andrew Hounsfield, the company's founder. The pair discussed plumbing and Hounsfield's boilers, and why it was such as shame no merchants in Guernsey stocked the award-winning boiler. However, within a few weeks, an arrangement was made with Kevin Brown from the island's Trade and

Home Improvements Supplies to import Hounsfield Boilers and Andy became a loyal Hounsfield Boilers customer.

Kevin says: "I was keen to offer the island's plumbers something different to the established brands and also a viable alternative to electric boilers, which have a strong presence on the island. That Hounsfield boilers are HVO ready, is a bonus as it's the future fuel." As a merchant Kevin can't fault the quality of the product and there are no issues over delivery to the island. Andrew Hounsfield says: "From our factory in Suffolk we export all over the world, including the Falkland Islands, so Guernsey did not present any problems for us."

With experience of Hounsfield's boilers, Andy was happy to recommend a Hounsfield oil boiler to Peter and Frankie, and they agreed with his choice. Andy did the heat loss calculations and chose a Hounsfield Tuscan 20/25 boiler to supply the home and pool with heat. The home is set on a hill so the boiler room is a level lower than the main house. However, the property came with its own issues. The cottage walls were made out of granite and in place were one metre thick! A specialist diamond drilling company was brought in to drill 84mm holes for the boiler's flow and return pipework, in all the boiler installation and replacement of pipework took a month, with Covid interrupting work, but now the new system is up and running, Peter and Frankie are incredibly happy with their Hounsfield boiler.

Not only is the Hounsfield boiler very efficient, but the couple are also benefitting from energy saving and reduced fuel bills, as the boiler is not running 24-7, and the boiler quickly heats their house to 21 degrees.

Andy adds: "When I first fitted a Hounsfield boiler, I had to work my way round the differences, I'd fitted other brands for years, but now I find Hounsfield to be a very quick and easy boiler to install. I have also found Hounsfield Boilers to have exceptional after sales service, and I'm hoping to visit the factory this year to see for myself how the boilers are made and to meet the team."
www.hounsfieldboilers.com

Rewarding installers

Warmflow's CONNECT installer scheme is designed to offer a number of unique benefits to installers. Those who purchase, install and register any Warmflow product will be able to access a member's only reward programme.

The scheme offers installers the opportunity to collect points for every purchase made, and points mean prizes. Rewards include Apple Airpods, Milwaukee Radios and even FREE Warmflow Agentis Boilers. Installers who are registered will also be able to get bespoke advice, lead generation and extended warranties. To sign up visit www.warmflow.co.uk/connect

New digital resources from Grant

Grant UK has published new online content to support heating engineers and installers who need to complete heat loss calculations for their oil boiler installations. A new blog and free eLearning module are now available which talk through the steps involved with completing an oil boiler heat loss calculation.

The changes to Part L Building Regulations, which came into effect earlier in June, stipulate that a full room-by-room heat loss calculation needs to be carried out before installing an oil or gas boiler. To help installers with this new step, Grant has developed an Oil Boiler Heat Loss Calculator tool which is available to download via the G1 Portal.

In the blog, Grant assistant training manager, Steve Ellison, provides a step-by-step guide to using the calculator. He also explains the purpose of a room-by-room calculation, giving engineers a context to this process. The blog is available at www.grantuk.

com/about/blog/how-to-do-a-heat-loss-calculation-for-an-oil-boiler-installation.

Meanwhile, to support the blog, a ten-minute eLearning module is also available via the Grant eLearning Academy. This on-demand tutorial provides a visual step-by-step guide to the calculator, talking through each of the tabs within the tool and providing an explanation for the data input which installers need to complete.

The eLearning module is free to access so installers can log onto www.grantelearning.com and visit the course catalogue to enrol (new users to the Grant eLearning Academy will need to sign up and create an account using the enrolment key GUKPR0820).

KNIPEX launches new pipe cutter

Pliers' specialist KNIPEX has launched the TubiX® XL Pipe Cutter (90 31 03 BK), big brother to the TubiX® pipe cutter (90 31 02 SB) it launched in 2020. Precise and quick, the TubiX® XL cuts pipes from 6-76mm (1/4'' to 3'') and a wall thickness up to 2mm and can also be used by electricians to cut rigid steel conduit and for stripping steel wire armoured cables.

To operate the tool, simply place the open the pipe cutter on the pipe, then position and lock the spring-loaded cutting wheel into place on the workpiece using the QuickLock locking mechanism. The pipe is cut by turning the tool, and the clearance between the cutting edge and the pipe can be freely adjusted with the ergonomic feeding barrel. The cut surface can then be deburred if necessary.

The cutting wheel on the pipe cutter is made of quality ball-bearing steel while the metal housing is light and durable magnesium. The needle-bearing and spring-loaded cutting wheel can be easily exchanged without any tools. A spare wheel is also located in the handle cap.

Why oil tanks are still a brilliant solution for new builds

Primesave Properties is a Shrewsbury-based house building company, which offers affordable yet quality housing in desirable country locations in Shropshire and Powys. However, rural living often means no local gas grid, so housing plots need alternative heating solutions.

Martin Moore, Primesave's sales manager, explains why heating oil is still the best solution for its rural new builds: "The gas pipelines are miles away from the housing developments and with natural gas being phased out it doesn't make sense to have new pipelines constructed. While we know hydrogen could replace natural gas with potentially little alterations to existing pipelines, there is still too much uncertainty and expense to justify connection to the mains. For heat pumps to work effectively houses must be completely redesigned to increase efficiency with additional insulation, underfloor heating to cover a larger surface area suitable for the low-temperature heat output, and solar roofs to offset the additional running costs. This would lead to extra build costs of around £25,000. Heating oil is still the most cost-effective and efficient heating option for our rural developments."

Flexible solutions

Since Tuffa started working with Primesave eight years ago, the company has manufactured around 100 Fire Protected oil tanks, installed in new build homes across Shropshire and Wales. Martin explained that the flexibility provided by integrally fire rated oil tanks is critical for off-grid property developments. The ability to site the tanks as close as 300mm from buildings and boundaries acts as a mitigation measure, allowing Primesave to position them as discretely as possible.

Externally constructed fire barriers offered an alternative solution but not a simple one. Fire barriers would need to be planned into the build in advance, which, while possible, is far from ideal. Martin advises that it's only when the house is built that you "get a feel for where the oil tanks should be sited."

Tuffa's Fire Protected oil tanks simplify the installation allowing tanks to be sited where it feels right.

An independent review submitted to Tuffa testifies to Primesave's ability to sense the right location, with new homeowner, Dale McDonald writing: "We have just moved into a new build property in Arddleen and have had a Tuffa 1150L tank installed. The tank itself looks great and isn't an eyesore in the garden."

With around 5% of UK homes using oil-fired heating, it's an easy assumption to make that most potential buyers will be concerned to find their desired new build property is heated with kerosene. However, in Martin's experience, the majority of new homeowners purchasing a Primesave property are already familiar with oil heating. Buyers are often moving from a local oil-heated home and have friends, colleagues or family members using alternative heating systems such as heat pumps so will be aware of their associated problems. Using a tried and tested heating system provided by oil heating is therefore rarely a concern.

Advantages of oil heating

In many ways oil-fired heating isn't dissimilar from natural gas. Fuel distributors typically offer pay-monthly schemes and UK energy price increases have affected both almost equally. However, one advantage of heating oil is not being tied within a contract which gives greater control to achieve lower prices. With around seven fuel distributors operating in the Powys area, prices are very competitive and many homeowners further reduce costs by joining community fuel buying groups. Oil heating also provides the ability to bulk-buy fuel when prices are low. With a capacity of 1150L, the Fire Protected oil tanks installed at Primesave's housing developments hold enough oil to last homeowners around 9 months. By purchasing during the summer, homeowners can achieve lower prices and with the fuel lasting until prices start to reduce in spring. This means that oil-heated properties do not disadvantage the homeowners.

Tuffa is now in the process of manufacturing 17 more Fire Protected oil tanks for Somerford Reach, the third phase of housing developments at Arddleen, while another 54 tanks are on advance order. tuffa.co.uk

An efficient solution to an old problem

The consequences of a faulty chimney can be dangerous or even fatal. According to government figures over 200 people die each year and many more suffer from the effects of carbon monoxide leaking from their chimneys and poisoning their living environments. The restoration and repair of old chimneys has always been a costly and arduous operation; however, the Thermocrete Chimney Lining System is very clean and efficient to install and creates a brand-new flue within the existing chimney, making it better than new.

Thermocrete utilises two methods of chimney lining: the pumped system and the spray system. Both systems are patented and are only available through its approved network of installers, affectionately known as 'the chimney chaps'.

Thermocrete installers are OFTEC and Gas-safe registered, ensuring safe standards when working with solid fuel, oil and gas appliances. The

organisation installs more than 5000 flue linings a year.

Fancy being a 'chimney chap'?

With this level of business. Thermocrete is looking for new installers in selected areas. Since being established in Bradford in 1977, the company's unique format of training selective contractors to carry out the Thermocrete system has proved to be highly successful.

Each installer is provided with a tailor-made business package, which is geared to their exact requirements and includes all training and equipment. Thermocrete offers installers the opportunity to be their own boss, without the many risks inherent of setting up a new business venture alone. They will have the independence, prestige, freedom and security of owning their own business, alongside the satisfaction of reaping the financial rewards.

According to the latest figures, 50% of new businesses cease to exist within five years. In a properly organised network however, the failure rate is less than 5%.

To find out more about this opportunity, contact Thermocrete on 0800 0345442.

Training for a changing industry

Martyn Bridges, director of technical services at Worcester Bosch, discusses the training programmes on offer to installers looking to upskill for the future of home heating.

The home heating industry is going through significant change and will play a crucial role in reaching the goal of net zero, given the scale of household emissions.

To achieve this, the industry must provide comprehensive training programmes for all low carbon innovations that will provide us with a greener future. The end goal is to help upskill installers within the industry to ensure they are ready for the changes in technology.

Upgrading the industry

As a business, updating our training program is key to staying up to speed with developments in the industry.

Our training team comprises of 25 staff with a mix of training engineers and administrative staff. Over the years we have developed a rigorous programme which has always been in high demand, but we have seen a significant uptick in those wanting to enrol in renewables training.

This is indicative of how the industry is evolving both technologically and shows the questions asked of those working on the ground. Our training programme needs to account for changing government legislation, as well as a consumer's desire to go greener as the main driving factors.

What installers want

The most in-demand installer training specificity that we see is undoubtedly for heat pumps after the UK Government signalled that this is their preferred innovation: and it is the one they have the most confidence in for transitioning to net zero.

We offer comprehensive training for heat pumps, and supplement this with training for heat pump hybrid systems. This allows for the heat pump to lead in heating the home for as much as 80% of the time with the boiler as an auxiliary for when additional heat is needed when it is extremely cold, or in the instances where it is more advantageous to use a boiler instead of electricity, particularly in times of peak requirements.

Back to basics

To add to the heightened demand for renewable training, there is also interest in the new CIPHE low temperature heating course which is

around three days in duration. This is a refresher course taking the installer back to the first principals of heating design. This will help them meet the new requirement within part L of the Building Regulations where for every boiler replacement installation a heat loss calculation is undertaken for the property.

This will refresh the memory of those installers that need it or will teach those who have never received heat loss calculation training. In practice, the installer will revert to more digital aids to speed this process, but it is crucial to know the first principals of how the heat loss calculation is carried out.

As the industry increases its desire for upskilling, we will be working hard to ensure that we maintain and expand upon our training courses so that installers are best equipped for the industry's next phase of more widespread renewable energy.

https://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/professional/training

Free training from Warmflow

Warmflow is offering free training at all its training schools across the UK and Ireland.

Engineers looking to install Warmflow's Zeno Air Source Heat Pumps or update their knowledge on the company's Agentis Range of oil boilers, can take advantage of this offer.

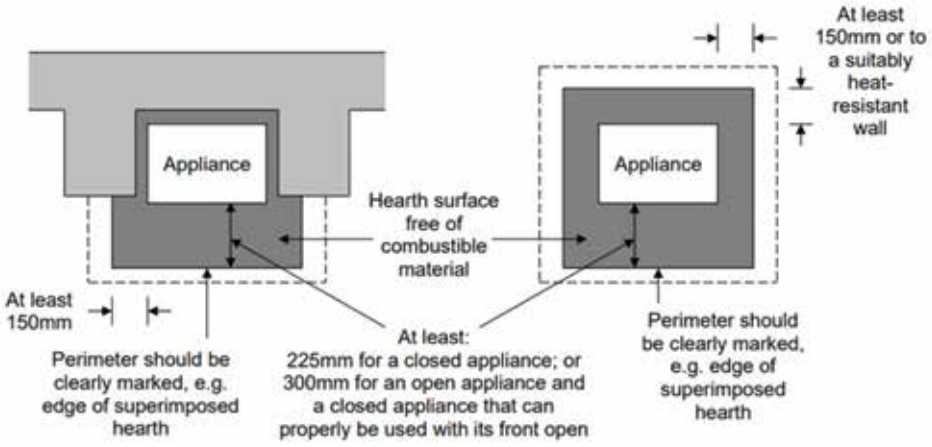
The Zeno range has been developed with quality in mind and includes several components, including a Mitsubishi inverter driven compressor and a Grundfos circulating pump. The range comes with all the features required by installation engineers such as an easy-to-use touch screen controller and simple wiring centre, both of which reduce installation time.

To access the free training contact your local rep or training centre. www.warmflow.co.uk

Although attractive, this installation is not compliant with building regulations. Read on to find out why.

Solid fuel hearths – boundary issues

The purpose of a hearth is to provide a safe area around a combustion appliance to prevent the appliance setting fire to building fabric, furnishings and limit risk to persons in close proximity This area of a hearth's surface separates and protects floor and room contents from radiated heat and falling embers. The minimum size of this area, which can be provided as part of the constructional hearth or as a superimposed hearth, is illustrated as a dark grey zone in the diagram:



Regional building regulations guidance state that the edges of this surface should be visually apparent to provide a warning to the building occupants not to place combustible material on the hearth. This should also discourage combustible floor coverings from being installed too close to an appliance.

In what ways can the edges be marked? The most common way to mark the boundary is a change of height, such as raised or lowered area of the hearth. However, this is not always practical. BS 8303 discusses the following alternative approaches:

"As an alternative, the hearth and its boundary can be identified by using a different material or colour to the non-combustible flooring in the room where the appliance is located. In such a case the hearth is normally set into the floor or forms a part of a solid floor. This approach can be used for an appliance in a fireplace recess or free-standing. Alternatively, a fender, fireguard or non-combustible upstand securely fixed to the floor below by, for example, screws can be used to mark the boundary of the hearth".

OFTEC wishes to remind solid-fuel registered technicians that even in cases where the floor of a room is totally non-combustible (such as fully tiled), it will still be necessary to implement one of the methods of marking the edge of a safe zone above. Installing an appliance as shown in the picture above is not acceptable.

Newly constructed chimneys and flexible flue-liners

Following some recent enquiries from technicians, OFTEC would like to clarify the correct approach to take when being asked to connect an appliance to a newly constructed masonry chimney. Masonry chimneys installed in harmony with regional building regulations should be constructed of materials such as bricks, medium-weight concrete blocks or stone and must incorporate in-situ liners of clay, concrete, or other suitable materials.

Under no circumstances should a flexible flue-liner be used as the primary liner of a newly constructed masonry chimney. Technicians being asked to install a flexible liner should satisfy themselves that suitable in-situ liners are present.

Sapphire

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EXTERNAL BOILER COMING AUTUMN 2022

EOGB

HVO READY

WARRANTY 25 YEAR WARRANTY

Important! Approved Document Part L 2022 – Wales

The Welsh Government has published a new version of 'Approved Document Part L Volume 1 – Dwellings' (ADL) that will affect all installers of heating equipment in Wales. This document details significant new requirements to ensure decarbonisation through energy efficiency. The document is free and is a must-have for all installers in Wales.

It is essential that OFTEC registered technicians become familiar with these new requirements, many of which will require new ways of designing and installing appliances and heating systems. ADL comes into force 23rd November 2022 and any work started from that date will need to comply with its enhanced requirements.

Thankfully the Welsh Government has mirrored the requirements now in force in England, so installers who work across the border can work to the same standards. What are the significant changes you need to know about? One way to find out is to view the webinar hosted by OFTEC covering changes to ADL in England. This can be found by scanning the QR code below:

Here is an overview of significant changes:

The end of compliance guides
Previously, most guidance for installers was found in the Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide. From November, this document no longer exists for use in Wales. All guidance is now contained in ADL.

Low temperature heating
Newly installed heating systems and completely replaced heating systems (including the heating appliance, heat emitters and pipework) should be designed to be able to run at a maximum flow temp of 550C. This is designed to ensure heating systems installed from November onwards are suitable for heat pumps later. This might require some upskilling for heating engineers, as pipe and radiator sizing will need to be carefully specified to ensure enough heat is provided to each room. It is strongly recommended that you dig out your copy of the Domestic Heating Design Guide to remind yourself on how to do this. OFTEC has created a calculator to aid radiator selection.

Specification of services
ADL states that heating systems should be based on building-specific heat loss calculations, and hot water storage should be based on anticipated demand. Neither should be significantly oversized. On this basis, installers will need to ensure they keep records of such calculations to demonstrate compliance.

Minimum efficiencies for oil-fired appliances	
Boiler type	Minimum efficiency
Regular boiler	91% (as defined in ErP)
Combi-boiler	86% (SEDBUK 2009)
Range cooker with integral boiler	80%
Less than or equal to 100	20

Minimum efficiencies for heat pumps	
Heat pump type	Minimum efficiency
Air to air < 12 kW	As per Ecodesign regulation 2016/2281
All other types – Space heating	COP 3.0
All other types – Heating domestic hot water	COP 2.0
Less than or equal to 100	20

Enhanced minimum efficiencies
In exceptional circumstances, where the criteria of the 'Guide to condensing boiler installation assessment procedure for dwellings' is met, minimum efficiencies are 84% (SEDBUK 2009) for a regular boiler or 82% for a combi-boiler.

Appliance replacements
For some time, it has been a requirement that before replacing a domestic primary heating appliance with an appliance that runs on a different fuel, you should compare the carbon emissions of the new appliance to that of the existing appliance and then consider whether the appliance replacement is permissible. This process has been strengthened. A second calculation has been added to verify that the replacement appliance will not have a higher primary energy demand. This means that all the following must be true for a compliant appliance replacement:

- The appliance should be at least as efficient as the minimum seasonal efficiency required for that fuel.
- The replacement appliance should not or produce more carbon emissions.
- The replacement appliance should not have a higher primary energy demand.

Heat pumps are exempt from this calculation if they meet the minimum efficiencies in the tables above. ADL explains how to compare emissions and primary energy using fuel factors and a mathematical calculation. However, to assist technicians, OFTEC has updated the handy fuel-switching calculation tool hosted in the registered technicians section of www.oftec.org.

Where replacing an appliance with one using the same fuel, the new appliance must be at least as efficient as the minimum efficiencies in the tables above and at least as efficient as the appliance being replaced.

Solid fuel appliances
Guidance on the installation of appliance types B1,B2,B3 (open fires), C1,C2 (open fire and non-high output boiler), and J3,J4 (multifuel or anthracite boilers) are no longer listed as suitable to install. This represents any appliance

that can burn mineral fuels. OFTEC is seeking clarification about whether this means such appliances cannot be installed or whether this is designed to steer installers away from such products.

Heat pumps
Heat pumps should be selected to meet the full space heating requirement at the design condition chosen for heat loss calculations. Where there are other heat sources available in a building with a heat pump, each of these heat sources should be appropriately incorporated into a singular control system.

Heat pumps should not be sited adjacent to sleeping areas or on materials that can readily transmit vibrations. Additionally, the location of external fans and heat pump compressors should be appropriately selected to minimise disturbance to neighbours, while remaining in compliance with planning requirements.

Commissioning information for the ground arrays of a ground source heat pumps has been updated.

Controls
Where a heating system is installed, or a boiler replaced, in nearly every case each room should be provided with thermostatic room controls. This can be achieved by one of the following:

- A thermostat in a room that the heating circuit serves and an individual thermostatic room control for each heat emitter, such as a thermostatic radiator valve, on all heat emitters outside the room that contains the thermostat. Thermostatic radiator valves should not be used in the same room as the thermostat.
- An individual room/heating zone thermostat or fan coil thermostat for each room or heating zone.
- An individual networked heat emitter control for each emitter.

Secondary DHW circuits should be timed separately from space heating. Where working on an existing system, if domestic hot water and space heating are controlled by a single time controller, then these may continue to be controlled together after the work is complete.

Finally
Hopefully this article has given you a flavour of the changes coming on 23rd November 2022. It is strongly recommended you download the new Approved Document and use it as a guide to assist you with quoting for work that will commence after this date. ADL is available from the Welsh Government website or can be accessed via the QR code below:

At the time of print, the Welsh Government had yet to release the non-domestic volume of ADL. OFTEC's hard working technical department will review new guidance once it is published and will issue helpful tools and Technical Notices to ensure technicians working at any building are well informed and compliant.

OFTEC partners with Heat Engineer Software Ltd

Recent and upcoming changes to regional building regulations will require accurate heat loss calculations and low-temperature heating system design to become the norm when installing heating systems. For example, by the end of 2022 it appears that English, Welsh and Scottish governments require all complete heating systems to be designed to be able to run at a maximum flow temperature of 55°C. Are you confident in carrying out accurate room-by-room heat loss calculations? Would you appreciate a tool that can assist in sizing distribution pipework and heat emitters?

OFTEC is pleased to announce a partnership with Heat Engineer Software Ltd. Their software is competitively priced and can give assistance to anyone wishing to correctly size and design a heating system. As an exclusive benefit to registered technicians, the team at Heat Engineer Software Ltd will be creating content taking you through a step-by-step low temperature heating design.

To find out more about this product please visit https://www.heat-engineer.com

New technical resources and updates

To keep industry updated on the many significant changes related to energy efficiency legislation, OFTEC has produced the following resources:

- Updates to Technical Book 4 and the Solid Fuel technical book. These updates relate to changes in Approved Document L – England.
- An update to Technical Notice 033. This updated notice discusses new fuel-switching requirements and an additional calculation tool.
- Technical Notice 035 – This technical notice replaces the content in OFTEC Technical Book 4 Section 6.2 (Regional Requirements – England), which is now withdrawn.
- A new free-to-use fuel switch calculator. This calculator assists technicians meet their obligations when replacing an existing appliance running on a different fuel or energy source.
- A new radiator selection and output calculator. This calculation tool will be useful for registered technicians in all regions designing heating systems, especially low temperature heating systems. The calculator assists in the selection of a correct radiator from a manufacturer's catalogue by calculating real-world outputs. It also identifies what the output of an existing radiator will be if flow and return temperatures are adjusted. Finally, it includes a tool to identify pipework emissions. These calculations automate the relevant processes in the Domestic Heating Design Guide.

All of these resources are freely available by logging in to the registered technicians area of www.oftec.org.

Fuel price commentary

Where to start with this edition of the fuel price commentary? The current energy price situation goes way beyond anything that anyone working in the sector could have imagined – we're basically in uncharted territory. Let's start with the basics, when demand for a product exceeds supply, the price rises. This largely explains the current energy situation. There are a number of variables in play, but the ongoing supply issues resulting from Covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine are the dominant factors. For countries like the UK and Republic of Ireland that import a lot of energy this is very bad news.

Because of its close relationship with the price of crude oil, the cost of heating oil can be extremely volatile. The price of Brent crude has topped 120 dollars a barrel this year so it's inevitable that the price of heating oil has also been high. The low value of the Pound has made this effect worse and, in a year, the annual cost has doubled in the UK (slightly less in the Republic of Ireland). Other heating fuels have tended to increase more slowly. For example, the Government's price cap initially protected gas-using households in the UK, but massive increases are now feeding through, and many millions of households are set to endure a miserable winter of unaffordable bills and fuel poverty. So far, only LPG appears immune.

However, high energy costs are only one half of this problem. The Sutherland Tables are based on energy consumption scenarios that are typical of UK and Irish homes – we use 16,000kWh per annum. Our homes are typically far less well-insulated than homes in the rest of Europe and the rate of loft and wall insulation measures going into houses under government schemes is 95 per cent lower now than it was in 2012. We are all collectively paying dearly for this policy failing.

Comparative space and water heating costs for a three-bedroomed home In Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

GREAT BRITAIN

	Jul-18	Jun-22	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heater	£1992	**£3,550**	£1,558	78.21%	£2213
Gas condensing boiler	£1006	**£1,345**	£339	33.70%	£926
LPG condensing boiler	£1551	**£1,591**	£40	2.58%	£1524
Oil condensing boiler	£1133	**£1,885**	£752	66.37%	£926
Wood Pellets	£1533	**£1,819**	£286	18.66%	£1510
Air source heat pump radiators	£1751	**£2,850**	£1,099	62.76%	£1887
Air source heat pump underfloor		**£2,390**			£1503

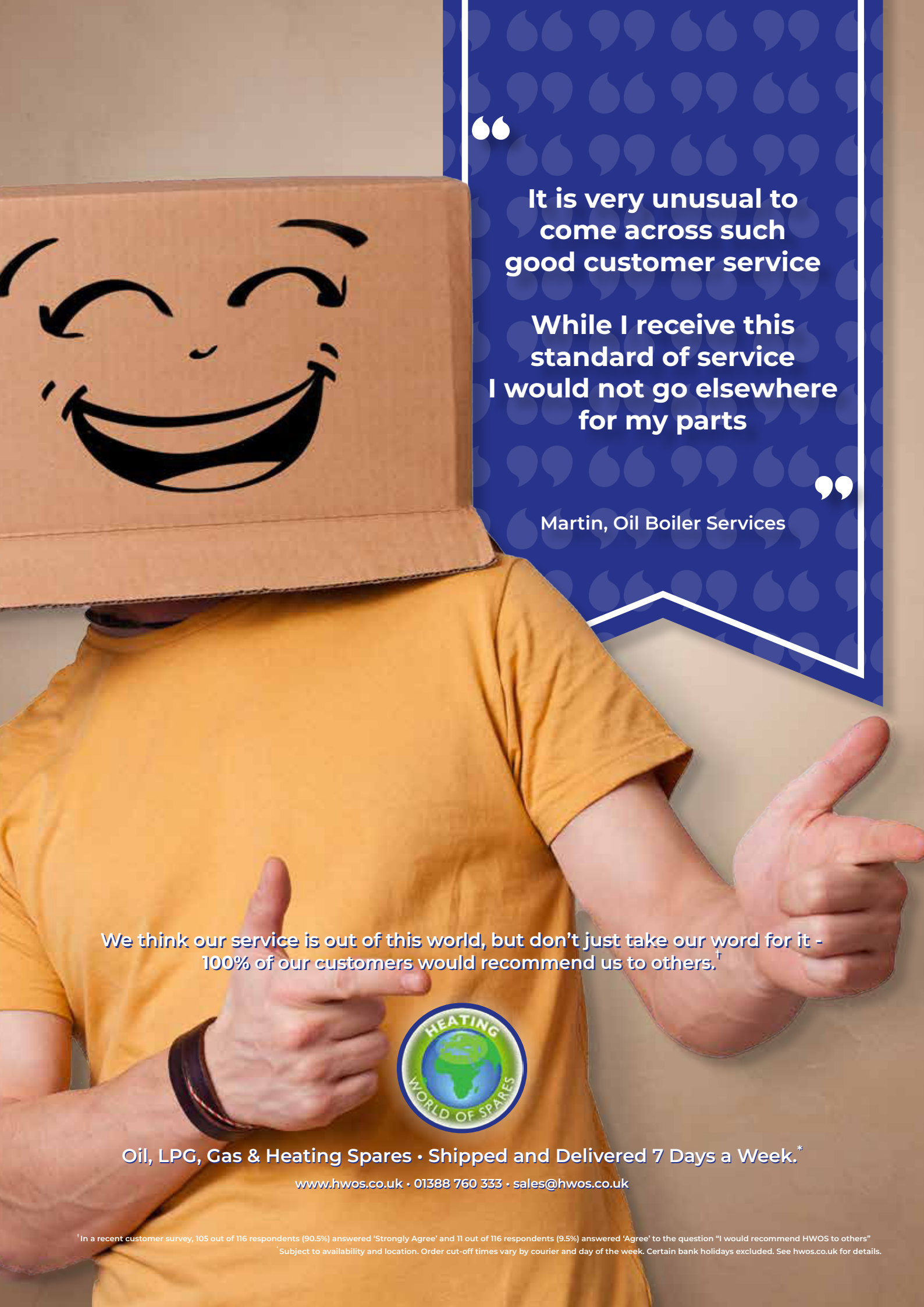
NORTHERN IRELAND

	Jul-18	Jun-22	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heater	£1518	**£2420**	£902	59.42%	£1921
Gas condensing boiler	£951	**£1392**	£1392	46.37%	£955
LPG condensing boiler	£2123	**£2016**	£2218	-5.04%	£2016
Oil condensing boiler	£1113	**£1792**	£679	61.01%	£946
Wood Pellets	£1144	**£1446**	£302	26.40%	£1179
Air source heat pump radiators	£1459	**£2112**	£653	44.76%	£1702
Air source heat pump underfloor		**£1748**			£1349

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Jul-18	Jun-22	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heater	€2052	**€2994**	€625	45.91%	€2249
Gas condensing boiler radiators & DHW cylinder	€1337	**€1955**	€118	46.22%	€1344
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	€2296	**€2637**	€254	14.85%	€2400
Oil condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	€1519	**€2371**	€428	56.09%	€1356
Wood Pellets	€1387	**€1757**	€50	26.68%	€1365
Air source heat pump radiators	€1806	**€2684**	€478	48.62%	€1956
Air source heat pump underfloor		**€1945**			€1595

Notes. The tables above are based on quarterly data published by the Sutherland Tables. They show the annual average cost of a range of heating options for a typical pre-1980 three bedroomed semi-detached home with a heat requirement of approximately 16,000 kWh.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