

# Oil Installer

News and views from an evolving heating world



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# CEO's welcome

Support for insulation in buildings was conspicuous by its absence from the Government's new Energy Security Strategy for Britain. This is surprising for two reasons. The first is because it means there will be no help for households grappling with high energy bills to reduce their heat demand now. The second is because it will threaten the success of the Government's longer-term decarbonisation plans. It makes little sense to install heat pumps in poorly insulated homes – yet that's exactly what the Heat and Buildings Strategy proposes.



This will hit mainly rural households and businesses that use oil and LPG particularly hard. They live and work in some of the least well-insulated buildings, but will be among the first to be forced to switch away from conventional fossil-fueled boilers – unless the Government modifies its 'heat pump first' approach and implements a more technology-neutral plan. This would enable those with a building that is unsuitable for a heat pump to choose something else.

For the sake of our customers, it is vital that we persuade the Government to adopt a more flexible approach and support the use of renewable liquid fuels such as HVO in heating, alongside existing options like solid biomass and heat pumps. It's the only way that oil heating customers can avoid very high installation costs.

The Heat and Buildings Strategy consultations may have finished, but we can still influence the Government's final plans, not least because these issues could affect voting intentions in the next general election. If enough people voice their concern MPs will take notice, but time is short, and we need to act now.

So, if you do nothing else, please read the article on page 13 about the Future Ready Fuel campaign – and get involved!

## Paul Rose

CEO  
OFTEC

# That's an 'L' of a good result!

OFTEC's webinar is a big hit, with over 500 technicians and businesses signing up and universally positive feedback.



The webinar focused on changes to Part L of building regulations that come into effect in England on 15th of June 2022. The exclusive technician event was hosted by Adrian Lightwood, OFTEC's registration services director, and the OFTEC technical team and offered a wealth of information about the upcoming significant changes to building regulations that will affect all heating technicians working in England.

Joe Bath OFTEC's technical manager stated: "It was great to see so many technicians invested in the webinar. The matter of Part L is a serious one and it was good to see the topic taken so seriously by so many."

A recording of OFTEC's webinar 'What the L changes in June?' is available for all OFTEC registered technicians and businesses. To find it visit the webinar section of the OFTEC online portal.

The technical section of this issue of Oil Installer on page 37 has further updates about Part L in England, and news of changes to Part L in Wales.

## New staff

### Lewis Osbourne

We're delighted to welcome Lewis, who has re-joined OFTEC after previously working within the training department. After a change of scene working in the motor industry for the past decade, Lewis has returned to OFTEC as compliance officer. His main duties will be assisting with the handling of complaints from consumers, chasing OFTEC registered businesses for non-conformity completions post 28 days, and dealing with name change and Trustmark applications.

### Keith Sadler

Keith has joined OFTEC as a regional inspector, bringing considerable experience to the role, having worked in the commercial and domestic oil and gas industry since 2007. Prior to the gas and oil industry work, Keith came from an aviation engineering background, even serving as a flight engineer and pilot for some major carriers.

Keith will be working as an inspector on the south coast of England. He can be contacted on 07711 435710 or email: [ksadler@oftec.org](mailto:ksadler@oftec.org)

### Dalia Khan

Dalia Khan has joined the registration administration team, strengthening OFTEC's capability to provide services to existing and future CPS and MCS registrants. Dalia joins with an impressive background in customer service and strong administration skills.



Lewis Osbourne



Keith Sadler



Dalia Khan

# OFTEC office move

On 31 March 2022 OFTEC relocated its offices to a new office building that will allow for further expansion as the company grows. OFTEC has been based in the Ipswich area since 2002 and, with strong links in the community, is very much committed to remaining in the Suffolk area, moving only five miles from our previous office.

The new office address is: Unit 25 Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1QT.

CEO, Paul Rose highlighted the significance of the move: "This is a very exciting time. The work environment has changed significantly since the beginning of the pandemic, so our new, smaller building lends itself to a more flexible and cohesive working environment, whilst using less energy and reducing our overall carbon footprint."

OFTEC's new office features greatly improved facilities that will benefit the company, and our registered technicians and businesses, and we see this new location as the start of another chapter in OFTEC's impressive history."



## Introducing the new Pro portal. Best in class tools for NIBE Pro installers

There's now a new, improved range of tools and support, designed to help our NIBE Pro installers every step of the way. Our new Pro portal provides technical information, marketing support, and a log of your installation records. As a NIBE Pro installer you'll also have access to our best in class technical support and training, great rewards scheme, plus a broad range of consumables and ancillaries.

**Web Portal • eLearning • Web Shop • Rewards Points  
Support & Training • Consumables & Ancillaries**

Visit our website to find out more today.

ALTOGETHER BEST IN CLASS [NIBE.CO.UK](https://www.nibe.co.uk)



# OFTEC showcasing heat pump training and HVO at Installer Show 2022

OFTEC will have plenty to talk about at this year's Installer Show, which takes place at the NEC, Birmingham from 21-23 June. On our stand – A154 – we'll be promoting our newly launched heat pump training and assessments and showcasing our role as a one-stop registration solution for all non-gas heating technicians, whether you work in traditional or renewable technologies.

The Installer Show will also be playing host to OFTEC's annual mini conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23 June, with all OFTEC trade association members and InstallerSHOW visitors invited to attend.

The event comes at a crucial time for the future of the liquid fuel heating industry, with this year's conference programme focussing on the current policy landscape and the role liquid fuels can play in transitioning the off-gas grid heating sector to a net zero future.

Attendees can expect an update on OFTEC and UKIFDA's joint trials of a renewable liquid fuel called Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil – otherwise known as HVO – in properties across the UK; how the liquid fuel distribution sector is gearing up for the transition, and OFTEC's support for technicians and manufacturers during this period of change. We'll also showcase our Future Ready Fuels campaign, which is taking the HVO message to rural households and MPs.

The event will finish with the association's AGM on 23 June.

Book the date in your diaries now! Registration for InstallerSHOW is free and tickets can be booked at [installer-2022.reg.buzz/oftec](http://installer-2022.reg.buzz/oftec)

## Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) details released

More information is now available on government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, which provides grants to encourage the uptake of low carbon heating systems. Below, we set out the scheme criteria for installers wishing to get involved. Grants £5,000 are available towards the upfront cost of installing an air source heat pump, £5,000 for installing a biomass boiler (restricted to eligible rural locations and in properties off the gas grid) or £6,000 towards ground source heat pump installations.

Here are some important facts to understand the scheme:

- Installers must be registered by a registration body for the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). To get involved in MCS, please see the OFTEC website.
- Each installation will require an MCS Certificate upon completion, and the property a valid EPC with no outstanding recommendations for loft or cavity wall insulation.
- Eligibility is restricted to England and Wales and the maximum installation capacity is capped at 45kW.
- Commissioning date must be on or after 1 April 2022.
- New build homes or social housing are not eligible, but custom-build properties are.
- Installers wanting to obtain vouchers need to create an account with Ofgem.

Whilst there is some debate as to whether this upgrade scheme is sufficient to stimulate the renewable market, to help potential customers understand what is on offer, please signpost them to the Simple Energy Advice website: [www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](http://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk)



## 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 the 28 February 2022 – 15 April 2022 there was a total of 90 suspended and 8 businesses had their membership revoked.

The revoked businesses are:

- 103138, D Phillips Gas, Plumbing & Heating Ltd
- 101859, Excelsior Plumbing & Heating
- 103807, Henry Wannop Plumbing & Heating
- 2044, Malyon & James Heating and Plumbing Ltd
- 101828, Max Sparrow Ltd
- 103790, Mike Jones Plumbing and Heating
- 13177, NRG Heating and Plumbing Services Ltd
- 101858, Parker Plumbing Solutions

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# Blue Flame

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Discover more about our range:  
[www.navien.co.uk](http://www.navien.co.uk)



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# Team Grant takes millions of steps to fundraise for local charity

Employees at Grant UK have been busy clocking up the steps to complete Marching March, a fundraising and team building activity which has raised £115 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) charity.

Last year, following a series of virtual and physical fundraising events, the company donated £15,000 to support the Air Ambulance's life-saving work.

Marching March returned this year with staff working in teams to walk, run and take as many steps as possible to win the challenge. As well as stepping their way through the month of March, employees also donated to the WAA.

In total, Team Grant took 10,802,523 steps during Marching March and the winning team with the most steps was 'The Jabberwalkies'. The triumphant trio of steppers were Charlotte from Grant's training department, Suzie from training and HR and Scott from accounts. Charlotte, Suzie and Scott enjoyed lots of walks in the spring sunshine and even when the weather turned, they kept their step count high to take the lead in this challenge!

"Marching March was a big success last year when employees took part during a time when we could not be together," writes Anna Wakefield, head of marketing. "We wanted to bring it back in 2022 but with a twist, so hence the team challenge. There has been plenty of friendly competition and Marching March has once again been a great initiative to fundraise for charity and support staff well-being."

[www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)



## PipeSnug secures investment on Dragons' Den

PipeSnug founders, Chris Burdett and Alex Lever have taken BBC One's Dragons' Den by storm, pitching PipeSnug and FlueSnug to the famous panel of successful entrepreneurs.

Chris and Alex braved the Den to face Touker Suleyman, Sara Davies, Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones and Steven Bartlett in a bid to secure investment for their products and an expansion of their business, timing it to perfection as pipe seals become mandated as part of the Building Regulations from June 2022.

"We wanted to go on Dragons' Den to help secure investment to develop new versions of the product to satisfy the increased demand in the coming months and years as PipeSnugs become the norm on site," explains Alex.

Following a nerve-wracking but exciting pitch and negotiation, including intense questioning from all of the entrepreneurs, Chris and Alex secured a joint investment from Dragons' Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones, who immediately saw the opportunity PipeSnug and FlueSnug presented and made an offer to invest.

"We prepared our pitch carefully and rehearsed a lot, but nothing can prepare you for the experience of Dragons' Den!" says Chris. "We are delighted Deborah and Peter saw the opportunity and chose to work with us."

The story of PipeSnug caught the attention of the Dragons. The products are an evolution of an idea that Chris, a professionally-qualified bricklayer and builder, had to help solve a problem that he encountered on every job he ran with his construction business – sealing holes around pipes quickly, efficiently and effectively.

"We made sure our pitch told the story and outlined the opportunity it presents to an investor, especially one who could bring real value and experience to our business. Pitching to the Dragons and then having such a (mostly!) positive response was amazing," says Alex.

Fitted in seconds, PipeSnug is the only pipe seal and collar that provides an all-in-one solution which meets Part L's requirement to seal around pipework inside and outside a building, without the need for sealant, mortar or expensive air sealing tape.

PipeSnug forms an airtight seal against the wall where pipes enter and exit a building. Because it does not require any mortar to be mixed or sealant to be squeezed, PipeSnug not only saves time, money and mess, but also keeps warmth in and energy costs down for homeowners.

PipeSnug is currently available in 32mm, 40mm and 110mm versions alongside FlueSnug, the boiler flue sealing collar. [www.pipesnug.co.uk](http://www.pipesnug.co.uk)

# Get ARMD and beat tool theft

Tool theft is the scourge of the construction industry and is putting tradespeople out of business. ARMD, built to protect the livelihoods of all tradespeople, is now encouraging the trade to protect themselves against the thieves.

“There is one tool theft every 23 minutes, which equates to approximately 23,000 a year,” explains Stephen Holland, ARMD’s co-founder.

“More than half of the builders in the UK have had their tools stolen and on average the daily loss of income is around £350, not including damage to vehicles and reputation. Worryingly, approximately half of all tradespeople do not have insurance to cover them if they suffer a tool loss.

ARMD is designed to protect tradespeople so that if they do suffer a loss, it will get them back up and running as quickly as possible. ARMD lets users quickly record, protect, insure and replace their tools, either on the website or the easy-to-use App.

“We listened to and developed ARMD with the trade, to tackle the many different pain points they experience when trying to protect themselves and their tools,” continues Stephen.



The ARMD platform gives the trade four ways to protect their business. Firstly, a free Tool Inventory lets them record their tools in one place. This is useful for audits, accounting and claiming insurance.

A second, crucial, protection is fit for purpose tool insurance. In the event of a loss, ARMD is there to help and get tradesmen back to business quickly. The policy is dedicated to tool insurance and means that tools do not need to be removed from the van at night. Plus claims can be made digitally once the tools are in the inventory, saving hassle and time.

ARMD also gives users access to smart anti-theft security products for their vans, protecting tools with a range of powerful locks, alarms and even smart sensors.

Finally, there is the ARMD tool shop, where tradesmen can choose from over 30,000 tools and easily insure them at the checkout.

“ARMD completes the loop – record, protect, insure and replace, providing tradespeople with a practical way to prevent and recover from tool theft,” says Stephen.

[www.armd.uk/](http://www.armd.uk/)

## Worcester Bosch discovers a new author

Samuel Debenham from Northampton’s Delapre School has seen his own story brought to life, making him an author at just nine-years old. His tale, ‘A City Called L8R’, has been made into printed copies after he won a children’s writing competition held by Worcester Bosch last June.

Worcester Bosch launched its children’s Storybook initiative On World Earth Day, with the release of a sustainability-focused children’s book, to inspire and encourage young people to live more sustainably. The sequel was created in collaboration with its brainchild Sam, who submitted the story as an entry to the national children’s writing competition.

The original storybook, ‘A Robot Called B4’, was written for children aged 7-11. It tells the story of Ava and Alfie who, through the discovery of a robot called B4 in a garden shed, travel back through time to the age of dinosaurs. Their adventure makes

them realise how human behaviour has destroyed the green planet which once existed, before returning home to fight for a better future.

Sam’s winning competition entry sees the characters travel forward in time to show an optimistic view of how the world could look if we increased our protection of the planet. The imaginary world featured wind turbines, no cars, and lots of wildlife.

The printed edition was shared with Sam’s family and classmates when Worcester Bosch visited his school to present the book to him, along with a larger-than-life version of the front cover.

Sam was delighted as his mum, Claire comments: “Sam was over the moon when he found out he had won the competition, and even more so when the team travelled to hand him the books at school. It’s amazing to see his creative passion for the environment celebrated so.”



Worcester Bosch hopes that Sam’s passion can inspire children and adults alike to live more sustainably, echoing the spirit of the brand’s commitment to protecting our future.

Vic Billings, Worcester Bosch’s director of marketing, said: “Sam should be really proud of himself. It’s been wonderful for our team to work with him, to see sustainability from a young person’s perspective and to bring his story to life. We hope Sam’s story will encourage everyone to make greener choices and to do their part in protecting our future.”

[www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)

# Warming up the crowds at Installer Show

Things are heating up at The Installer Live Show 2022 at the NEC this summer with Warmflow confirmed as an exhibitor.



With the show taking place from the 21-23 June, thousands of visitors will descend upon The NEC in Birmingham in search of ideas, inspiration and advice for their homes.

The show is the ideal platform for Warmflow to showcase its range of innovative and award-winning products, including the UK and Ireland's first and only double A rated combi oil boiler and the new Zeno range of air source heat pumps. The company's experts will be on hand throughout the show to offer consumers advice on selecting the right heating product for their homes.

A manufacturer of home heating solutions, Warmflow has been producing innovative home heating products at its manufacturing facility in Lisburn for over 40 years.

[www.warmflow.co.uk](http://www.warmflow.co.uk)

# Warmflow rewards engineers

Warmflow's CONNECT installer scheme is designed to offer a number of unique benefits to installers who purchase the company's products. Installers who purchase, install and register any Warmflow product will be able to benefit from a member-only reward programme.

The scheme offers installers the opportunity to collect points for every purchase made to redeem against great prizes including power tools, test analysers and free boilers! Registered members will also be able to benefit from bespoke advice and lead generation as well as extended warranties.

[www.warmflow.co.uk](http://www.warmflow.co.uk)



## BECOME AN AGENT

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Join the Sapphire family and help us strive towards decarbonisation with the future of liquid fuel heating.

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Become a part of the future of our industry now.

Find out more information at [sapphireboilers.co.uk](http://sapphireboilers.co.uk)

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# Worcester Bosch launches Environment 2050 competition

Worcester Bosch has re-launched its Environment Awards with a new sustainability-focused criteria aimed at installers, as well as new build and social housing customers.

The Environment 2050 which launched on 1 March and will run annually, encourages installers to work with customers to make environmentally-friendly choices for their heating and hot water system, while keeping longevity and sustainability in mind when opting for new installs.

There are two strands to the competition. Installers need to submit a short, written statement about why they chose to install a particular product through a simple form online. Once submitted, they will then be asked to send over an image of the installation.

There will be a total of 16 installer winners, consisting of four winners per season, in four categories – boilers, heat pumps, solar and hybrids, who will each receive:

- 18V cordless Bosch Drill
- £200 towards a charity of their choice
- Framed certificate



- Branded van stickers and marketing material
- Local PR

An overall winner will also be chosen from the seasonal winners and will receive a further Bosch power bundle worth over £500 and an FSC certified British oak engraved award.

The second strand is competition for new-builders and social housing providers, who need to outline why they chose to install a particular product and their reason for choosing a specific charity. One 'New Build' winner and one 'Social Housing' winner will be selected in March 2023, each receiving £500 for their chosen charity, a FSC certified oak engraved award and local PR and marketing materials.

As part of the competition, Worcester Bosch is working closely with Rewilding Britain, a charity that supports rewilding initiatives in rural and marine areas across the UK and for every entry received, will donate £5 to help towards rewilding across the country.

Victoria Billings, director of marketing at Worcester Bosch, commented: "At Worcester Bosch we strive to protect our planet for the present and future generations by helping both our customers and installers opt for sustainable and environmentally-friendly solutions for their heating and hot water systems.

"The Environment 2050 competition is a great way to recognise our professional customers for choosing to install products that are sustainable and built to last in homes across the UK. We look forward to hearing more about the work you are doing to protect our future – good luck!"

If you are an installer or a new build or social housing customer, enter here: [www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/professional/environment-2050](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/professional/environment-2050)

## New area sales manager for Grant

Grant UK's sales team has recently welcomed Stuart Thompson as the new area sales manager for Wales and the West of England.

In his new role, Stuart will be working with heating engineers, installers and local merchants and assisting them with sales and technical support across the entire Grant product range.

Stuart has been working in the plumbing and heating sector for seventeen years, after starting his career as an engineer. After six years working in the field, Stuart then joined a national merchant group and was a branch manager for over a decade. Throughout his career, Stuart has developed extensive knowledge on traditional heating systems as well as renewable systems and he is looking forward to using this experience in his new role

"I am very familiar with Grant products having worked closely



Stuart Thompson

with the company for many years," comments Stuart. "I am looking forward to meeting with G1 installers, new customers and merchants in my new role, supporting them with the product solutions and services their businesses need. I will be helping customers, both new and existing, on all of our products from the

award-winning oil boilers through to the Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pumps and Grant's extensive range of renewable package solutions. The next few years are set to be quite exciting for our industry and I am looking forward to helping customers navigate the changing landscape." [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com).

# Plumbworld is acquired by Highbourne Group

The Highbourne Group, the parent company of brands including City Plumbing Supplies and Plumbing Trade Supplies amongst others, has acquired online bathroom retailer Plumbworld.

Founded in 1999, Plumbworld was the first online bathroom business in the UK and has become a renowned retail platform for bathroom, kitchen, plumbing and heating products.

The Highbourne Group believes Plumbworld will complement the business's existing portfolio, strengthening its leading branch and online capabilities for trade customers, and increasing customer convenience by giving domestic customers fast access to the products



Dave Evans, CEO, The Highbourne Group

they need. Plumbworld's experience and knowledge of the e-commerce sector are key to the acquisition and will help the Highbourne Group to grow the online presence of its other brands.

Dave Evans, chief executive officer at The Highbourne Group, said: "We are delighted to welcome Plumbworld into the Highbourne Group family of businesses and see Plumbworld as highly complementary to our existing customer propositions. James Hickman and the management team at Plumbworld have built the leading online bathroom retailer in the UK and I look forward to working with them to accelerate their growth initiatives. The acquisition of Plumbworld enables us to take our proven trade customer proposition and market leading supply chain to retail customers too – meaning that we can provide customers across the UK with even quicker access to what they need, when they need it."

James Hickman, CEO and founder of Plumbworld, added: "The integration of Plumbworld into the Highbourne Group is an exciting new chapter for our business. The Highbourne Group is creating real momentum in the market and I see enormous potential for Plumbworld as part of that growth plan."

[www.plumbworld.co.uk](http://www.plumbworld.co.uk)

## Grant UK's great Easter egg hunt

Throughout the first week of April, Grant UK gave away chocolate eggs to the lucky winners of its virtual Easter egg hunt and to installers, engineers and merchants who met up with the sales team out on the road.

The Easter giveaway, which took place between 4th – 8th April 2022, was split into two segments. The first was a virtual Easter Egg Hunt on the Grant website and the second element involved giving away of chocolate eggs for those who found and met up with a member of Grant's sales team.

### Hidden Easter egg treats

During the virtual Easter egg hunt, eggs were hidden on the company's website and clues about their whereabouts were shared via its

Twitter feed to help followers locate them.

Each day, an egg was embedded into one of the pages on the professionals side of the website and helpful clues were published on Twitter. Followers had to use the clues to identify the webpage, find the egg and take a screengrab to share on Twitter, making sure they tagged and followed Grant to enter. At the end of each day, Grant randomly selected a winner who received a luxury chocolate egg.

Meanwhile, out on the road, Grant's area sales managers were equipped with boxes of Cadbury Creme Eggs. Each sales manager visited merchant branches in their local area, giving away these iconic chocolate eggs to customers. [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)



## Birthday giveaway

Worcester Bosch will be 60 in September. To celebrate this landmark, the company has launched 'More than 60', a new campaign which sees 60 prizes gifted to deserving recipients.

The rewards range from brand new power tools and van wraps to day-out experiences and new heating systems.

The initiative is open to four different audiences: installers, Worcester heating system owners, community groups and the company's own employees. Worcester Bosch is looking to give away prizes to those within these groups who give back to others and, like the company, warm the lives of those around them in their own unique ways.

For customers, the manufacturer is looking to reward those who naturally spread warmth with their actions and help others. For installers, Worcester Bosch is looking for those who went above and beyond for their customers, particularly during the uncertain times of the pandemic.

For community groups run by volunteers, the company is looking to provide a new, reliable heating system to a deserving, underfunded space in the UK. Keeping on top of running and maintaining community spaces can be difficult, and Worcester Bosch hopes its donation can ease some of these pressures.

Finally, the company is asking its employees to nominate their colleagues who truly represent its purpose of Warming Lives in and outside of work.

Victoria Billings, director of marketing, comments, "We have gone through an incredible journey as a company over the last 60 years; and the one thing we have always aimed to do is warm lives. We want to recognise those who also warm lives in any way and who go that extra mile for others.

"We're looking forward to hearing the inspiring stories of those who are nominated."

[www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)

# Future Ready Fuel campaign

*We need your help to get a fair outcome for off-grid homes, businesses – and the heating industry*

It's clear that the Government's plans set out in the Heat and Buildings Strategy will mean the 'forced early adoption' of heat-pumps from 2026 for most off-gas grid households that need to replace their boiler. Businesses will be targeted even earlier – from 2024 in some cases.

This is extremely unfair. As forced early adopters, homes and businesses off the gas grid will pay the highest costs and face considerable disruption, while those on the gas grid won't be required to take action until 2035. It's could also derail progress with decarbonisation. Off-grid homes are not a sensible place to start the mass deployment of heat pumps and progress may stall.

We know what a better option would look like – a technology neutral approach that allows the installer to recommend the best option and for homeowners to be given a choice – which of course should include conversion to HVO.

However, unless we alert off-grid households and businesses and get them to make their concerns known, the Government will simply press on with its plans. We need your help to get the message out to your customers.

## Five easy things you should do now:

1. Give all you customers a copy of the Future Ready Fuel flyer – it's available as print or electronic version – simply contact the OFTEC marketing team [marketing@oftec.org](mailto:marketing@oftec.org) and we'll send it to you.
2. Put links to the Future Ready Fuel campaign [www.futurereadyfuel.info](http://www.futurereadyfuel.info) on your website.
3. Follow the Future Ready Fuel campaign on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and like the posts.
4. Display the 'I'm supporting the Future Ready Fuel campaign' logo on your website and social media channels.
5. 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.

## Campaign news in brief

### Mo and Sue – our new video stars!

It's time to meet the latest additions to the campaign team – two characters, Mo and Sue, who star in our cheeky new, animated video. The video highlights the simplicity of converting a rural home to HVO, compared to installing a heat pump. You can find the video on the Future Ready Fuel website – please help the campaign by sharing it on social media.

### 100 not out!

Over 100 homes and businesses are now successfully heating their homes with HVO. Homes from Scottish Highlands to Cornwall are now participating in the demonstration project, showing conclusively that you can use HVO anywhere in the UK, regardless of the heating system.

### Future Ready Fuel website

The campaign website, [www.futurereadyfuel.info](http://www.futurereadyfuel.info) and associated social media campaign have been successful at reaching rural households and businesses:

- **36,000+** people have visited the Future Ready Fuel microsite since its launch in early May 2021
- **4,600+** people have signed up for the Future Ready Fuel e-newsletter
- **3,500+** people have completed the Future Ready Fuel household survey
- **1,300+** people have downloaded a template letter to send to their MP

But this is a small number compared to the 1.7 million households that use oil heating in the UK. We need as many supporters as possible if our campaign is going to be successful – which is why we need your help!



Stills taken from the Future Ready Fuel campaign video – HVO – a practical, green alternative to heating oil for rural homes

# Can heat pumps compete with oil boilers on the cost of installation?

Malcolm Farrow, OFTEC's Head of Public Affairs, polishes his crystal ball again in search of answers...

At the heart of the challenges to achieve a dramatic scaling up of heat pump installations are the thorny issues of cost and installation time. Bring down the cost and you immediately make heat pumps more attractive to consumers. Reduce the time taken to carry out the installation and you could save significant cost – so the two things go together. It also reduces disruption for the household which is another potential barrier to uptake.

The Government has claimed that it expects the price of heat pumps to fall by 50% by 2025, but this now seems a very tall order. The cost of raw materials has risen dramatically, and many electronic components are also in short supply, so manufacturing costs are effectively baked in – meaning there's little room to bring down the cost of the heat pump itself. So, if you can't reduce the appliance cost, can you make savings from the installation instead?

Octopus Energy thinks you can, and the company has been making some very bold claims about its plans. But there's a caveat. Octopus plans to achieve the savings by targeting easy wins – suburban homes in the south east of England. Targeting streets where the houses are similar, and where insulation is more likely to be adequate, makes sense. You can minimise costs and streamline the installation process by adopting a near one size fits all approach. It won't work for all suburban homes, but it's a good way to start.



The problem is the Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy isn't targeting these easy wins, it's focused on off-gas grid properties instead, mandating enforced early adoption of heat pumps through regulation. This is likely to be problematic. You can't implement a 'one size fits all' approach where most of the buildings are different from each other and insulation is often minimal or even lacking, so cost savings will be difficult to achieve. A further concern is the electrical power supply to the property. Often this will need to be upgraded to a three-phase supply to operate a heat pump, particularly if a car charger or induction hob are also installed. This is not good news for rural households and businesses, and it will certainly make growing the heat pump market more difficult.



## 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](mailto:jvinter@oftec.org).

[www.oftec.org/careers](http://www.oftec.org/careers)

One thing that could make a difference is if the installation industry itself changes. At the moment, most installer businesses are small – typically either sole traders or employing very few people. The development of the heat pump market may see the industry evolve towards a different business model, with increased specialisation of individual installer roles. This could result in a growth in sub-contracting or larger, multi-skilled companies that can provide a full range of services.

Of course, many installers already collaborate informally with other tradespeople but, with multiple small businesses juggling different jobs, there can often be delays and additional costs, which isn't ideal for customers. Bigger companies that can coordinate all the elements of an installation or retrofit may be able to generate efficiencies that help to lower cost – although it may not necessarily

result in better outcomes for customers.

It's worth keeping in mind the old saying "if it 'aint broke, don't fix it". The small businesses that are the backbone of the current heating installation industry deliver excellent service and take pride in their work. As part of their local community, they are trusted by consumers and trade off the back of their reputation. They can offer bespoke, individual solutions ideally suited to off-gas grid customers. Larger companies, whether they employ staff or rely on sub-contractors, may not be able to offer the same level of personal service or customer care.

Ultimately, this is all just speculation at the moment, but what is certain is that the heating industry is entering a period of significant change. It will be interesting to see what happens.

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## The times, they are a changin'...

Readers will know that our industry is changing, but when exactly are the changes going to happen? The timeline below aims to clarify environmental targets relating to the UK Government's objectives to decarbonise the heating and hot water sector. These apply to England – we will look at the rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland in the next issue.

This is a complicated area and there are many myths out there, so we aim to inform our installer community about the proposals as set out by government over the last few years. It is important to establish facts which are basically pledges by government to meet net zero targets, which potentially will be legally binding in accordance with the Climate Change Act 2008. Ultimately, all the proposals set out below will need to become policy in time.

**2023** – Currently trials using a 20% hydrogen blend with natural gas are underway in Gateshead where 668 homes are involved.

**2024** – Proposed date to ban the installation of fossil fuel appliances in large off-gas grid business premises.

**2025** – This is the year that regulations are set to end the installation of fossil fuel boilers in new build homes. Energy efficiency requirements (SAP) will make it virtually impossible for a gas or oil boiler to be installed in a new build property. The Future Homes Standard 2025 will be set so 'that new homes will not be built with fossil fuel heating'. A low carbon heating system will be integral to a new home.

**2026** – Proposal to ban the installation of fossil fuel boilers in off-gas grid homes and small businesses. Instead, the Government has proposed a 'heat pump first' approach. This will be hard to implement without causing hardship to owners living in hard to heat off-gas grid properties, who would have to upgrade their property to be more energy efficient and potentially install three phase electricity supply to power a large heat pump and electric vehicle charger. OFTEC has proposed an alternative liquid fuel solution called HVO, which potentially has an 88% net carbon dioxide emission reduction.

**2026** – Government is consulting with industry and has provided funding for research, development, and trials, to investigate if it is feasible and safe to heat our homes with 100% hydrogen as a replacement for natural gas. Live trials are about to start in properties to further establish its feasibility. However, producing enough green hydrogen

to replace natural gas is still being investigated. In 2026 government has indicated, once trials are completed, and if it is considered safe for national distribution, hydrogen get the go-ahead to replace natural gas.

**2028** – The Prime Minister announced a target of 600,000 heat pumps to be installed per year by this time. This is a real challenge as the English, Scottish and Northern Ireland Housing Survey suggest there are approximately 17 million homes below EPC Band C. This suggests that technically and economically a large proportion of the UK housing stock is unsuitable for heat pump technology without making consequential improvements to insulate building fabric and electrical supply. However, heat pumps do have a future in new low energy homes built to best practice, energy efficient homes well insulated and a suitable electrical supply which will require a three-phase supply, certainly if a vehicle charger is installed.

**2035** – Government has proposed to ban the installation of gas boilers from this date. This would limit the future installation market to low carbon heat generators such as a 100% hydrogen boiler, HVO fired liquid fuel boiler, bio-LPG boiler, solid biomass boiler and a heat pump.

**2035** – The Government's Clean Growth Strategy set a target to upgrade as many houses to EPC Band C by 2035 "where practical, cost-effective and affordable", and for all fuel poor households, and as many rented homes as possible, to reach the same standard by 2030. At present there are no policy proposals to deliver these targets which remain simply aspirations at this stage.

**2035** – The Government has set in law an ambitious climate change target of cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. This target is intended to ensure action isn't delayed, which is why many of the changes relating to heating need to happen during the 2020s.

**2050** – The Government has set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. This provides that net zero can only be achieved if most heat in buildings is decarbonised.

In conclusion, understanding the difference between a proposal and a policy is important, especially so that the end user may be accurately informed by the technician. Ultimately this builds consumer confidence and engagement into a greener low carbon future to achieve net zero.



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# HVO biofuel Grant Vortex wins best renewable energy product at the SEAI Energy Show

Grant's HVO biofuel compatible Grant Vortex condensing boiler has been awarded 'Best Renewable Energy Product' at the SEAI Energy Show 2022.

Renowned for highly efficient, innovative heating technologies and commitment to reducing carbon emissions, this award is the company's first major recognition for its HVO biofuel compatible Grant Vortex boiler. The product was developed following an investment of over €250,000 in R&D which aimed to help existing rural and hard to heat homes reduce carbon emissions and helping to prevent homeowners from incurring the high cost and subsequent disruption to daily life of deep retrofitting.

Grant was also recognised for its innovation in The Irish Times Innovation Awards 2021, where the same product was a finalist in the sustainability category.

A trusted brand for home heating for over 40 years and an OFTEC member, Grant continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable and innovative product development.

Founder, Stephen Grant said: "We are delighted that our Grant Vortex boiler received Best Renewable Energy Product of the Show at the SEAI Energy Awards. Our breakthrough in the research and development of HVO-ready condensing boilers has led the way for us to transform largely into a renewable heating company and we continue to lead the industry in designing and manufacturing heating technologies that offer a low carbon and sustainable home heating solution for homeowners throughout Ireland going forward into the future."

While HVO is a relatively new fuel to Ireland, in Europe and the UK it is used for marine and public transport and to power generators. HVO currently available in the UK and Ireland is manufactured from 100% renewable and sustainable waste derived raw materials and certified via the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) scheme.



Stephen continues: "Over one million liquid-fuelled homes on the island of Ireland could be decarbonised by installing an HVO biofuel compatible Grant Vortex boiler, especially those who are off the grid and that have poor thermal efficiency. The cost of updating an existing boiler would be approximately €500 when matching and changing to a new biofuel burner, however this could be substantially less if the boiler is already biofuel compatible."

Grant director, Niall Fay, added: "Using 100% HVO for heating will help meet Ireland's carbon emissions target and result in circa 87% immediate carbon reduction. Using this or a percentage blend of HVO with kerosene, will enable rural and hard to heat Irish homes to transition to a renewable green alternative



from 100% kerosene at an affordable cost and minimum disruption to their home lives. In terms of renewable heating, using 100% HVO could provide a more sustainable way to heat existing homes than a heat pump."

David Blevings, OFTEC Ireland manager believes, "This is a very positive step and reinforces our belief that biofuels have a key role to play in reducing emissions in the home heat sector. We have continually advised government that the introduction of a biofuel as a replacement for kerosene is a viable option and should be part of Ireland's future energy mix.

"Replacing kerosene with HVO is a seamless transition for existing liquid fuel users and a simple option for government to reduce carbon emissions in the off-grid sector. If all the c.700 thousand oil fired homes moved to HVO tomorrow, the annual carbon emissions from the liquid fuel sector would drop from c.3.7 million tonnes to 488 thousand tonnes per annum; those substantial savings are available today, not in ten years' time."

Grant's portfolio of heating technologies currently includes HVO biofuel compatible condensing boilers, air to water, air source heat pumps, condensing wood pellet boilers, solar thermal panels, underfloor heating, hot water cylinders and aluminium radiators.

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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



# Northern Regional College gets an upgrade

Northern Regional College (NRC) recently revamped its Newtownabbey campus to “improve student learning” by working closely with OFTEC and appliance manufacturers in the plumbing sector to provide students with up-to-date, bespoke training on modern appliances.

At a recent event at its Newtownabbey campus, local manufacturers and suppliers met students and received a guided tour of the new workshop which has been fitted out with new technologies to help prepare them for a fast-paced, ever-changing industry.

In line with new industry-wide developments, the college has installed environmentally friendly bays introducing apprentices to HVO fuelled boilers, solar hot water, and heat pump technology.

Peter Lynch, plumbing lecturer at NRC, said having the right equipment while training “offers apprentices the opportunity to become familiar with the reality of plumbing. It also means newly qualified plumbers will be fully equipped to provide safe, high-quality work, ensuring sustainability across the industry”.



OFTEC Members with Peter Lynch (NRC)

Peter thanked manufacturers and suppliers for supporting apprentices with new equipment for use in their training, which he said had massively helped the College with its aim to be constantly improving student learning experience.

## OFTEC member companies at NRC

David Blevings from OFTEC attended the event and said: “It is particularly pleasing to see NRC investing in renewable heating products, including

the adoption of HVO for its liquid fuelled boilers. It is a great centre, and we firmly believe an apprenticeship is an excellent entry route into the heating and plumbing sector, as a recent OFTEC survey found that 48% of registered technicians had started their career from an apprenticeship. Furthermore, 66% of OFTEC registered technicians currently have, or would consider, taking on an apprentice in the future, so the opportunities are certainly there.”

Further information at [www.nrc.ac.uk/](http://www.nrc.ac.uk/) or [peter.lynch@nrc.ac.uk](mailto:peter.lynch@nrc.ac.uk)

# OFTEC now the only Solid Fuel Registration provider for installers in Ireland

With the news that HETAS has decided not to continue with the Registered Installer scheme in Ireland, OFTEC is now the only body in the country providing Solid Fuel Registration for installers and servicing technicians.

As part of OFTEC’s competent person scheme, the Solid Fuel Registration demonstrates an installer’s professionalism and shows that their work complies with local building regulations.

There has been a steady increase in solid biomass use across Ireland, as it was the second largest growth in renewable energy in the last decade. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has also recently endorsed sustainable solid biomass as an important renewable option in future.

Additionally, with the recent rise in household heating costs, many may be turning to solid fuel appliances to heat their home in an attempt to keep central heating bills low.

New and replacement solid fuel combustion appliances must be installed in accordance with regional building regulations and manufacturers installation instructions. OFTEC registration is vital, as poorly installed appliances and lack of servicing can present a dangerous risk to life.

Commenting on the importance of the Solid Fuel Registration scheme, OFTEC Ireland manager David Blevings said: “It can be incredibly dangerous if appliances are installed or serviced by an unregistered technician. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a real threat to consumers burning any fossil fuel and it is imperative that any solid fuel appliance is installed correctly and tested by a professional to minimise this risk.

“For some regions, it is essential for installers to show they work in compliance with building regulations. OFTEC registration will immediately demonstrate this, giving registered



technicians the ability to self-certify installation work and subsequently opening up opportunities to work for registered solid fuel and biomass technicians.

“We recognise technical qualifications in solid fuel installation from HETAS, as well as providing our own, and will quickly ensure any applications from former HETAS registered installers are processed, giving technicians the recognition, they require.”

To read more about the benefits of OFTEC Solid Fuel Registration and to apply online, visit: [www.oftec.org/technicians/areas-of-registration](http://www.oftec.org/technicians/areas-of-registration)



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Firebird installers Nick Slater Plumbing & Heating Staffordshire



Firebird's Envirogreen C100 condensing boiler

# Firebird's foodbank solution

Firebird has helped The Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank to continue its invaluable work, while also fulfilling the organisation's goal to strengthen its environmental practices.

Established in 2012, The Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank has played a vital role in the community over the past 10 years. With 14 distribution centres and 15 sessions per week, the volunteer-run organisation, supported by local churches and the people of the city, donated almost 900,000kg of food between March 2012 and March 2021.

The charity recently faced a significant dilemma when the old boiler, which fuelled its premises, had seen an increase in fuel consumption over recent years, putting a strain on the running costs of the organisation.

Gary Davies, national sales manager from Firebird explained: "It was clear that the existing 70 cast iron standard efficiency boiler installed was not performing to optimum efficiency and needed to be replaced. Not only did they need a replacement urgently, but

they were very keen to ensure that the new boiler would be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly."

With a clear focus on renewables and sustainability, Firebird has dedicated significant resources and invested heavily in developing products with increased fuel efficiency, reduced emissions and products that use more renewable and sustainable fuel sources. Its boilers boast 97.5% efficiency and NOx emissions as low as 60mg/kWhr, half the EU limits.

The Foodbank Stoke-on-Trent reached out to Firebird because of its expertise and reputation in the renewable sector.

Corrine Boden, MBE at the Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank, commented: "We went to Firebird because of



its reputation for reliability and the very best customer service and products. It's a big investment for us so we needed to make sure we were working with a provider that wouldn't let us down, as well as giving us a heating solution that would actually save us money"

"The clear choice was to upgrade the old boiler to a high efficiency Firebird Envirogreen boiler with low emissions," continued Gary.

Long-standing Firebird installer, Nick Slater of Nick Slater Plumbing and Heating, provided his expertise and was eager to contribute to the project. Firebird worked with Nick to identify the best appliance in terms of size and suitability.

"We supplied a boiler from our new Low NOx Envirogreen range which is incredibly popular with installers and has NOx emission levels lower than any other boiler on the market," said Gary. "With outputs of 100kW, the boiler is also future proofed for HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil). This will enable The Foodbank in its environmental goals, which was a key objective from the outset."

The upgraded boiler has now been installed for three months and The Foodbank has seen a massive reduction in their fuel consumption. Corrine Boden added: "Our fuel usage has now almost halved, and this additional saving can go directly to supporting those most in need in our community. As well as being kinder to the environment, we are saving so much in fuel costs."

[www.firebird.uk.com](http://www.firebird.uk.com)

# Sustainability and the future: challenges ahead but the countryside leads the way

There's a quiet, green revolution going on in the UK countryside, with people adopting a more sustainable way of living and embracing new ways of heating their homes. And that move is good news for the oil-fired domestic heating industry, writes Sean Keleher, national technical manager at Navien.

People could be forgiven for thinking that the UK countryside is behind the times and stuck in the past. But chocolate box houses, farms, fields and rolling hills hide the fact that rural dwellers are passionate about sustainability – and are actually taking a lead by embracing alternative green fuels.

According to research by UK100, a network of local government leaders, climate change is a topic of high concern to 87% of rural citizens across the political spectrum. The countryside is often at the sharp end of environmental issues such as storm damage, flooding and extreme weather events, so the people that live there see first-hand how the UK's climate is changing. That's why many of them are in the vanguard in terms of reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

For example, farmers are looking to switch from red diesel to hydrogen power, others are installing solar farms for electricity generation, while rural councils have banded together to create a Countryside Climate Network to gather and share research and ideas.

It's these forward-thinking attitudes to sustainability and green issues in Britain's rural areas that are driving change, with people seeing the tangible benefits of a more sustainable way of living.

Now, that's all very interesting from a demographic perspective, but how does that affect our industry? What are some of the changes we're seeing? And why should we have confidence in the future of the oil-fired heating sector?

Well, in a way, the UK countryside is a perfect testbed

for new technologies and acts as a catalyst for the wider uptake of more renewable technologies.

Since successfully introducing low NOx blue flame boilers to offer superior efficiencies and lower emissions compared to other manufacturers' yellow flame units, Navien has since become deeply interested in the trials of alternatives to kerosene heating oil – specifically hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO). Indeed, our product development team has been monitoring trials taking place in nineteen (often rural) sites across Britain, using a range of heating and cooking appliances in both domestic and commercial settings. HVO is made from fossil-free, sustainable waste materials and certified via the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) scheme. The UK trials are coordinated by OFTEC, and according to the association's CEO Paul Rose, the initial results are highly encouraging.

The advantages of HVO are many and, thanks to the ingenuity and innovation of many people in the UK countryside, allow installers and end users to look forward with positivity. HVO is an excellent replacement for heating oil with fairly simple and low-cost changes to heating systems. Of course, it's much safer to handle due to its lower flashpoint, while the fact it's biodegradable will enable it to be categorised as a non-pollutant. As people in older and less energy efficient homes, commonly found in rural areas, have to grapple with the difficulties and expense of other forms of renewable heating, HVO will be an attractive proposition for the industry – and government – to get behind.

Organisations like UK100 are helping to harness the good ideas originating from rural areas of the UK, as well as develop best practices, such as the adoption of HVO as an alternative to kerosene. As councillor Steve Count, the leader of Cambridgeshire County Council says: "For the nation to tackle climate change and achieve net-zero, the countryside must be at the heart of this conversation. We can't just focus on UK cities. Green investment must be targeted at rural areas too."

This spells good news on a couple of fronts. Of course, it's positive for our industry – it means we can offer alternative solutions to problems caused by fossil fuel use in oil-fired heating, as well as demonstrate that we're not just resting on our laurels.

Installers can also continue to serve customers and deliver heating and hot water appliances which not only heat their homes, but also enable them to play their part in the drive to achieve net zero emissions. And we can engineer products to be even more efficient – utilising factors like blue flame technology, which allows Navien to manufacture its LCB700 Blue Flame – the only domestic oil boiler in the UK capable of achieving an ErP A+ energy rating. After all, as a company, we are dedicated to developing products that will benefit installers and end users alike, while at the same time supporting government strategy.

The bottom line is, along with the push for renewable technologies like heat pumps, solar and wind, there is still a great opportunity for the oil-fired heating industry. The people I meet across our sector – whether engineers or specifiers, rural homeowners or business people – are

endlessly creative and innovative, moving together with purpose and passion, as they strive to create a sustainable future for generations to come.

So, although the landscape is changing, our industry's long-term prospects look good. And that is thanks, in part, to the great British countryside.





Riello residential burner production

# Riello celebrates a century

In June Riello celebrates its 100-year anniversary as a provider of energy technologies.

Founded in 1922, Riello Group produces systems and technologies for heating, cooling and energy efficiency in the residential and commercial sectors and is at the forefront of combustion technology.

In the early 1990s Riello Burners Ltd (UK) was established with its operational headquarters in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Starting with the offer of residential burners to support the UK and Irish markets, Riello Burners quickly made a name for itself and went on to successfully introduce its commercial and industrial range into the market.

The early 2000s saw the launch of the 'RDB' residential oil burner, designed with the engineer in mind to ease installation and servicing.

"The burner took the market by storm and established itself as the preferred residential oil burner for all main oil boiler manufacturers," says Phil Adams, Riello UK managing director.

With continued developments in oil fired technology and the introduction of new products to meet increased challenges imposed by regulations, such as the introduction of ErP

regulations and the requirements to reduce NOx emissions, the company has remained at the forefront of innovation and a favourite of oil boiler manufacturers.

During the mid-2000s, with continued growth in commercial and industrial burner sales, Riello offers a complete range of gas, oil and dual fuel burners covering outputs up to 32MW. With a strong focus on the utilisation of fully electronic control systems, combustion management and reduced emissions, the company now provides improved efficiency and Ultra Low NOx combustion across a wide range of commercial and industrial burners to satisfy the strictest of

regulations.

The company's commitment to supporting its markets is evidenced by a record year in 2021 in the UK across residential, commercial and industrial applications, despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

"For many OEMs and distributors, Riello is now the 'partner of choice' across all of these sectors," adds Phil.

## Operating in over 120 countries

Today, Riello Group's headquarters and research centres in Italy are



Riello commercial burner production

supported by production sites in Italy, Poland, Canada and China. The Group has over 1,800 employees and recorded a consolidated net turnover of \$500 million (2020) with operations in over 120 countries.

As part of continued investment and development, the production of burners in the Legnago plant has been transformed to follow a lean methodology, providing improved efficiency and response times whilst also increasing productivity.

“The transition from production ‘lines’ to the new rotating ‘islands’ are an industry first for burner production and demonstrate that Riello continues to lead the way in innovation within the combustion sector,” explains Phil.

Following a recent acquisition, Riello is now part of Carrier Global Corporation and joins the Group to increase its position as a global leader in healthy, safe, sustainable, and intelligent solutions for construction and the cold chain.

Sustainability continues to guide the company in the way it operates and in the creation of cutting-edge systems. The goal is to improve the quality of life, making the planet better for future generations. This philosophy flows into an infinite



Riello HQ Italy

embrace, a symbol of the continuous search for healthy and safe solutions to concentrate every effort towards excellence.

Phil reflects: “This centenary represents an important stage and a new beginning in energy transition that is already underway; our aim is to be a reference player in future industrial and cultural change.

“Having been a key player in the UK and Irish markets for many years,

and now with the backing of our new partnership with Carrier, we are all excited to continue providing energy efficient solutions that improve the quality of life whilst reducing harmful emissions to better the environment for future generations.

“The 100-year anniversary is a key milestone for Riello Group and is evidence of our strong history in the heating sector. We are all looking forward to what the next 100 years brings!”

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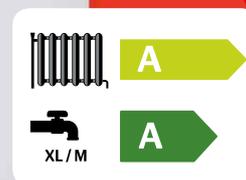
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# KEYMARK approval for Grant's Aerona<sup>3</sup> range

The Aerona<sup>3</sup> air source heat pump range from Grant UK has been approved by CEN KEYMARK, an independent European certification mark for all heat pumps, combination heat pumps and hot water heaters.

All of Grant's Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pumps, available in 6kW, 10kW, 13kW and 17kW models, are now KEYMARK approved, an accreditation that accompanies the range's existing MCS approvals. Owned by the European Committee for Standardisation, the Heat Pump KEYMARK scheme sets out a series of rules and efficiency requirements that products must demonstrate compliance with during independent, third-party testing.

The Aerona<sup>3</sup> air source heat pump range, which uses R32 refrigerant, boasts excellent SCOPs and all



the models have an ErP rating of A+++ . In addition to their MCS and KEYMARK accreditations, Grant heat pumps have also been recognised for their quiet operation with both the 13kW and 17kW units having the Quiet Mark. Designed to be installer friendly, straightforward to maintain and providing homeowners with an efficient, reliable low-carbon solution for their heating requirements, the Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pump is also available with a seven-year guarantee when installed by a trained G1 Installer.

"We are very pleased that our Aerona<sup>3</sup>

range has achieved KEYMARK certification," comments Neil Sawers, Grant's commercial technical manager. "The CEN Heat Pump KEYMARK is a certification scheme that supports the quality of heat pumps in the European market and the KEYMARK logo helps customers find products that fulfil core requirements and efficiency standards as set out by Ecodesign. The Grant Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pump delivers high performances and reliable operation, which are just two reasons why the range is a favourite for many installers and their customers." [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)

## Mapping out bio-oil

Martyn Bridges, director of technical services at Worcester Bosch, discusses bio-oil, its future and which other technologies can fill the gap while it continues to develop.

In the last two years we have seen no noticeable slowdown in the demand for oil-fired boilers, which is unsurprising as they are a brilliant solution for off-gas grid properties. However, as part of the Government's roadmap to net zero 2050, off-gas grid properties are one of the first being addressed for decarbonisation, which does raise questions about the longevity of oil-fired boilers.

However, there is an alternative low-carbon fuel for this technology – Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), aka bio-oil. It presents a number of benefits and should be considered as one of the solutions to decarbonised heating with non-gas grid households.

### Simple change

HVO has long since been talked about as an alternative to kerosene. It would contribute towards the greening of the oil supply, either as a blended version mixed with kerosene or 100% bio-oil alternative and there are already over 100 homes currently being run from HVO bio-oil, which shows it is possible.

For homeowners with existing oil boilers, it will require very limited changes to their current systems, aside from perhaps the combustion settings of the boiler. Most plastic oil tanks are already suitable for HVO, and the pipelines and fittings would most likely be as well, plus the homeowner would continue to use oil, albeit a low-carbon version, without any drastic changes.

### HVO hybrids

However, there is still some work to be done before the supply for bio-oil boilers is readily available. Until then, the reduction in oil consumption could be brought about by introducing hybrid systems, such as the addition of a heat pump to a current oil boiler installation.

A heat pump would be able to heat the home for around 70% of the time. That would leave the oil boiler to provide back-up during the colder winter months as well as providing hot water all year round.

This would be more cost-effective for off-gas grid properties than the current government stance that heat pumps could be the only technology within a heating system. Much of the fabric of the home would need to be upgraded to ensure that a heat pump runs efficiently for an off-gas property.



This can be costly in itself, but if not completed, then the cost of heating the home could be considerably high, particularly with the recent energy price cap increase.

So, in summary HVO is a sensible alternative for oil boilers. However, there are threats ahead, particularly with regard to the net zero road map, but hopefully with a more technology agnostic view, the future for oil boilers on off-gas properties can remain bright. [www.worcester-bosch.co.uk](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk)

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OFT21-504G - Installation, commissioning and servicing of ground source heat pumps	COMING SOON

The assessments are modular and can be taken individually or combined as required. There are four modules - core, air source, ground source, and design. The core module is mandatory for each assessment.

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# Keeping out the coal'd at Churnet Valley Railway

Churnet Valley Railway runs on the former North Staffordshire Railway line which, during the late 19th and early 20th Century, brought thousands of visitors to local attractions including the Earl of Shrewsbury's gardens (now Alton Towers) and Uttoxeter Racecourse. It's now a preserved heritage railway with steam trains taking passengers on a 21-mile trip back in time through Staffordshire's "Little Switzerland".

The Kingsley & Froghall Station was originally opened in 1849 and has never been connected to the gas grid. When firemen, volunteers and enthusiasts aren't stoking coal into the engine's firebox, they were occupied in the engineering workshop or relaxing in the canteen. However, Victorian buildings aren't known for high EPC rating and the electric heaters used in were costly and ineffective at heating the buildings. With COVID-19 forcing the company to reassess its outgoings they decided to have an oil-fired boiler and oil tank installed.

Churnet Valley Railway's John Peake was already well-acquainted with oil-fired heating as the station already uses a Tuffa tank to help heat its changing room and toilet blocks. For the new tank John picked the company's 2,500-litre plastic bunded oil tank which he calculated would be enough storage to heat the canteen and workshop for around a three-month interval before requiring a refill.

He commented: "It's great to be able to use such a local company and the 2500L oil tank is perfect for our requirements – it's the right size, we have the added reassurance that the bund protects the site from any leaks and swapping from electric to oil heating will help reduce our monthly bills.

"The communication from the sales staff and those on-site when we collected our tank was excellent and



we would have no hesitation in using Tuffa Tanks again in the future should we need another tank."

"It's always great to work with

Staffordshire companies like Churnet Valley Railway and hear how our tanks are being used," says Andrew Dobson, Tuffa's digital marketing co-ordinator. "



# Technicians reduce local pollution risk

Environment Agency, Portsmouth Water and OFTEC

You may have seen an article in the Summer 2021 edition where we introduced an exciting trial we have been involved in across Hampshire and West Sussex with the Environment Agency (EA) and Portsmouth Water.

This campaign has been working with OFTEC registered technicians to urge householders to check and replace failing tanks. Messaging targeted customers' motivations of continued warmth, security of supply, and avoiding the risk of potentially large financial losses, rather than previous messages which appealed to a need to protect the environment. As an incentive, Portsmouth Water subsidises a free inspection and 50% grant towards replacement works in priority locations.

The trial element of the campaign has now ended, but many of the most successful tactics are now being taken up longer term by Portsmouth Water.

## What did they do?

They identified over 500 households most likely to be on domestic heating oil using [www.nongasmap.org.uk](http://www.nongasmap.org.uk). All these properties were in 'source protection zones' situated over valuable naturally occurring groundwater abstracted for drinking water.

The trial compared two approaches for engaging customers. They split the 500 households into two equal groups; one received a yearly mailshot with a cover letter and leaflet. The other group received the same leaflet, plus face-to-face advice through their OFTEC registered technician as part of their annual boiler service. Articles were also run in the parish magazines of both groups.

Both tactics urged householders to contact Portsmouth Water for a free inspection and/or 50% off a replacement tank should the inspection recommend it.

Extracts from the campaign leaflet  
(Source: Environment Agency, Portsmouth Water, OFTEC)



## What were the results?

Face-to-face contact from technicians was the most successful intervention. Customer response rate to the campaign was three times higher when technicians took the householder through the campaign messages; 9% (25 households) compared with only 2.4% (6 households) receiving the mailshot only.

And of those customer enquiries, 92% (23 households) receiving the technician visit went on to have a free inspection, compared with 83% (5 households) receiving the mailshot only. 17 households replaced their tanks due to a technician visit, and only four due to the mailshot.

Put that together with enquiries resulting from parish council magazines and word of mouth and that resulted in an impressive 25 tanks, at least 25,000 litres less oil, less likely to pollute the local water environment because of this trial.

## Portsmouth Water is still recruiting!

Portsmouth Water has decided to continue with the most successful tactics longer term. So far, they have recruited 11 technicians through the OFTEC newsletter and this magazine. But they need more to meet customer demand.

It's simple to get involved. If you work in Hampshire and West Sussex, contact Beth Fairley on 07872 108992 or Bethany.Fairley@portsmouthwater.co.uk. It's an easy way of reaching new customers. You can find out more at [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/about-us/water-quality/heating-oil/](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/about-us/water-quality/heating-oil/).

You will be asked to complete a simple registration and contract. Then, when on routine inspections, simply tell the customer about the scheme and hand them the leaflet. Give Beth at Portsmouth Water a ring to check eligibility. Once that's confirmed, the customer chooses their technician (generally the original technician but they can

choose any technician on the scheme). Once the works are complete, you simply invoice the customer and Portsmouth Water for the respective contributions, and Portsmouth Water pays within the 30 days agreed.

G. RIXON LTD., a small family run business, is already signed up to the campaign: "The scheme has been a mutually beneficial arrangement and we have been able to include numerous existing customers within the scheme which has significantly increased our sales."

## What if you don't work in the campaign area?

If you work elsewhere in the country, please urge your customers to check their oil tanks for leaks to protect the environment and their pocket.

Simon Deacon, catchment and environment manager at Portsmouth Water is part of the campaign: "I would encourage all technicians, wherever they work, to visit our campaign website. Even though the campaign materials are for Hampshire and West Sussex many of the messages are universal."

Dawn O'Neill, Environment Agency groundwater technical specialist, also part of the trial, adds: "Oil pollution is one of the most common incidents I deal with. Please encourage your customers to take these 3 easy steps:

- Find out if their tanks are safe at [www.oilcare.org.uk/look-after-your-oil/regular-tank-checks/](http://www.oilcare.org.uk/look-after-your-oil/regular-tank-checks/).
- Check their tank regularly and find a competent person to check it annually on the competent persons register.
- Always report an oil spill or leak to the Environment Agency's 24-hour emergency hotline on 0800 80 70 60."

OFTEC, the Environment Agency and Portsmouth Water would like to thank all the technicians for their involvement in this trial.

# NEW 1200 litre low profile tank from Harlequin

Harlequin Manufacturing has launched a new and improved version of its 1200 litre low profile bunded heating oil tank. It was developed in response to increased demand from customers for a low-profile tank with a small footprint, without having to compromise on capacity.

"Manufactured in the UK, this integrally bunded tank is best suited for exposed areas," says Jon Jones, product category manager – fuel products: "Its durable and stable MDPE design ensures that it lasts a lifetime, and it comes with a 10-year conditional warranty. Its unique lockable access lid style prevents water ingress and provides convenient access for tank filling and maintenance while compatibility with HVO gives it an added advantage."

With a reduced base size, it is suitable for installations even where space is at a premium. The reduced base means that homeowners can construct a much smaller cement base making the installation look more aesthetic.

As well as a lockable inspection cap, and bottom outlet fitting kit, the tank comes with moulded-in handles for ease

of lifting, an inner tank vent and an ultrasonic contents gauge with remote display. [www.harlequin-mfg.com](http://www.harlequin-mfg.com)





# FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT WITH GRANT

All new Grant Vortex oil-fired boilers are HVO compatible.\* Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) can be a 'drop-in fuel' so it is a suitable replacement for existing fossil fuels, providing a 100% biofuel option. Significantly lowering carbon emissions of home heating systems, HVO has a part to play in the transition to Net Zero.



**BIOFUELS BLOG**

Scan to learn more



\*recommissioning required

[www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)

# The Navi-Van hits the road

Navien has unveiled its new 'Navi-Van' – a brand new display and mobile training vehicle, which allows the company to take its products out on the road directly to installers and merchants. The van is liveried with Navien's latest branding and imagery and equipped with a wide range of heating and hot water technologies.

The vehicle not only contains fully-working models of Navien's NCB condensing gas boilers and LCB700 Blue Flame oil boilers, but also an NPE Premium Condensing water heater. This allows installers and merchants to experience the company's product portfolio first-hand for training and educational purposes. The new Navi-Van can also be used for entertaining customers, as its side panels fold out to form an extended function and reception area, perfect for breakfast meetings and merchant events.

Once parked, the panels of the vehicle open up to reveal information about the company's boilers and controls, as well as key details about the brand's heritage and



renowned international reputation. This is accompanied by an overview of the Navien Choice loyalty scheme, which allows installers to gain points for every boiler they register, which can then either be 'banked' or redeemed immediately for instant rewards.

Jason Davies, Navien's national business manager, said: "We are committed to supporting and educating our installer and merchant customers nationwide. By introducing the new Navi-Van, we can now bring our products directly to them, for essential on-site training, as well as business and networking events. Having so much information and resources in one place ensures we can demonstrate all the technologies which Navien is known for around the world."

The Navi-Van will be travelling the UK and will post details of its exact locations and schedule on Navien's social media pages. Installers can also email [sales@navienuk.com](mailto:sales@navienuk.com) for further information. [www.navien.co.uk](http://www.navien.co.uk).



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 HETAS - H006 System Chimney Installer Course  
 HETAS - H009 Service and Maintenance

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# New calculation tools

OFTEC's technical team has created two new calculation tools to assist technicians.

The first tool helps technicians to correctly size a new radiator or calculate the output of an existing radiator. It automates the calculations found in the Domestic Heating Design Guide and will be particularly helpful to installers installing low temperature heating systems or converting existing systems to operate at a reduced temperature.

The output of a radiator can vary considerably from the output stated in the manufacturer's literature, depending on the condition under which the radiator is installed. The biggest impact will be the average water temperature of the radiator. Most radiator outputs are based on a 50°C temperature difference between the average temperature of the radiator and the room (e.g., 70°C average radiator temperature/20°C room temperature). However, few installations will match this temperature difference. Lower average radiator temperatures require larger radiators to be installed, to emit the required heat output. Other factors are also considered in the calculator.

The tool assists installers to select a radiator from a manufacturer's catalogue while another feature provides calculation for the output of an existing radiator with a reduced average temperature. It also features a calculator to determine pipework emissions.

The second calculation tool is designed to help technicians to consider whether the replacement of a heating appliance with one running on a different fuel would comply with Approved Document L of the Building Regulations 2021 (ADL). There is already a calculation tool available for use in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. However, technicians in

England must start using this updated calculation tool for work taking place after 15 June 2022. ADL states that an appliance should not be replaced with one running on a different fuel if the replacement produces more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or has a higher primary energy demand per kWh of heat. By entering the efficiency and fuel of the existing and replacement appliance, the tool will confirm whether the installation is compliant or not.

Both calculators are simple to use, and the Excel files are free to download for your own use.

 **A guide to assessing the compliance of an appliance replacement involving a fuel switch in England\***

Input the following data		
STEP 1.	Enter the fuel of the appliance being replaced	Please select...
STEP 2.	Enter the seasonal efficiency of the appliance being replaced (%)	-
STEP 3.	Enter the fuel of the new appliance	Please select...
STEP 4.	Enter the seasonal efficiency of the new appliance (%)	-

Results		
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of appliance being replaced		Complete steps 1-4
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of new appliance		Complete steps 1-4
Primary energy of appliance being replaced		Complete steps 1-4
Primary energy of new appliance		Complete steps 1-4
APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT COMPLIANT WITH APPROVED DOCUMENT L?		Complete steps 1-4

**Notes**  
 This calculation tool is designed to assist technicians consider whether the replacement of a domestic heating appliance with one running on a different fuel would comply with Approved Document L of the Building Regulations (ADL). ADL states that an appliance should not be replaced with one running on a different fuel if the replacement produces more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or has a higher primary energy demand per kWh of heat. As well as checking the compliance in the calculator above, appliances still need to meet the minimum energy efficiencies set out in Approved Document L.  
 Where a heat pump has a minimum Coefficient of performance (COP) of 3.0 for space heating and 2.0 for heating domestic hot water, it should be deemed to be compliant without the need to carry out this calculation.  
 Where a replacement appliance involves a fuel-switch in a home with very low heat loss (for example, less than 25kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year), a higher primary energy for the new heating appliance may be acceptable.

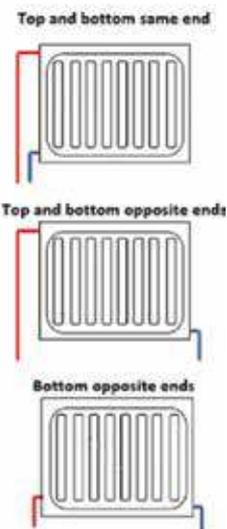


## New Radiator Sizing Tool

Input the following data		
STEP 1.	Enter the radiator output required (Watts)	-
STEP 2.	Enter the space heating flow temperature (°C)	-
STEP 3.	Enter the space heating return temperature (°C)	-
STEP 4.	Enter the design room temperature	-
STEP 5.	Enter the pipe connection type	Enter pipe connection type here...
STEP 6.	Enter the radiator location	Enter location here...
STEP 7.	Enter proposed paint finish	Enter radiator finish here...

Results		
To achieve the desired output of ? Watts, select a radiator from the manufacturer's catalogue with the following output:		Complete Steps 1-7

**Notes**  
 This tool is designed to ensure that correctly sized radiators are selected. The output of a radiator can vary considerably from the output stated in the manufacturer's literature, depending on the condition under which the radiator is installed. The biggest impact will be the average water temperature of the radiator. Most radiator outputs are based on a 50°C temperature difference between the average temperature of the radiator and the room (eg 70°C average radiator temperature/20°C room temperature). However, few installations will match this temperature difference. Lower average radiator temperatures require larger radiators to produce the required output. Other factors are also considered in the calculator. Once Steps 1-7 are complete, the calculator will recommend the radiator output that should be selected from the manufacturer's catalogue.  
 This tool should only be used if the manufacturer's literature does not provide their own sizing method. This tool is only suitable for use on catalogue ratings based on a 50°C temperature difference between the average temperature of the radiator and the room (ΔT 50°C).



OFTEC's two new calculation tools to assist technicians, which are free to download

## Technical notices

OFTEC has published Technical Notice 034, which addresses the reform of red diesel and the use of alternative fuels. It provides recommended steps to take when a client is considering the use of kerosene-based fuels manufactured and marketed as a replacement for gas oil.

Technical notice 002 has been revised to provide up-to-date guidance on conformity marking of plastic fuel storage tanks, specifically the use of the 'CE Mark', 'UKCA Mark' and the 'UKNI Mark'.

**The two new calculators and technical notices are available in the OFTEC Portal.**

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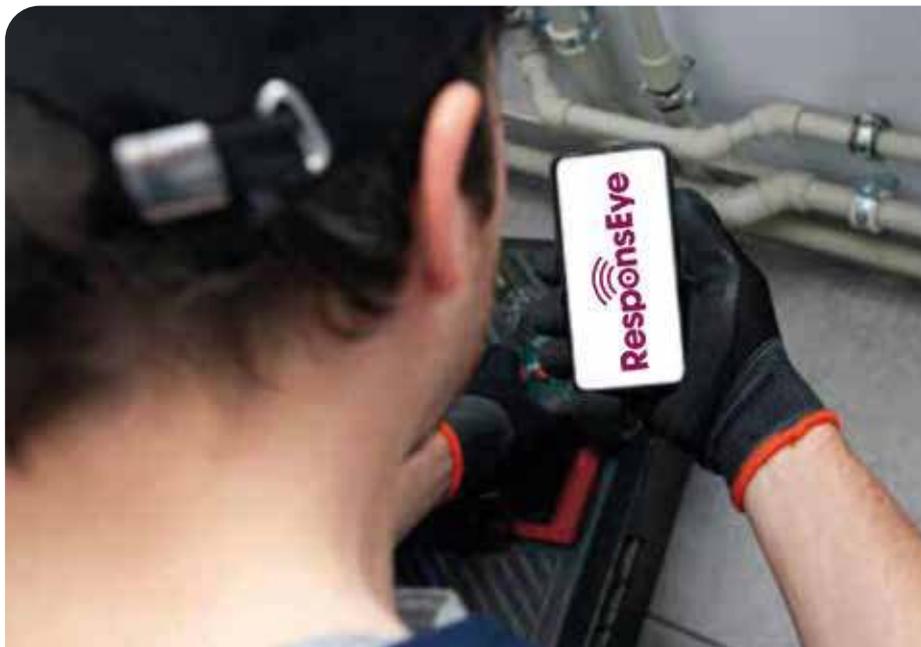
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# Stream video to OFTEC's technical team using ResponsEye

Wouldn't it be easier to show OFTEC's technical team what you're seeing, rather than trying to explain it on the phone? This is now possible using ResponsEye, OFTEC's new live video streaming tool.

When you call OFTEC for technical support, the technical officer can advise that a live video stream maybe a suitable method to help with your enquiry. Once the technical officer has explained the terms and conditions of this service to you and confirmed you are in front of the installation in question, they will send a text message or email to your mobile phone, containing a link that will enable you to use your device camera to show the installation to the technical officer. Once the link is clicked and camera permissions accepted, a live video stream is started. By keeping the phone on loudspeaker, you can discuss the video with the technical officer in real-time. The whole process takes a matter of seconds to initiate.

Viewing livestream video will enable the technical officer to give more accurate guidance. As a reminder, OFTEC's technical department does not offer fault-finding support as we do not hold product specific technical information. Support for fault finding should be obtained from appliance manufacturers. However, OFTEC's



technical department are happy to discuss compliance with building regulations, control of pollution regulations, and British standards, or give guidance on the classification of unsafe situations.

Joe Bath, technical manager, says: "OFTEC will be trialling ResponsEye for a 12-month period. We believe it will enhance the technical support offered to registered technicians, as an exclusive benefit of registration. ResponsEye will only be used where

a discussion with the caller shows that its use will be of genuine assistance. This will be at the sole discretion of the technical officer.

It is important to note that OFTEC can provide guidance to assist the registered technician about an unsafe situation or guidance towards achieving a compliant installation. However, responsibility is with the registered technician who, being a competent person dealing with the installation, must ensure compliance."

## Minimum non-domestic appliance efficiencies – England

Volume 1 and 2 of Approved Document L of the Building Regulations 2010 (ADL) will come into force for work carried out in England from 15 June 2022. Technicians should hold these freely available documents and become familiar with their contents as they are responsible for ensuring their work complies with the guidance therein. OFTEC's technical department have created a technical notice that gives an overview of some key requirements of ADL.

Identifying minimum appliance efficiencies for oil and solid fuel-

fired appliances, and heat pumps, is straightforward when these are installed in dwellings. However, identifying the minimum efficiencies that apply to oil boilers being installed in buildings other than dwellings is challenging (see ADL Volume 2, Section 6).

Rather than using readily available appliance efficiency data, government require a calculation to be undertaken to identify whether an appliance meets the minimum efficiency required. Unfortunately, the data to be used in the calculations is

not currently available to installers! Government has promised to make the data available as soon as possible (at [www.ncm-pcdb.org.uk](http://www.ncm-pcdb.org.uk)) but cannot guarantee when. To assist technicians, OFTEC have worked with its members to create a list of appliances that meet the minimum efficiency requirements in buildings other than dwellings.

In summary, before specifying a boiler for a non-domestic building in England, check the list of suitable products found in the registered technicians area of [www.oftec.org](http://www.oftec.org)

# Fuel price commentary

With the remorseless rise in fuel prices dominating our newspapers and media channels, you would need to be living a very sheltered life not to realise that we are witnessing unprecedented events at the moment. The dramatic hike in the cost of living, driven by rising energy prices, affects everyone, and the bad news is that it isn't going to get better any time soon.

Usually, the media focus is on gas and electricity prices, but oil heating has also been in the headlines, and not for good reasons. Without the limited protection provided by the Government's gas price cap, oil heating customers have faced the full impact of global crude oil price

rises, with the annual cost increasing by 23% in three months according to the Sutherland Tables. At times the actual purchase cost of heating oil has been even higher than this, dramatically squeezing household finances and making oil look uncompetitive against other heating options. Fuel suppliers were powerless to prevent this. However, it is unlikely to translate into people abandoning oil, because most households simply couldn't afford to switch, and popular alternatives such as LPG and storage heaters are even more expensive!

However, by the time we get the next round of Sutherland Tables data

in June, all that will have changed because the price cap was raised in April, increasing annual energy costs by around 50% for gas and electricity users. It's set to rise again in October so, with annual heating costs expected to hit £3,000pa for gas users, by the end of the year oil may actually look quite affordable again!

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine means the situation will remain extremely uncertain. One ray of hope is that the US Government will release its large oil reserve to the market, increasing supply and potentially bringing the crude oil price down. Watch this space!

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

### GREAT BRITAIN

	Apr-18	Mar-22	Price change	% Difference
Electric storage heater	£1913	<b>£3196</b>	£1283	67.07%
Gas condensing boiler	£967	<b>£924</b>	£-43	-4.45%
LPG condensing boiler	£1567	<b>£1460</b>	£-107	-6.83%
Oil condensing boiler	£1143	<b>£1435</b>	£292	25.55%
Wood Pellets	£1532	<b>£1590</b>	£58	3.79%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1685	<b>£2542</b>	£857	50.86%
Air source heat pump underfloor		<b>£2130</b>		

### NORTHERN IRELAND

	Apr-18	Mar-22	Price change	% Difference
Electricity	£1518	<b>£2420</b>	£902	59.42%
Gas (Phoenix)	£907	<b>£1012</b>	£105	11.58%
LPG (Condensing)	£2187	<b>£2069</b>	£-118	-5.40%
Oil (Condensing)	£1092	<b>£1659</b>	£567	51.92%
Wood Pellets	£1123	<b>£1252</b>	£129	11.49%
Air source heat pump radiators	£1459	<b>£2112</b>	£653	44.76%
Air source heat pump underfloor		<b>£1748</b>		

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Apr-18	Mar-22	Price change	% Difference
Electricity (Urban Night Saver)	€2052	<b>€2677</b>	€625	30.46%
Gas (Bord Gais Eireann condensing )	€1337	<b>€1455</b>	€118	8.83%
LPG (Condensing)	€2213	<b>€2467</b>	€254	11.48%
Oil (Condensing)	€1311	<b>€1739</b>	€428	32.65%
Wood Pellets	€1311	<b>€1361</b>	€50	3.81%
Air source heat pump radiators	€1806	<b>€2284</b>	€478	26.47%
Air source heat pump underfloor		<b>€1945</b>		

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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