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News and views from an evolving heating world



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## Business as usual in a buoyant market...

It's good to be celebrating OFTEC's 25th anniversary at a time when the oil heating industry is experiencing a sustained upturn. So far this year boiler sales are up 12% on 2015, which was itself a good year.



This reflects renewed consumer demand for, and confidence in, oil heating. The reason for this is partly driven by the price of kerosene, which remains low, but it's also a reflection of consumer trust in both oil heating technology and the people who service and install it. As its new CEO, I'm very proud of OFTEC's achievements in raising standards in our industry – it's something we should all take great pride in.

Much of that is due to the leadership of Jeremy Hawksley who retired as director general on 29th July. I would like to convey my personal thanks to Jeremy, who navigated OFTEC through the imposed DCLG 'Conditions of Authorisation' to operate a competent persons scheme, years of negotiation with Europe over eco design and energy labelling regulations, and successfully diversified OFTEC from all things oil heating into a successful oil trade association and a registration body for all non-gas heating technologies. Along with many colleagues from industry I wish Jeremy and his wife Caroline a long and happy retirement.

As the new CEO, the challenge for me is to maintain OFTEC's success and it's clear that I've taken up the role at an interesting time! It's now been some months since the BREXIT referendum vote and, until such time that the government indicates otherwise, OFTEC is applying a 'business as usual' approach. We remain committed to supporting our trade association members and registered technicians in both the UK and Republic of Ireland. We're committed to promoting cross border trade and, for the safety of the heating industry, the availability and use of equipment made and installed to the highest standards.

**Paul Rose**

Chief Executive Officer  
OFTEC

## Improved and expanded services from OFTEC

OFTEC has implemented a number of improvements to its services and training provisions during 2016. One change that has been welcomed by installers is that workmanship warranty insurance is no longer charged for separately, but included free within the cost of notifying your work. The warranty, which is an important benefit for homeowners, lasts for six years and covers the cost of rectifying any contravention of building regulations directly attributable to the installation when the original installer has ceased to trade.

There have been some important training developments too, with solid fuel training beginning to be rolled out and a new commercial oil course launched. Demand for the OFT15-108 solid fuel training is growing as OFTEC's solid fuel registration begins to take off, while the OFT10-201 commercial oil course is already available at nine centres, with more to come. You can read more about this development on page 28.

OFTEC is also keen to promote the services of registered technicians to homeowners. As part of this, a new OFTEC YouTube channel is to be created and films already being developed include 'why a boiler should be serviced regularly' and 'why homeowners should use OFTEC registered technicians'. Videos are an excellent communication tool and if there are any topics you would like us to cover, please contact the marketing team at [marketing@oftec.org](mailto:marketing@oftec.org). OFTEC has also developed an 'app' to make it easy to produce control documents electronically via a smartphone or tablet device.

Control documentation review and the new 'OFTEC app'

- see page 34

## Boiler energy efficiency label rescaling delayed for eight years

With the UK's future relationship with the European Community uncertain, OFTEC is pleased to report that the review of the boiler energy efficiency label rescaling will not start until 2023. The news was announced recently by the Industry and Energy (ITRE) Committee of the European Parliament.

Energy labelling forms part of the Energy-related Products Directive that was introduced for space and water heaters in 2015. The ITRE Committee's announcement confirmed that space and water heaters should be rescaled after all other products. The European Commission cannot review the label for heaters before 2023, meaning about eight years after the introduction of the label for heating on the market. The review will only mark the beginning of a process and the rescaling will happen even later – no timescale is currently available.

The purpose of the rescaling exercise is to help consumers to compare the energy efficiency of different products more easily. The plan is for the energy efficiency label currently used on all household appliances across the EU to move to a simple A to G scale, replacing the current system of A+, A++, A+++. It is uncertain whether these will apply to products sold in the UK if we leave the EU.

# BREXIT – “a period of considerable uncertainty for the industry”

## A statement from OFTEC

Following the European Union referendum result, which saw the UK vote to leave the EU – the so-called Brexit – we have entered a period of considerable uncertainty which could have consequences for our industry, including:

- a long term increase in kerosene and gas-oil prices caused by a fall in the value of the pound (£)
- heating products made in the EU and exported to the UK may become more expensive for the same reason
- uncertainty over the future shape of climate change legislation

OFTEC would like to reassure registered technicians that it will do all that it can to obtain and communicate information on the impact of any changes that a Brexit may have on the heating industry.

In the meantime, OFTEC considers it ‘business as usual’ and remains committed to working in the best interests of registered technicians based in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. We will continue to represent your interests, whatever the final outcome of the UK’s negotiations with the EU to withdrawal from the Union.

Look for further updates in the OFTEC monthly e-news and future issues of Oil Installer.



## Elmhurst: the importance of energy regulations

Energy performance assessment specialist, Elmhurst Energy, has shared its disappointment at the outcome of the European Union referendum.

“We believe that the EU has been good for energy efficiency, but it is obvious that issues of the economy and immigration had a greater impact on the outcome,” explained Martyn Reed, managing director of Elmhurst Energy. “We urge MPs not to throw the baby out with the bath water, and instead give careful consideration to the benefits that have been gained from the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations before making any changes.

“The government will still need policies and tools to enable the UK to use less energy and save people money. Consumers now expect information on everything they buy and buildings are no different. That demand will remain.” Martyn added that Elmhurst will continue lobbying decision-makers to ensure that the value of energy performance certificates is fully appreciated.

## BSRIA says: “Business as usual”

After the “shock” decision for the UK to leave the EU, BSRIA says it is ‘business as usual’ for its members and that the construction industry should remain confident and optimistic about the opportunities out there for existing and new industry projects.

Julia Evans, chief executive, BSRIA, said: “Now that the dust has settled from the Brexit decision, for BSRIA it is definitely business as usual. We are where we are. There are opportunities out there for our members to garner

new work and deals – we all just need to find them.

“We appreciate there is certainly political turmoil, noise and volatility in Westminster – but BSRIA needs to join in this debate. As an industry we must now start to shape future policy. Indeed, it is a chance to revise industry regulations and to renegotiate the framework for the future and find new trade rules.

“I was especially encouraged to learn that government ministers have

begun efforts to reassure industry leaders that housing and infrastructure spending will not drop and, in fact, both will become ‘more important, not less’ after Brexit. The Mayor of London has also announced to boost housing.

“Industry cannot afford any period of parliamentary inaction and uncertainty on non-EU related issues, whether two years or more in length, and BSRIA seeks urgent reassurance from government that this will not be the case.”

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# OFTEC conference celebrates the past while looking to the future

It wasn't hard to detect the positive vibe at this year's OFTEC mini conference. The event celebrated OFTEC's 25th anniversary and the achievements of out-going and popular director general, Jeremy Hawksley, while also reflecting on the current state of the oil heating industry and the technical innovation that keeps it relevant for today's consumers.

In his welcome speech OFTEC's

chairman, Nick Hawkins (Deso Engineering), paid warm tribute to Jeremy Hawksley, highlighting some of the many successes from his tenure as director general. In keeping with the 25th anniversary theme, he also noted some of the achievements from the earlier days of OFTEC. Some of the most important milestones included the development of technical standards for the industry and the first competent person scheme for technicians, the battle to achieve realistic NOx limits

and the development of bio-liquids. Reflecting on the healthy state of the industry, Nick also drew attention to the excellent growth in both boiler and tank sales during 2015 and the early part of this year, and finished by welcoming Paul Rose as OFTEC's new CEO.

## Knocking down NOx

Other speakers at the event included Barry Gregory and Brett Hales from Riello who gave a talk on Riello's efforts to reduce NOx emissions, and the innovations in burner



OFTEC chairman, Nick Hawkins with Jeremy Hawksley and new chief executive officer, Paul Rose



Barry Gregory and Brett Hales from Riello gave a talk on Riello's efforts to reduce NOx emissions

## OFTEC 1991-2016: Celebrating 25 years of growth and success



OFTEC was formed in 1991, replacing the former Domestic Oil Burner Equipment Testing Association (DOBETA), an organisation created after the enforced split of Shell-Mex and BP in the early 1970s.





design, through the use of 'blue flame' technology, that have allowed emissions to be reduced from 200mg/kWh to less than 90mg/kWh. With emission regulations becoming ever stricter, these changes will enable oil boilers to meet the more challenging emission limits of future years.

### The rise of the 'internet of things'

David Anderson from Kingspan gave a presentation on the latest measuring and monitoring solutions for liquid storage. Although wireless fuel monitoring systems have been available for some time, he discussed the emergence of ever more sophisticated smart metering technologies, designed to make it



A warm tribute was paid to retiring director general, Jeremy Hawksley

easier for homeowners to monitor usage, place orders efficiently and avoid fuel theft.

### A European perspective

With Europe a very hot topic, Dr. Ernst-Moritz Bellingren from the Institute for Heating and Oil Technology (IWO) in Germany, gave a very timely presentation on how Germany has fought to retain 5.6 million homes on oil heating and explained their industry's "hybrid vision" for the future. The threats faced by the German oil heating industry mirror those in Britain, so the parallels with OFTEC's own vision for the future was striking.



Dr. Ernst-Moritz Bellingren gave a timely presentation on the German oil heating industry

### Ending on a high note

The conference ended with a presentation by OFTEC's outgoing director general, Jeremy Hawksley. He presented what was very much a personal vision for the future of the industry, which was both positive and optimistic – a view very much in keeping with the mood of the conference as a whole. Jeremy's view was that, in spite of threats such as the oil price rise and government-led pressure to decarbonise heating, the industry will continue to thrive, even into the 2040s. This would be achieved through development of ever-better technology and the growth of hybrid solutions.



# Paul looks forward to the challenge of leading OFTEC into a successful future



Paul Rose became chief executive officer of OFTEC on 1st August, taking over from Jeremy Hawksley who has now retired after nine years at the helm.

Paul has worked for OFTEC since 2005 in the technical department and was appointed technical director in 2011. A member of the Institute of Domestic Heating Engineers and the Chartered Institute of Management, Paul lives in Suffolk with his partner Justine. They have two children, Lewis and Sophie.

In this special interview with Oil Installer, Paul reflects on his experience with OFTEC and looks forward to leading the association and the challenge of guiding it through its next stages of development.

## What are your main priorities during your first few months as CEO?

Being around the manufacturing members for over 10 years I have witnessed many people move on in their careers or retire from the industry. I believe the time is right for me to directly engage with the new management within these companies and discuss how OFTEC can improve its services as a trade association.

Regarding technicians, OFTEC has exhibited at a number of events this year to promote solid fuel registration. Some feedback received is that technicians would like to see more of us. With this in mind I will be exploring convenient and cost effective ways to better engage directly with registrants,

possibly via webinars and other social media, as well as more face to face contact via events.

## Will you be recommending any immediate changes to current OFTEC strategies?

OFTEC has a five year business plan in place. Having been a part of shaping that plan I am confident that it remains fit for purpose for the immediate future. However, we remain mindful that the referendum result and changes in government leadership could bring about a change in heat policy, regulations and standards setting, which we will have to react to.

## How has the role of OFTEC technical director prepared you for the role of CEO?

I've had the very fortunate privilege of being able to grow into this role. Since joining OFTEC in 2005 I have seen the registration business grow and I've had a good grounding in the wants and needs of the trade association's manufacturing members. I find that understanding the history of something helps to make smarter decisions. In this time I've also built relationships with other members of industry and with representatives within government departments which will aid future lobbying and campaigns.

## It has been many years since an internal candidate has been appointed to head up OFTEC. Do you consider your experience with the association to be a major advantage?

Absolutely. OFTEC is a complicated animal. Running a trade association specifically for oil equipment manufacturers, whilst also channelling resource into a growing registration scheme covering all non-gas heating technologies, brings about some tough decisions. However, I believe that it is the combination of these two areas of the business that delivers a strong OFTEC brand, and for consumers, safe and reliable equipment that is installed and maintained by a trained and competent workforce.

## What do you consider to be the greatest legacies left by your predecessor?

I have the greatest respect for Jeremy. Not coming from the industry, Jeremy settled into his role as director general swiftly and was in post through some difficult times, including imposed conditions of authorisation to run a competent persons scheme and the consultation and implementation of the RHI and Green Deal schemes, which were set to shrink the size of the oil heating market. Despite these challenges, what Jeremy has left behind is a stable business that is still as buoyant as it ever was. My primary objective is to maintain this course.

## What do you consider to be OFTEC's biggest challenges during the next two years and what are your long-term priorities?

The oil industry has enjoyed and benefited from low oil prices in the last couple of years. This has proven to have produced increased sales for manufacturers and provided oil equipment replacement work for technicians. However, we must remain mindful that prices will increase in the future.

Heat policy may change and we will have to react accordingly. However, I believe that the long term future for liquid fuel must be in the use of biofuel and we must resurrect the positive field trial work that was completed in 2010. Whether the UK is in Europe or not, carbon reduction is a global issue and we need to find a way to reduce the carbon footprint of our industry. Good work is going on regarding the combustion of oil, higher efficiency appliances, and improved user control, but this will only take us so far. We need to look at the energy source itself.

## Outside OFTEC, what are your main passions and interests?

I live with my partner Justine. We have a nine year old son, Lewis, and a six year old daughter, Sophie. We all like the outdoors and make time for dinghy sailing, fishing and cycling.

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# What has the RHI ever done for us?

Adapting the famous phrase from Monty Python's Life of Brian, OFTEC's Malcolm Farrow takes a critical look at the results from the RHI's first two years

Readers of Oil Installer will know that OFTEC has been a long-time opponent of the government's domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, which has been accepting new applications from home owners since April 2014, and applications for existing renewable installations dating back to 2009.

Even allowing for OFTEC's misgivings, it would be encouraging to report that the scheme has made a useful contribution to carbon reductions. After all, many millions of pounds of tax-payers' money is being spent, and global warming is a problem that demands urgent and practical solutions from government.

## Carbon emissions

Sadly, in spite of the investment, the scheme has failed to deliver a meaningful impact. Figures released by DECC show that, after two years of operation, there have only been 21,886 successful new, and 25,596 legacy applications – 48,482 in total. This might sound a large number, but it's way short of the government's initial expectations of 10,417 installations per month and, when you start looking at the local picture, you quickly realise how ineffective the RHI has been.

Take Suffolk for example, the county

where OFTEC is based. So far there have been 1,254 successful new and legacy applications - not brilliant when you consider that there are over 300,000 households in the county. It's a picture that's repeated right across England. In the South West – the region that boasts the highest number of successful RHI applications – there was one RHI-supported installation for every 300 households, while the North West could muster less than one application for every 1,000 homes. Overall, across England the RHI has helped one in every 638 homes to reduce their carbon emissions – just 0.15% of all English households.

Looking outside of England, in Wales there was one successful application for every 400 homes, while Scotland has been among the keenest to embrace renewables. That said, there has still only been one successful RHI application for every 238 households.

When you consider that these figures include both new and legacy applications, it's clearly not a ringing endorsement for the government's flagship domestic decarbonisation policy, or for renewable heating technologies.

## Boiler scrappage

Through independently verified data, OFTEC has already shown that, for

every pound spent by government, a boiler scrappage scheme could be up to five times more effective at reducing carbon emissions than the existing RHI scheme, and would help many more homes for the same amount spent.

It is time the government realised that it's not about incentivising a switch to renewables that is important at the moment... it is reducing carbon emissions and increasing home energy efficiency that really matters. It actually doesn't matter what technology you use to achieve that goal, providing you get the right end result.

When it comes to decarbonising domestic heat, given the high cost of renewable heating, the lack of support from installers and the difficulty of retrofitting it into many homes, the government should incentivise more affordable options that are easy to fit. Logically, that means condensing boilers and insulation.

OFTEC, along with the HHIC and many others, is lobbying government for a new national scheme to incentivise homeowners to replace the millions of standard efficiency boilers that are still in use. We believe this simple strategy is a better approach for the short to medium term, and would benefit the government, installers and homeowners alike.

## OFTEC Direct:

# Step out in style with branded workwear range

Following feedback from registered technicians, OFTEC Direct now offers the popular Snickers workwear range of clothing.

The Snickers workwear range includes trousers, t-shirts, polo-shirts, sweatshirts and safety shoes - all specially designed to provide tradesmen with the ultimate in on-the-job safety, protection, comfort and functionality.

Also new from OFTEC Direct this summer are a range of technician kits, featuring a carefully selected set of tools and control documents to carry out particular types of work, including: M/223 boiler installer kit, price £98.00 €127.40; M/222 service and commissioning technician kit, price £104.00 €135.20; M/224 tank installer kit, price £83.00 €107.90. Visit the OFTEC Direct online store for full details.

New for the autumn heating season is an expanded range of tools and accessories at excellent prices, including 24/32 piece 1/4 inch drive socket and bit sets, a two way ratcheting screwdriver and ultra-compact fuel tank valve and non-return valves.

Visit the OFTEC Direct shop: [www.oftecdirect.com](http://www.oftecdirect.com). To contribute ideas for items stocked by OFTEC Direct, contact: [sales@oftecdirect.com](mailto:sales@oftecdirect.com).





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# Charting oil's resurgence

The three tables below show how the fortunes of the oil heating industry have been transformed over the last five years, due to the dramatic fall in global oil prices. This has in turn led the price of kerosene to fall from an average of around 55-60ppl to just over 30ppl now (see table one).

The result has been a dramatic impact on the annual heating cost for homeowners, which has fallen dramatically for GB homes from a typical average of around £1,300pa, to less than £700pa now – making oil heating, by some margin, the cheapest heating option of all (see table two). One of the major benefits of oil heating is that much of the wholesale price reduction has been passed on to consumers.

The low kerosene price, coupled with improved consumer confidence, has also fuelled a modest growth in boiler sales, with 2015 in particular seeing steady growth – up 9% (see table three).

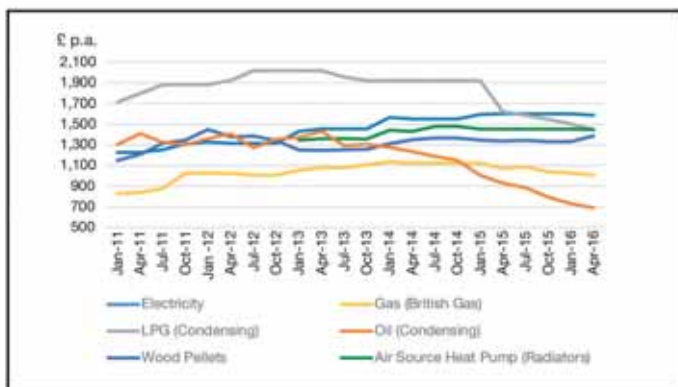
Table 1



UK average price of kerosene 2011 -2016 in pence per litre

Source: Fuel Oil News/Platts/BigOil.net

Table 2



Annual average cost to heat a three bedroom home for different fuels 2011 – 2016 (GB only) Source: Sutherland Tables

Table 3



Estimated UK domestic oil boiler sales 2011 – 2016

Source: OFTEC

## Grant helps Lucy enjoy the freedom of movement

Grant UK has donated £500 to a fundraising cause which is being organised by one of their suppliers. Wendy Halford and her family are hoping to raise £2,500 to purchase a new dynamic stander. Wendy's granddaughter, eight-year-old Lucy, has spina bifida and this piece of equipment will play a crucial role in her daily therapy.

Lucy's condition prevents her from being able to walk and she relies on a wheelchair for mobility. As part of her daily therapy routine, Lucy completes standing exercises with the assistance of a frame which allows Lucy's bones to remain strong, prevents muscle contractures and improves her posture.

At present, Lucy uses a static standing frame. However, a dynamic

standing frame will allow her the freedom of moving around while also gaining from all of the benefits of standing upright. In 2010, the family raised money for a dynamic standing frame which Lucy has since outgrown so this new campaign is working towards the purchase of a "size two" stander.

At just eight years old, Lucy has had to endure more than most children of her age. When Grant heard of this cause, they wanted to support the fundraising campaign with a £500 donation.

To donate and help Lucy regain some freedom, which every eight year old should be able to enjoy, please visit: [https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/jeannette-smith?utm\\_id=2](https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/jeannette-smith?utm_id=2)



Eight-year-old Lucy is looking forward to her new dynamic stander

# Boiler scrappage recommended to tackle air quality

A broader boiler scrappage scheme is being recommended to improve air quality, following a recently published report from Policy Exchange and King's College London.

Recognising the benefit of the "Boris Boilers" scheme launched in February 2016, the report said "this welcome start" needed to be expanded and refocused in order to maximise benefits in terms of air quality.

The report, "Up in the air: How to solve London's air quality crisis: Part 2", suggests a scrappage scheme with a target of replacing 500,000 boilers in London by 2020 and for all boilers to meet the ultra low NOx by 2025.

The suggestion was welcomed by the Heating & Hot Water Industry Council where director, Stewart Clements, said: "Despite its significance, combustion from boilers and cookers has until now, rarely been considered when discussing air quality. We know that there are approximately nine million inefficient boilers in UK homes, contributing to both carbon emissions and poor air quality.



More calls for a boiler scrappage scheme to improve air quality Credit: andykirby79

"The delivery of boiler scrappage schemes is tried, tested and successful. This new report recognises this and advocates the creation of a robust boiler scrappage scheme. It calls for grants to be offered to homes and business to upgrade their heating systems. I hope this new report will assist in kick starting a proper and full debate on air pollution and its effects."

Oil Installer is disappointed to report that although Boris included both oil and gas boilers in his scrappage scheme, this one seems to focus only on the latter...

<http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/publications/category/item/up-in-the-air-how-to-solve-london-s-air-quality-crisis-part-2>

## Plumb Center calls for more boiler scrappage schemes

There may be a new mayor installed at City Hall, but the London boiler scrappage scheme is still in place and its success to date has led Plumb Center to renew the call for other local authorities to follow suit.

At four months into the scheme, more than a fifth of the maximum 6,500 vouchers had been issued and with 4,000 applications in progress. The pattern follows that seen during the national boiler scrappage scheme in 2010 and proves homeowner and landlord appetite to replace inefficient boilers when a suitable incentive is in place.

Tim Pollard, head of sustainability at Plumb Center, said: "The London boiler cashback scheme has proven once again that when a tangible carrot is dangled, a significant proportion of homeowners will bite. I'm not surprised by the success of the scheme and I have no doubt that the

target of 6,500 installations will soon be met - we hope that the new mayor continues the commitment through to completion. It has been carefully planned and well executed, taking learnings from previous schemes which were hugely over-subscribed.

"This scheme is also a welcome boost for the heating industry as many homeowners have stalled on plans to update their heating systems due to a mild winter and continuing economic uncertainty."

The scheme gives up to 6,500 owner occupiers and accredited private landlords in the capital the opportunity to claim £400 cash back upon the replacement of a working but inefficient boiler (rated at 70% efficient or less) with a new 'A-rated' model, or a renewable/low carbon heating system.

[www.london.gov.uk/boilers](http://www.london.gov.uk/boilers)



Tim Pollard, head of sustainability at Plumb Center



# ESL hits one billion litre sales for heating oil product

ESL Fuels has recently completed production of its one billionth litre of bespoke Ultra 35 heating oil.

Manufactured in Stanlow, Cheshire, Ultra 35 is a dedicated heating oil unconstrained by different engine specifications and is therefore able to

offer boiler engineers consistently proven performance across a range of commercial applications, from schools and hospitals through to quarries.

Managing director, Stephen Whittaker, commented: "One billion litres of Ultra 35 is a landmark production figure for our business.

"That we have been able to achieve this in an increasingly competitive market, and faced with ever more exacting industry standards, is a ringing endorsement for the consistent quality of this heating oil product."

Established in 1999, initially as one of the first commercial pioneers of biodiesel, ESL Fuels is a blender and supplier that specialises in the manufacture of innovative fuel products.

From a main terminal in Stanlow, it provides a full range of fuels developed specifically for the road, heating, heavy duty haulage and marine markets.

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



# Landlords "unprepared" for new energy rules in Scotland

Commercial property owners in Scotland are unprepared for new energy efficiency regulations, according to Tuffin Ferraby Taylor, an independent property and construction consultancy in Edinburgh.

From 1st September 2016, owners of buildings greater than 1,000sqm will be required to provide an action plan when they sell or rent out their property or part thereof. They will also be required to ensure that energy improvement data, including the action plan and Energy Performance Certificate, are submitted to the Scottish EPC Register.

Analysis by Tuffin Ferraby Taylor has highlighted that somewhere in the region of 70% of commercial property owners are yet to prepare their action plans in accordance with the new regulations, containing measures that will improve the energy performance of the building and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mat Lown, partner and head of sustainability for Tuffin Ferraby Taylor, commented: "40% of UK carbon emissions come from buildings. These new regulations from the Scottish Government should reduce energy use, emissions and – importantly – running costs for larger, commercial buildings. However, landlords must be pro-active so they don't fall foul of local authorities. If they don't act on these new energy regulations, they could begin to rack up significant fines."

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

# Grant introduces new area sales manager

Grant UK has announced the appointment of Dan Caustin to area sales manager. Dan will be the main contact for customers in the South East including Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, South London, Kent and the Isle of Wight.

Having been an engineer involved in the heating and ventilation industry for nearly 25 years, Dan knows what the trade needs with regards to product information and support and is very experienced with all Grant products, having worked with both Vortex oil boilers and renewables.

Dan is already on the road, meeting and introducing himself to local merchants and installers. Breakfast mornings and technical events will be organised later in the year with merchant branches in the South East and further details will be updated on Grant UK's events diary on its website: [www.grantuk.com](http://www.grantuk.com)



Dan Caustin, area sales manager, Grant UK

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## 2,500 put vans through their paces!

As one of Britain's most popular choices of vehicle for small businesses, including the plumbing and heating industry, Mercedes-Benz Vans welcomed more than 2,500 guests at its 13th annual VanExperience Live event recently.

Held at Millbrook Proving Ground, Bedfordshire, there were 241 Mercedes-Benz Vans available for guests to put through their paces across key sections of the site, including the famous off-road track, high-speed bowl and Alpine Circuit.

With experts on-hand throughout the 10-day event, guests used their time at VanExperience Live to fully understand the range of products and services offered by Mercedes-Benz Vans. A complete display of vehicles was available to access, including vans from more than 41 body builder and conversion exhibitors to show how flexible a van can be.

Summing up the occasion, Steve Bridge, managing director, Mercedes-Benz Vans UK, said: "VanExperience Live is like no other LCV-focused event in the UK. We pride ourselves on providing our guests with the ultimate test drive; a real-life brochure to better understand our products, people, and processes that we adopt to keep businesses moving."

[www.MBVans.co.uk/VEL](http://www.MBVans.co.uk/VEL)

## Senior promotion at EOGB

Burner solutions provider EOGB Energy Products Ltd has announced the promotion of Martin Cooke to the newly-created position of technical director.

Martin, who has been with the company since 2008, steps up to the board-level position from his former role as technical manager. In his new capacity, Martin's responsibilities will include overseeing R&D projects, monitoring quality management and ensuring all technical staff are conversant with the latest regulations and industry standards.

Commenting on his promotion, Martin said: "I am delighted to take up the position of technical director in such a forward-thinking and well respected business as EOGB. We have a very strong and skilled technical department and I look forward to using my skills to lead the team to further success in the future."

Martin began his career as a self-employed commercial heating engineer and has over 20 years' experience in the industry. Last year he became one of only a handful of engineers in the country to receive a specialist Master's degree in industrial and commercial combustion engineering. He is currently studying for a PhD in combustion engineering, specialising in NOx reduction methods in oil fired combustion.

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



EOGB managing director, Paul Barrit, welcomes Martin Cooke to his new role as technical director

## Hitachi launches new product catalogue

Hitachi Power Tools' new product catalogue features its entire range of power tools, including its range of mains-powered products, cordless tools and outdoor power equipment.

"This is the first time we have brought all of our power tools and outdoor

power products into one definitive catalogue," explains Simon Miller, brand and product manager for Hitachi Power Tools.

"The catalogue shows that we offer a wide range of professional power tool solutions, with outstanding

technology and fantastic warranty cover combining to deliver affordability, flexibility and choice to get the job done." The catalogue features the new 18V 6.0Ah cordless range.

[www.hitachi-powertools.co.uk](http://www.hitachi-powertools.co.uk)



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# Why Ireland should have a competent persons scheme

Oil is a safe, economical fuel to use for home heating and cooking – fact. Currently it is the cheapest and most popular form of heating in Ireland (Sutherland Tables, April 2016) and is used by over 65% of homeowners in Northern Ireland and around 40% of homeowners in the Republic. That's more than 1.1 million consumers using oil.

We do face competition from natural gas, which is extending its network in Northern Ireland, and from renewable technologies in both jurisdictions. But if oil is such a good fuel why would consumers consider switching?

If your oil boiler, tank and associated equipment is installed correctly you should enjoy a hassle free heating experience. We have building regulations setting out standards and requirements for compliance, so why are we still seeing poor oil installs across the island?

Why are we still seeing poor oil installs across the island?

OFTEC believes this is down to a lack of enforcement at local authority level in Northern Ireland and local councils having no enforcement powers in the RoI.

OFTEC's inspectors are often called out to examine jobs that have caused problems for homeowners; perhaps when they have recently purchased a house, or have had work carried out by an unregistered technician that is sub-standard.



Plastic piping used next to the boiler

## "Cheap and cheerful"

Recent examples we've seen this month include a house where plastic piping was used next to the boiler and another where the flue is right beside the oil tank. The devastation that can occur from a badly positioned oil tank and a subsequent spill, the fire risk from an oil tank with no fire protection, and the potential of a boiler leaking



Flue installed alongside the oil tank

carbon monoxide in a domestic home all give the oil sector a bad name.

Consumers do not usually know the building control requirements and expect the installer/service technician to give them a compliant installation. Sadly, this often doesn't happen. We have a habit in Ireland of going for 'cheap and cheerful' rather than compliant and energy efficient!

The recent oil fire in Dunmurry which destroyed three houses, shows the damage that oil can do if appliances and storage are not installed and serviced correctly.

OFTEC is pushing both the local Assembly in Northern Ireland and the Department of Energy in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) for a competent persons scheme similar to that currently operating in England and Wales.

## Clear evidence

David Blevings, OFTEC's Ireland manager, said: "There is clear evidence from Great Britain that a competent persons



David Blevings, OFTEC's Ireland manager

scheme works and consumers benefit from building control compliant installations. We know that oil is a very safe and economical way to heat your home, but if consumers get a bad experience from their boiler, tank or system, they are more likely to defect to another fuel when a competitor knocks on their door."

Recent conversations with the Department of Finance and Personnel who are responsible for the building regulations in Northern Ireland indicate that a competent persons scheme is scheduled for 2019/20 at the earliest. Discussions with the RoI government have recommenced following an indication in 2014 that a competent persons scheme may have been acceptable to the previous administration.

"OFTEC is calling on the NI Assembly and the RoI government to introduce mandatory registration for all oil and solid fuel heating installers as soon as possible, following the example of the competent persons scheme in England and Wales. This will give householders more security, knowing that their appliances and oil tanks have been installed by a qualified person and they meet building control regulations," added David.

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# OFTEC interaction with SEAI

As a result of a recent interaction with The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) - a statutory body responsible for energy efficiency grants in the Republic of Ireland - OFTEC has been asked to update Kerrigan Sheanon Newman (KSN), who carry out inspections for SEAI, on current best practice for oil installs.

OFTEC's representative, Sean McBride, gave a presentation to a group of KSN inspectors, seen as the first step to making registration a mandatory requirement for grant work with SEAI. Sean will be pushing the benefits of registration and the assistance that is available to installers.

Among recent successes to come out of OFTEC's interaction with SEAI, installers must now carry out a risk assessment on the oil tank when replacing an old oil appliance with a new condensing oil boiler, and a mandatory requirement to install a new bunded oil tank if the work is funded by a Better Energy Homes Grant.



OFTEC representative, Sean McBride, gave a presentation to a group of KSN inspectors recently

# Awards for OFTEC member companies

Two OFTEC member companies took home prestigious accolades from the recent Northern Ireland Plumbing & Heating Awards 2016.

Grant Engineering won awards for the best marketing campaign and the most innovative product for their VortexAir. Meanwhile, Warmflow won the most energy efficient product with their ground source heat pump. OFTEC congratulates both companies!



Grant Engineering won awards for the best marketing campaign and the most innovative product for their VortexAir. Pictured here are: Peter Darcy (R&D manager), Mark Eccles (sales representative), Stephen Grant (managing director), and Joe Conroy (technical sales representative)



The Warmflow team who won the most energy efficient product award for their ground source heat pump

# Blue flame technology provides fuel savings and lower emissions for homeowner

A homeowner in Wales is already experiencing fuel savings and lower emissions following the recent installation of a Firebird Enviroblue C20 Slimline Heatpak condensing oil boiler in a heating system refurbishment. Installed by J H Davies & Sons, the externally installed boiler meant that no compromise had to be made on valuable internal space inside the 1960's detached property.

The boiler delivers an output of 20Kw, conforms to the 2018 government regulations and has an ErP rating of 'A'. It is low maintenance and encompasses 'blue flame technology' thanks to the Riello RDB Blu Low NOx burner.

What makes the blue flame so clever, says Firebird, is that heating oil is atomised at high pressure before being mixed with pre-warmed air and ignited. Hot combustion gases are then recirculated within the burner blast tube through a specially design slot, concentrating the burner flame and reducing NOx levels. The result is a blue flame that produces perfect soot-free combustion and reduced oil consumption with super low emissions.

Firebird has been manufacturing boilers with blue flame technology for many years and the recent addition of a Riello burner to the range means that they are now available with a 10 year warranty.

J H Davies & Sons have been installing Firebird heating products for over 20 years and have always been impressed with their quality, durability and cost-effectiveness. Commenting on the installation of the Firebird Enviroblue C20 Slimline Heatpak condensing oil boiler, Graham Davies, former director and owner of the business said: "There aren't that many boilers on the market that are so well built, easy to maintain and have plenty of space inside when servicing. They have stood the test of time and don't rust out as with some other products."

When asked about the refurbishment of the heating system, homeowner Laura Winter added: "It was



The externally-installed Firebird Enviroblue C20 Slimline Heatpak condensing oil boiler used in the heating system refurbishment

important to me that the products we chose would last, be reliable and would give us savings on our monthly budget."

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

## EOGB expands its R&D team

Burner manufacturer and distributor EOGB has appointed Dimitrios Kouloumis as project engineer in a newly-formed research and development (R&D) team.

Working alongside the technical, production and sales departments, Dimitrios will be heavily involved in the development and update of EOGB's current Xseries burner range, using the latest technology including 3D printing to model new parts ready for testing.

He will also be using an advanced CAD system to develop new and existing products, as well as re-modelling, drawing and transferring many current EOGB parts on to the system.

Paul Barritt, managing director at EOGB, said: "We're very pleased to welcome Dimitrios to the R&D department at EOGB where he will see projects through from initial design, through modelling and test to final product release.

"He has already proved himself as very capable, flexible and a valued member of our team."

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



Dimitrios Kouloumis, newly appointed project engineer at EOGB

## Grant EZ-Fit flues now available in black

Grant Engineering has launched a new addition to its popular EZ-Fit flue range. All of the external parts of Grant's low level (yellow) flue system are now available in black, allowing installers to give homeowners a choice of finish at no increased cost.

Over recent months Grant UK has asked installers about their preferences regarding the colour of external flues. The overwhelming response has been that black is the preferred option for external applications and white for any internal flue systems. Consequently Grant has reviewed its existing flue ranges, which mostly have stainless steel finishes for external applications, and has launched the alternative black version.

The new black low level kits are also complemented by a black version of the existing plume diverter kit.

Grant anticipates that the black finish will prove popular especially with owners of period properties who are looking for a more discrete flue system set up.

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



Grant EZ-Fit terminals – now available in black



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## New loyalty programme for Worcester installers

Worcester, Bosch Group has launched a new initiative aimed at loyal installers of its product range.

The Greenstar Rewards promotion runs until 31st December 2016 and offers installers the opportunity to collect points which can then be redeemed against a number of rewards - ranging from Worcester branded clothing to Bosch professional power tools. Those eager to develop their skills can also use their points on selected training courses at Worcester's network of training and assessment academies.



To start collecting points, installers should sign up to Greenstar Rewards and then register either a Greenstar i, Greenstar Si compact boiler or a Greenstore cylinder online via the new log-in area of Worcester's website.

Martyn Bridges, director of marketing and technical support at Worcester, Bosch Group commented: "There are already many reasons why our range of heating and hot water technologies is a firm favourite among installers and the launch of Greenstar Rewards is yet another.

"We're always looking for ways we can give loyal installers something extra whenever they fit our products and hope to see as many as possible take advantage of what is our biggest ever rewards offer."

To register for a Greenstar Rewards account and to start collecting points, visit: [www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/Greenstar-Rewards](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/Greenstar-Rewards)

## Introducing "a clever little product"

"The Ultra Compact fuel tank valve must be one of the simplest yet cleverest little products the industry has seen in a long time," says Shropshire designer Stuart Bratt who runs Specific Oil Solutions (SOS).

"The Ultra Compact valve is designed to replace the current tank adaptor which is fitted to the generic filter valve unit, predominantly supplied as standard equipment by the majority of plastic tank manufacturers."

Hailed as a *huge leap forward* due to the valve having the potential to *significantly reduce fuel spillage incidents* and *dramatically reduce the time taken to replace a failed or damaged filter unit*, it has received a warm welcome.

With a specialist locking device also in development, tanks at particular risk of fuel theft, such as those used at holiday homes or rental properties, can be easily isolated when not in use.

Manufactured with non-ferrous materials such as nickel plated brass, stainless steel, PTFE and Viton, the valve is corrosion proof, and being compatible with all current fuels and 100% biofuel blends, it is also future proof, says the company.

"Envirostore is the first major tank manufacturer to commit to using this product with others in the process of conducting their own independent trials," said Stuart.

[www.sos-oil.co.uk](http://www.sos-oil.co.uk)



The Ultra Compact valve is available from Specific Oil Solutions and stockists including ABGO, Centre Tank Services, Dobies Heat Centres, Enertech Group, Hytek, OFTEC Direct and Heddington Controls

## QRL launches LST radiator range

QRL Radiator Group has launched a new low surface temperature (LST) radiator. The new NHS-compliant LST casings are designed to work with QRL's hi-lo panel radiator range.

Available in three heights, QRL's new LST casings ensure radiator surface temperatures stay below 43°C, making them ideal for applications catering for vulnerable people. As well as complying fully with NHS safe surface temperature guidelines, they also offer significant flexibility of installation and feature a unique hinge mechanism for easy, low-risk cleaning and upkeep. The 800mm, 650mm and 500mm casings

have been specifically engineered to work in a package system with QRL's hi-lo round top radiators, which, claims the company, offer the highest levels of efficiency and heat outputs of any panel radiator on the market.

Independently tested in an EN442-accredited laboratory, QRL's LSTs are certified to meet BS EN442 standards. They are compliant with NHS safe surface temperature guidelines (max. 43°C) when operating at a maximum flow temperature of 80°C and a return of 60°C, or a maximum flow temperature of 75°C and a return of 65°C.

[www.qrl-radiators.com](http://www.qrl-radiators.com)



QRL's low surface temperature radiator, safe in a children's environment

# Worcester unveils £2.3m training expansion plans

Worcester, Bosch Group has unveiled major plans to redevelop and expand the training and assessment facilities at its headquarters to further enhance the support on offer to industry professionals.

Set to commence in the autumn and run until January 2017, the £2.3 million project will see Worcester improve and expand its training facilities with the aim of increasing the number of people who can benefit from its professional development programmes each year by more than 60%.

The initiative will see the buildings surrounding the manufacturer's state-of-the-art training academy remodelled to satisfy increased demand for training, and redesigned to facilitate the differing technologies and requirements that the heating industry now needs. Further enhancements will see available parking increased and the creation of a covered walkway from Worcester's main factory and offices to its training buildings.

## Factory tour

This latest announcement follows Worcester's decision to give every installer who visits its headquarters for a training course the opportunity to take a tour of its factory and facilities.

Nick Fothergill, training manager at Worcester, Bosch Group, commented: "The decision to redevelop our training facilities follows a surge in demand for training from installers, specifiers, and merchants. Our range of new technologies is only expected to grow over the coming years, so it is more important than ever that we have the training resources to match.

"When we added a new, purpose-built training academy to our on-site facilities in 2012, it was the first of its kind and underlined our status as the country's leading provider of plumbing and heating training. Now, with plans to enhance our headquarters' training provision even further and improve our factory and facilities tour at the same time, we hope to create an outstanding visitor experience for all."

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



An artist's impression of Worcester's remodelled training academy

# OFTEC launches new commercial assessment course

In response to industry requests, OFTEC has extended its training offering with the launch of a new course covering the servicing and commissioning of larger multi-stage burners, as fitted in many light and medium commercial appliances.

The course, OFT10-201 Servicing & Commissioning of Multi-Stage Burners, offers a mixture of theory and practical-based assessments for two and three stage pressure jet burners connected to space and water heating appliances.

Alongside servicing and commissioning, topics covered by the course include health and safety, fire valve installation, regional requirements, safe electrical isolation, OFTEC procedures, knowledge of oil storage and supply, together with appliance installation.

One of the many benefits of taking the course and registering with OFTEC's competent persons scheme is that it can assist with securing tenders for commercial work.

OFTEC training manager, David Knipe, said: "Feedback from technicians who have already attended the course has been extremely positive. Those new to commercial appliances have said it's equipped them to confidently tackle the servicing and commissioning of light commercial appliances, whilst experienced commercial technicians have found the details on commercial oil storage, risk assessment and procedures very helpful.

"By covering commercial as well as domestic applications through our assessment offering, we are able to further support our technicians' business growth. OFTEC will continue to listen to and respond to the evolving needs of our industry as we strive to provide the best, progressive services and advice going forward."

There are currently nine centres across the UK and Republic of Ireland offering the OFT10-201 course which will be rolled out more extensively over the coming months.

For further information on the full range of OFTEC's registrations, visit: [www.joinoftec.com](http://www.joinoftec.com) or email: [registration@oftec.org](mailto:registration@oftec.org).



David Knipe, OFTEC training manager

## Worcester appoints new training manager

Worcester, Bosch Group has appointed Nick Fothergill as its new training manager, coinciding with a period of huge investment in the manufacturer's training offering.

Having first joined Worcester in 2008 as a technical sales manager, Nick progressed to the role of specification operations manager in 2013 before becoming a regional sales manager in February last year.



Nick Fothergill, Worcester's new training manager

Taking over as training manager from Jon Wheeler, who returns to the sales team following his successful spell at the helm, Nick now embarks on the challenge of guiding the manufacturer's training department into an exciting new era.

As well as building on the Worcester's track record of providing expert industry training and opportunities for professional development, Nick will also oversee the £2.3m expansion of its training academy, and have responsibility for boosting awareness of the company's mobile and online training options.

Nick commented: "I've always been passionate about ensuring the professional development of heating engineers, and I hope the relationships I've built through daily contact with them will stand me in good stead. Now is such an exciting time to be involved with training at Worcester, and I can't wait to get started."

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

## OFTEC solid fuel course

NGST (Newcastle) Ltd has announced that the OFTEC solid fuel course is now available to engineers at the company's Cramlington training centre.

NGST (Newcastle) Ltd opened in 2003 and has since welcomed 9,500 candidates for courses, including gas, oil, electrical, unvented hot water, legionella and energy efficiency. In 2005 the company was awarded the OFTEC Centre of Excellence award and Susan Hills, one of its candidates, received the Trainee of the Year award.

Candidates attending the centre cover an area from the borders of England and Scotland in the north to North Yorkshire in the south and Cumbria in the west. The new OFTEC solid fuel course will provide oil engineers with an opportunity to broaden their work scope, particularly in rural areas.

For course information, contact Rachel Taylor on 01670 714374 or email: [Newcastle@ngst.co.uk](mailto:Newcastle@ngst.co.uk)

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## New guide to hiring apprentices

In partnership with Scottish minister for employability and training, Jamie Hepburn, a new guide has been launched by Screwfix to help tradespeople understand how easy it is to hire an apprentice.

Mr Hepburn visited a Screwfix store in Edinburgh recently to launch the guide. The free booklet, entitled 'Your Guide to Hiring An Apprentice' is available online and in Screwfix stores across Scotland.

The booklet was developed with national skills body Skills Development Scotland, which pays a contribution towards the cost of training apprentices.

It was released by Screwfix in conjunction with the minister in response to research revealing that tradespeople want an increase in the availability of skilled workers through the encouragement of apprenticeships, as well as help in understanding how to take apprentices on.

The easy-to-use, free information source is designed to expose many of the myths surrounding apprenticeships. As a pocket-sized guide, it includes everything those in the trade need to know, from the benefits of taking on an apprentice, to where help is available.

Screwfix released the guide in response to feedback from its trade customers. Many of the plumbers, electricians, builders, carpenters and other tradespeople questioned by the Screwfix poll have little or no experience of taking on apprentices, with only 14% having employed one in the last year.

Graham Bell, operations director of Screwfix, said: "As a key supplier to the trade, we're always looking for ways to support tradespeople in growing their businesses - from enabling them to get the right products at the right time, to finding out and helping to address the issues that matter most. We understand how vital apprentices are as the future lifeblood of the trade, but it's clear from what our customers are telling us that more needs to be done to simplify the process of hiring one.

"We have developed this guide to help tradespeople who have little or no experience of apprentices. Whether they're looking to find out a bit more about who to hire an apprentice through, or the financial support available to them to help with taking one on, we encourage interested tradespeople to pick up their free guide from one of our 31 stores in Scotland now."

A copy of the guide can be downloaded from: [www.Screwfix.com/apprenticeguide](http://www.Screwfix.com/apprenticeguide)

## Pellet stove installer training proves popular

HETAS' H008 pellet stove installation training course has proved particularly popular, as end users become more aware of the benefits of using quality wood fuel.

The one day practical course covers the differences between appliances, chimney requirements, service and maintenance. Installers must have already completed the H003 dry installer competency course before embarking on H008.

Mike Harvey, training manager at HETAS, comments: "The course has proven really popular



with our registrants who have noticed an increase in consumers wanting pellet stoves. We're pleased to see that consumers are recognising the importance of quality wood fuel and requesting HETAS approved appliances and the details of HETAS registered installers to install them."

HETAS hosts its courses across its nationwide network of approved training centres. Current courses include: dry pellet stove installer; approved retailer; introduction to solid fuel; solid fuel regulations and standards; dry appliance installer; wet appliance installer; biomass appliance installer; system chimney.

HETAS requires all registered installers to have a refresher training session every five years to ensure that they are abreast of the latest regulations and practices so that they can in turn maintain high standards of service for their customers.

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

## Riello updates its domestic oil burner training programme

Riello's Residential Oil Burners training courses for domestic heating engineers have been updated to include the new RDB BLU burners, which will be introduced during the second half of 2016.

RDB BLU burners have been developed in anticipation of the next round of changes to the ErP regulations and incorporate a number of new components. They also make use of a new digital control box that provides intelligent control, status indication and diagnostics.

The one-day courses will run throughout 2016 and beyond at the company's training centre in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Numbers are restricted on each course to ensure that attendees

gain the maximum benefit from the day.

Anyone interested in attending should visit: [www.rielloburners.co.uk](http://www.rielloburners.co.uk) and follow the training link.



Riello's training courses have been updated to include RDB BLU burners



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## Grant installer evenings prove a success!

Throughout May and early June, Grant UK held a series of events in England, Scotland and Wales where installers were invited to learn more about the company's latest products.

Engineers and merchants from around the country attended the installer evenings and feedback indicates that the events were both popular and useful. The events attracted around seven hundred attendees, all of whom were able to see Grant's latest technologies and chat with their local sales managers.

At each event, a number of products were on display including the Grant VortexBlue oil-fired boiler, the Aeronas<sup>3</sup> inverter driven air source heat pump, and the Grant VortexAir oil boiler/ASHP hybrid. Interest in all three products was high, especially with the VortexAir whose dual-fuel function will broaden the product offerings that installers can offer to their customers.

The Grant VortexBlue boiler and its 10 year parts and labour warranty also attracted much attention with companies keen to know more about Grant's G-One Accredited Installer scheme.

"The aim of these installer evenings was to bring Grant's products to the engineers," explains Anna Wakefield, marketing and corporate communications manager for Grant UK. "By having all of the new ranges together in one place, installers were able to learn more about the technologies as well as meeting up with local merchants and fellow installers."

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



Around 700 installers attended Grant UK's nationwide events

## BS 5410-3:2016 published

On 31st May 2016, BS 5410-3:2016 came into effect. This British Standard, which had not previously been amended since the early 1980's, covers the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of oil firing installations for industrial purposes.

Included are installations for furnaces, kilns and ovens, and now for the first time, standby generators.

It is recommended that companies/technicians installing oil storage tanks connected to such equipment familiarise themselves with the content of the standard, which requires similar fire and environmental protection measures as detailed in the non-domestic oil storage section (section 3) of OFTEC Technical Book 3.

BS 5410-3:2016 can be purchased from the British Standard Institute: <http://shop.bsigroup.com>

## Planning permission may be required...

In the UK and the Republic of Ireland planning permission can be required from the council for building work or alterations to a property in addition to building regulations.

Building regulations set overarching statutory requirements governing the installation, and sometimes maintenance schedules, associated with building services. Their primary function is to protect people, buildings and the wider environment.

Local planning seeks to guide the way our towns, cities and countryside develop by managing the development of land and buildings, the appearance of buildings, landscaping considerations, highway access and the impact that the development will have on the general environment.

Generally, the vast majority of domestic installations fall in the scope of what's termed "permitted development rights", meaning planning permission is not normally necessary providing that certain conditions are fulfilled. For example, a flue serving a boiler should protrude from the rear or side elevation of a building and terminate no greater than 1m above the highest part of the roof. Similarly, an oil storage tank should not be sited forward of the principal elevation fronting a highway.

A full list of the conditions that must be met in order for an installation to be considered as a permitted development can be found by

visiting the following webpage and selecting the relevant project from the "Common Projects" section: <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/dynp>

However, if the building is listed, thatched, or in a designated area, even if the building owner has permitted development rights, it is advisable that they check with the local planning authority and conservation office before work commences. Consent may also be required for any internal alterations.

Additionally, in conservation areas, world heritage sites, national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, a flue/chimney should not be fitted on the principal or side elevation of a building if it fronts a highway.

Where one or more of the permitted development conditions cannot be achieved, it is the legal responsibility of the property owner to obtain planning permission. However, to prevent disputes at the latter stages of a contract, if you think that planning might be required for specific work, it is advisable to suggest to the building owner that they should seek clarification from their local authority.

OFTEC recommends that you include a statement in your terms and conditions of trading that gaining planning permission, if required, is the responsibility of the property owner.

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

# Control documentation review and the new 'OFTEC app'

Over the summer months, OFTEC has undertaken a full review of its control documents (CD/10, CD/11, TI/133D, etc.) and has produced an updated suite that technicians will find to be much improved over their predecessors.

The technical team at OFTEC has, over the past few years, received feedback on the control documents from technicians and stakeholders in the industry, which has all been recorded and considered as part of the review.

"Feedback from technicians is important to us and helps us to improve the services we offer," Paul Hennon, technical officer at OFTEC, explains. "For example, it was brought to our attention last year that the forms can be difficult to read for people with reading disabilities and/or visual impairments, so we have adopted a new background colour to make the text clearer and easier to read."

OFTEC's new suite of control documents, which will be rolled out into industry during the autumn of 2016, includes several other improvements. OFTEC's technical team has looked to align the format of the documents and streamline criteria. A focal point of the review has been to ensure technicians are being asked to record the required and relevant information to help protect both businesses and equipment owners, but at the same time, making the documents easier to complete. As usual older versions of the documents will remain acceptable for use.

In response to popular demand, OFTEC's technical team has also been working on another project that brings the updated suite of control documents to your mobile devices.

The OFTEC app, which is now at the 'beta' testing stage, has been developed in consultation with Software Works For You Ltd, who publish the popular 'Gas Engineer Software'.

"A frustration of many technicians is filling out the same information on multiple OFTEC forms. With the app, it saves your details and your customers' details, so you will only have to input them once."

Once launched, you will be able to download the app via the Apple iStore or Google Play store from your compatible smartphone or tablet. It will also be available via the OFTEC website.

"It's been a while coming, but we are very pleased to be bringing the OFTEC control documents into a 'modern day' format," adds Paul. "Depending on its success, we may look at the possibility of incorporating additional facilities, such as electronic access to technical books and works notification."

OFTEC has invited feedback on your experience with the app, as they look to iron out any remaining issues before the 'gold' version is published.

Send your comments to: [technical@oftec.org](mailto:technical@oftec.org)

# Fire valve positioning

For external oil boiler installations up to 45kW output capacity, BS 5410-1:2014 allows the fire valve cut-off point to be positioned on the oil supply outside the boiler casing.

However, OFTEC is aware that some regional building regulations and boiler manufacturers may require the fire valve cut-off point to be at least 1m away from the boiler casing. For example, in the Republic of Ireland, Building Regulations Technical Guidance Document J 2014 (which covers oil boiler installations up to 45kW output capacity) requires the fire valve cut-off point to be at least 1m from the external boiler casing.

For external oil boiler installations exceeding 45kW output capacity, BS 5410-2:2013 requires the fire valve cut-off point to be at least 1m from the external boiler casing.

Due to a gap that seems to be widening between regulation guidance, manufacturers' instructions and British standards, technicians may occasionally find themselves in a situation such as that described above, where guidance differs across documents.

OFTEC's advice in this situation is to apply the most onerous instruction, whilst ensuring that at all times your work meets regulations.

In the example given above, the boiler manufacturer's guidance should be followed as it is more onerous than the guidance contained within BS 5410-1:2014.

# The importance of providing cleaning access

The provision of access for cleaning conventional flues is essential to allow chimney sweeps to carry out their work without arrangements being made to disassemble the rigid flue pipe from the appliance.

Of course, oil burning appliances which are regularly maintained and have good combustion set are unlikely to need sweeping. However, where appliance combustion is poor, soot debris is likely and this can cause a partial blockage or constriction of the flue. OFTEC is therefore reminding installers to provide a suitable

access point in conventional flues, for inspection and cleaning, before connection is made to the chimney.

The technical team at OFTEC also advises: "Access points should be provided at positions where any debris is likely to accumulate and cause obstructions in the flue pipe." These positions would include the points at which the flue system changes in direction, where soot and other debris can build up within the bend.

It is important to ensure such access points are sealed gas tight, with

the technical team adding: "A close fitting cover made of non-combustible material should be used, whilst ensuring the appliance and flue manufacturer's instructions are followed."

For more detail on the design and installation of flue systems, reference should be made to OFTEC Technical Book 3, section 1.5.9.

To discuss the topic with the OFTEC technical team, call: 01473 626 298 (UK), 01 864 5771 (RoI) or email: [technical@oftec.org](mailto:technical@oftec.org)



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# Boundaries and party wall legal requirements

It is equally important that the installation and use of heating boilers and associated systems, chimneys and flues comply with the legal requirements governing the access, use and alteration of boundaries and party walls.

A boundary can be defined as the extremity of the land or buildings belonging to and under the control of the building owner. A party wall can be defined as a wall that stands astride the boundary of land belonging to two (or more) different owners, or a wall that stands wholly on one owner's land, but is used by two (or more) owners to separate their buildings.

The advice comes following a case OFTEC was made aware of which involved the installation of an open fire in a semi-detached property which was the cause of a legal dispute between the equipment owner and their neighbour. The installer had neglected to satisfactorily investigate full use of the designated chimney and it later transpired that its use was shared with the neighbouring property. Fortunately the situation was realised before anyone could be harmed, but the case highlighted the importance of undertaking work in semi-detached or terraced buildings where party walls are present.

To prevent disputes and to protect the safety of people, equipment and buildings, OFTEC recommends that permissions confirming rights of access and use of any party walls is first established and detailed in writing before starting work. This is likely to be set out in the building's legal documents but most regions will also have a 'Party Wall Act' which provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, boundary walls and excavations near neighbouring buildings.

Where installation, alteration or decommissioning work is undertaken on a party wall, caution must be exercised to ensure the safety, compliance and structure of existing equipment and buildings is not compromised.

# Changes to chimney legislation

Chimney standards are changing, in particular the test methods for metal system chimneys, and there is a new range of standards to cover chimney accessories.

The updated EN 13216-1:2016 standard will be the definitive test method standard for system chimneys and will become a harmonised standard in autumn 2016. This will replace EN 1859 as the test method standard. The testing methods have been expanded to cover different types of chimney installation used throughout Europe.

A range of standards EN 16475-Pts 1-4, 6 & 7 are to be published this year to cover chimney accessories. These are: silencers, chimney fans, draught regulators, flue dampers, access components and rain caps. For manufacturers of standard terminals and accessories, these products will be covered by EN 16475-7 and this will then require the products to be CE marked.

## New website with virtual training centre tour



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# Grant introduces new heat pump cylinder

Grant has introduced a new ErP A-rated cylinder to its high efficiency heat pump cylinder range. The new MonoWave 200 litre model is designed to maintain temperature for longer, due to its higher levels of insulation.

The A-rated heat pump cylinder is a single coil indirect model offering incredibly high energy efficiency for homeowners. When installed alongside the Aerona<sup>3</sup>, a combined energy efficiency rating of A++ (heating) and A (hot water) is achieved. When installed as part of a package, for example with an Aerona<sup>3</sup> heat pump and a Grant Solar Thermal kit, an ErP package rating of A++ can be reached.

To complement the Aerona<sup>3</sup>, Grant now has a total of thirteen cylinders within its Wave product range which are specifically matched to the inverter driven heat pumps. Manufactured from duplex stainless steel, the cylinders have a larger primary coil which allows for the heat to be transferred quickly and effectively. With indirect single coil and twin coil versions available, Grant's heat pump cylinder range allows for easy installation for engineers while also offering the option of combining an additional heat source.

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



The new MonoWave 200 litre ErP A-rated cylinder from Grant

# New flue system for timber-frame buildings



The Ignis Protect being installed

construction and sustainability benefits. Single wall flue penetrations through a timber frame are always a concern, but this can now be solved by using Schiedel's Ignis Protect product.

Ignis Protect is CE approved and can be used to pass through both interior and

Schiedel Chimney Systems new flue system for timber framed buildings, Ignis Protect, has been installed for the first time in an eco-home in Leicestershire, enabling the luxury timber-framed building to enjoy the warmth of a wood burning stove, safely and efficiently.

The government's push for housing schemes and funding towards affordable homes has contributed to the increase of timber framed homes over the last few years, which bring about obvious cost saving,

exterior timber-frame walls, available in both 90 and 45 degree versions, up to the temperature class T600.

Gary Duerden, sales manager at Schiedel Chimney Systems, commented: "We are delighted that Ignis Protect has broken into the UK market. Already a popular product abroad, it now offers architects and house-builders alike a simple, cost effective flue system that complies with the necessary regulations."

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

# HETAS launches 2016 guide

HETAS has launched its 2016 "Official HETAS Guide to Approved Products & Services".

The guide, which is updated annually, contains listings of approved appliances, ancillary equipment and products for use with biomass, wood and solid mineral fuels. An important resource for appliance designers, retailers, installers, maintainers and users, it includes efficiency figures which help to determine whether a particular appliance is suited to a property, and can be installed in accordance with building regulations. The guide also states when an appliance is DEFRA exempt, or MCS certified.

The 2016 guide also contains details of chimney sweeps whose operatives have been trained and assessed in safety and good practice. Ten thousand copies of the 2016 guide have been printed and sent to HETAS registered businesses, local authorities, fire services and distributed at shows such as EcoBuild.

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



## Without change, RHI is "doomed to fail"

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is 'flawed' says the Heating & Hotwater Industry Council (HHIC) in its response to the former Department of Energy & Climate Changes (DECC) consultation, The Renewable Heat Incentive: A reformed and refocused scheme.

Stewart Clements, director of HHIC, said: "The RHI is flawed and needs a clearer focus if it hopes to make any impact on our renewables targets. HHIC would like to see funding targeted at those homes that can accommodate a renewable heating system and those where the current heating system is carbon intensive."

HHIC would also like to see the range of technologies available under the scheme broadened, particularly the inclusion of biopropane and gas absorption heat pumps; solar thermal to remain within the scheme especially as it improves the efficiency of a heat pump; and support to develop the heat pump market. Increasing the tariff alone, says HHIC, will not result in adoption of the technology.

"We are legally committed

to achieving our 2020 renewable targets with the RHI, the flagship policy for helping to decarbonise heat. Unfortunately, as it stands the RHI will simply not deliver," added Mr Clements.

The Energy & Utilities Alliance (EUA) agrees that the proposed RHI policy will not make the difference industry hoped for and is fundamentally flawed both in terms of what it will cost and the reforms it can deliver.

Isaac Occhipinti, head of external affairs at EUA, commented: "EUA does not believe the 2020 renewable energy target is an appropriate one for the greater aim of reducing carbon emissions in the UK. We should instead look at how we decarbonise the UK for 2050.

"Either way, if we are serious about our renewables targets then we need more than a flawed scheme. We would urge DECC to think again about how to use the limited funds available for the RHI, otherwise it will be doomed to fail."

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

## Two appointments at Elmhurst

Energy performance assessment specialist, Elmhurst Energy, has announced two appointments in the organisation, with Amarpal Sihra appointed as head of commercial and Paul Mayne appointed as head of operations.

Prior to joining Elmhurst Energy, Amarpal Sihra was involved in a number of different business ventures, including a business offering energy performance certificates for domestic and non-domestic buildings. This technical experience has contributed to his successful management of Elmhurst's non-domestic and on-construction business units over the past three years. His new responsibilities will involve managing the commercial activities of the business.



**Amarpal Sihra**  
appointed as head of commercial

Paul Mayne qualified as a chartered surveyor in 1991, working in private practice for 17 years before joining Elmhurst Energy in 2008 where he has successfully managed the existing dwellings team for seven years. As head of operations, Paul will assume overall responsibility for the existing dwellings, domestic on-construction, non-domestic and accreditation teams.



**Paul Mayne**  
appointed as head of operations

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

## Community-scale heatpumps "to play a key role"

Large heat pumps are expected to play a key role in meeting government heating decarbonisation targets according to partners involved in the development of the UK's largest air source heatpump for residential use.

An industrial size air source heatpump capable of delivering affordable, low carbon heating and hot water for vulnerable households across Scotland's existing housing estates, was said to be a completely new concept of district heating at the UK's largest renewable energy conference and exhibition, All-Energy, recently.

"We're looking to gain fuel poverty alleviation for Hillpark Drive, a 350 home social housing estate built in the 1970s currently fitted with electric storage heating, to build a more sustainable community," said Colin

Reid, energy & sustainability manager at the GHA, part of the Wheatley Group.

Developed by a joint partnership between Glasgow Housing Association (GHA), energy consultants WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, heat pump manufacturers Star Renewable Energy and Scottish Gas, the new renewable heating technology is expected to become the pathway to zero carbon, cheap heat for existing social housing stock.

The 400kW/h air source heatpump is designed to be installed at an energy centre and connected to a centralised district heating network which will deliver low carbon heat to six buildings plugged into the scheme. With the use of the robust industrial manufacturing components, higher water temperatures of 60°C

are achieved, allowing for regular radiators to be used.

This will be the first time an ASHP installation in Britain will provide central renewable heating for a block of high rise buildings.

"Many people believe that renewable energy is solely for modern buildings, however our new development demonstrates that this is most certainly not the case. If the government's ambitious targets for a complete cessation of fossil fuels for heating is to be realised, we need sustainable and lower cost central community heatpumps capable of retrofit without the constraints and high infrastructure costs associated with other renewable technologies," said Dave Pearson, director of Glasgow based Star Renewable Energy.

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# Heating professionals seek cost-effective hybrid solutions

The demand for hybrid heating solutions is on the rise, as two thirds of heating professionals seek a way to respond to the heating and hot water needs of increasingly vast and varied property portfolios, according to an industry poll.

Commissioned by Baxi Heating's commercial brands – Andrews Water Heaters, Potterton Commercial, SenerTec and Remeha – the poll highlights a strong commitment to investing in hybrid systems, which are seen as a good medium-term approach to decarbonisation.

More than a third (37%) of respondents said they were considering a hybrid system, while just under a third (29%) said they had already taken the plunge.

Hybrid systems bring together a number of heating and hot water solutions in order to get the best out of different technologies, with the overall aim of reducing carbon emissions while providing a reliable source of heating and hot water.

Respondents, which included heating engineers, specifiers and end users, identified that hybrids offer more flexible system integration and lower risks, although they also recognised that some technologies were not yet cost competitive.

When asked what manufacturers could do to encourage the take up of multi-technology systems, nearly two thirds (62%) said that cost was key, whether that be in terms of the upfront investment or that evidenced via a whole life approach.

Almost a quarter (23%) said that there was a need for better marketing from technology providers to raise awareness of the benefits, while less than a fifth (15%) thought that providers should focus on control strategies as a way to promote greater uptake.

The survey was part of an industry report designed to uncover changing attitudes towards the decarbonisation of heat and the underlying heat strategies implemented by building owners.

Andrew Keating, marketing director UK and Ireland for Baxi Heating, said: "The findings in our poll demonstrate a huge appetite for hybrid systems, which are really taking centre stage in the decarbonisation debate.

"It's a trend that makes a great deal of sense, given that multi-technology solutions offer improved reliability through built-in redundancy, maximise overall seasonal efficiency, and are a practical, affordable route to upgrading existing heating systems in order to lower the overall carbon footprint.

"Overall our report highlights a significant opportunity for forward-thinking manufacturers in the shape of ongoing investment into the research and development of low carbon technologies, and working alongside government in helping to design legislation that can support the future of our industry."

The report is available from: [www.andrewswaterheaters.co.uk](http://www.andrewswaterheaters.co.uk)

## Star unveils Neatpump

Glasgow-based Star Renewable Energy unveiled its air source heat pump – the Neatpump – as part of the International 2016 Low Carbon Heat & Water Conference and Showcase recently.

Guests attending the Glasgow event had the opportunity to see Star's Neatpump in action under test conditions. The pump - with a reverse cycle hot gas defrost and active control system - proved to be

of particular interest to customers and suppliers within the low carbon heating sector.

Star Renewable Energy has been at the forefront of renewable heating since 2009, when parent company, Star Refrigeration, launched a range of high efficiency "natural working fluid" heat pumps – a move which was the first step in creating the Neatpump. [www.neatpump.com](http://www.neatpump.com)

# Fuel for thought...

As the UK's only wood fuel quality assurance scheme, not-for-profit organisation, Woodsure is looking to educate both consumers and industry professionals on the importance of using quality wood fuel.

The Woodsure scheme undertakes rigorous testing and assessment on producers and suppliers of wood fuel to ensure they meet the correct standards in line with ISO, EN and the Austrian Önorm requirements.

Woodsure approved fuel provides optimum efficiency and ensures the smooth running of appliances, reducing boiler and stove damage. Burning poor quality wood fuel releases harmful emissions into the air and contributes to a sooty build up in chimneys, which in the worst cases can cause chimney fires.

Using Woodsure approved wood fuel, says the organisation, minimises the release of emissions through products of combustion and, in turn, improves air quality within the UK.

Woodsure also ensures that its suppliers' wood fuel comes from a sustainable source and that reforestation is enforced in the managed woodlands to maintain and increase the supply of good quality fuel.

In order to achieve its core objective of improving the UK's wood fuel industry, Woodsure requires that retailers and suppliers both play their part and support the use of quality wood fuel.

## Consumer confidence

The Woodsure certification scheme and its universally recognised logo gives those burning wood fuel a brand they can trust. For consumers, this identifies the business they are buying into as conscientious practitioners; seeing the Woodsure logo provides assurance that their appliance will run efficiently and their fuel will be sustainable.

Woodsure provides wood fuel producers and suppliers with practical support, such as independent fuel tests, encouragement, and assistance to enable them to achieve and maintain the highest standards of quality. Certified quality fuel suppliers can use the Woodsure logo to identify that they have fulfilled the required standards for high quality fuel production and distribution.

There are approximately 800 wood fuel suppliers and producers in the UK, 200 of which are Woodsure certified, and the list is growing. For more information on the Woodsure assurance scheme, visit: [www.woodsurre.co.uk](http://www.woodsurre.co.uk)



# The funny, the functional and the frightening...

This edition's Gallery section has attracted yet another fine crop of readers' photographs – some highly amusing, others very imaginative, but, as usual, one or two rather disturbing if not downright frightening!

Keep them coming so that we can share your experiences with all our readers! Send your photographs, together with a brief description of your business and where you came across the subject of your snap, to: [jane@oilinstaller.co.uk](mailto:jane@oilinstaller.co.uk)



Send your photographs to [jane@oilinstaller.co.uk](mailto:jane@oilinstaller.co.uk)

Very pretty, yes... but as OFTEC technician Colin Gulley says, it breaks every rule in the book!

Colin came across this lovely children's playhouse when working on behalf of a social housing company in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. He was there to complete an annual oil service, but to start with, he couldn't find the oil tank. He eventually asked someone... and there it was. "Wow! I was gobsmacked, that's brilliant! And yes, the oil tank is below the house," Colin told Oil Installer.

"Unfortunately it breaks nearly every rule in the book. Would you let your kids play up there? Especially on a hot sunny day, kids would be as high as a kite. As if that wasn't bad enough, below was used for storage. Well, at least they put a gate on for access!"

Colin reported the "craftsmanship" to a housing group manager. "Let's see if it's there next year..."



It's been a buzzy time for technician Derek Precious recently.

On a visit to service a Worcester Danesmoor oil fired boiler which had been installed by his company, York Boilers Ltd., during 2015, Derek was told by his customer that the boiler had been making humming noises, even when switched off!

"Upon further investigation, when we removed the secondary heat exchanger cover plate we realised the cause," Derek told Oil Installer. "As you can see from the photograph, there was a bees' nest inside. Unfortunately no honey though..."

The bees were safely removed, the boiler was serviced, and the local pest



control were notified. And now – no humming!

Derek's company specialises in both oil and gas boilers, working throughout all York post code areas, regardless as to whether the customer is up hill or down dale!

You don't see many of these on the road! Engineers from EOGB Energy Products have come to the aid of 'alternative car' enthusiast Eddie Prior by installing and fitting a BT14 low voltage burner to his steam-powered lorry to help get it up and running.

The 18 foot-long vehicle, which took over two years and 2,500 man hours to build, is made up of various parts sourced at auctions, such as an old fuel tank from an artic lorry, wood from a Swedish sauna and an old motorcycle exhaust! The chassis is from a 1949 Bedford O-series truck. [www.eogb.co.uk](http://www.eogb.co.uk)



# Pricing page

## Fuel price commentary

The latest figures comparing the annual cost of home heating show further savings for homeowners using oil.

Although the most recent figures from Sutherland Tables show a slight increase in the price of oil from those last published in Oil Installer, statistics reveal that in Great Britain, comparative space and

water heating using oil for a three-bedroom house is more than 41% cheaper than it was in July 2012. In Northern Ireland it is nearly 44% cheaper, whilst in the Republic of Ireland, homeowners have gained by nearly 34%.

assuming all three use a condensing boiler. Oil also remains substantially cheaper than any renewable options. In the same period, from July 2012 to July 2016, in Great Britain anthracite grains have increased in price by around 17%, and electricity has increased by nearly 22%. Wood pellets have very slightly decreased by just over 3%. However, in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, wood pellets have increased in price during those four years by 16.63% and 17.24% respectively.

## Oil remains cheapest fuel for home heating

Oil (condensing) remains the cheapest fuel for home heating, around £217 per annum cheaper than mains gas and £853 cheaper than LPG,



## Comparative space and water heating costs for a three bedroom house

### GREAT BRITAIN

	Jul-12	Jul-16	Price change	% Difference
Anthracite Grains	991	1162	171	17.21%
Electricity	1314	1600	286	21.73%
Gas (British Gas)	1008	967	-41	-4.07%
LPG	2461	1679	-782	-31.76%
LPG (Condensing)	2020	1386	-634	-31.38%
Oil	1553	912	-641	-41.29%
Oil (Condensing)	1270	750	-520	-40.96%
Wood Pellets	1385	1339	-46	-3.34%

### NORTHERN IRELAND

	Jul-12	Jul-16	Price change	% Difference
Anthracite Grains	1015	953	-62	-6.11%
Electricity	1535	1437	-98	-6.38%
Gas (Phoenix)	1008	825	-183	-18.15%
LPG	2364	1895	-469	-19.84%
LPG (Condensing)	1940	1560	-380	-19.59%
Oil	1520	858	-662	-43.55%
Oil (Condensing)	1243	707	-536	-43.12%
Wood Pellets	986	1150	164	16.63%

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Jul-12	Jul-16	Price change	% Difference
Anthracite Grains	1297	1510	213	16.42%
Electricity	1979	1976	-3	-0.15%
Gas	1248	1320	72	5.77%
LPG	3273	2448	-825	-25.21%
LPG (Condensing)	2686	2018	-668	-24.87%
Oil	2174	1441	-733	-33.72%
Oil (Condensing)	1774	1180	-594	-33.48%
Wood Pellets	1125	1319	194	17.24%

The tables above show the average annual costs for a range of heating options. Prices are shown in pounds sterling (£) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Euros (€) for the Republic of Ireland. Figures are for a semi-detached three bedroom house, requiring 13,500 kWh space heating & 2,500 kWh DHW heating. Great Britain (Average) is calculated using South East, South West, Wales, Midlands, Northern England and Scotland. Data from the Sutherland Tables.

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# BLUE IS THE NEW GREEN

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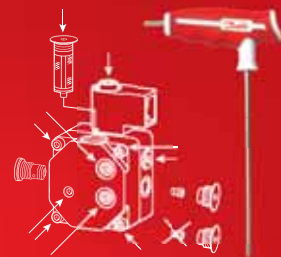
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No dismantling of  
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