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For more information, contact OFTEC's registration team today or visit www.oftec.org



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Taking up the oil and renewable mix challenge...



With the heating season well underway we're all hoping for a cold winter and plenty of work in oil boiler and tank replacements. But life may not be as simple as in the past because customers may ask you whether a form of renewable heating might be suitable for their homes. They also may have heard that generous government grants are available with the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

As their heating engineer you're in a strong position to inform and influence them. For the majority of older rural properties, a straight replacement condensing boiler will be the best and most economical option. For newer homes that are well insulated, renewable heating such as heat pumps, biomass boilers and solar heating, may be a viable option. The best option for many customers may be a renewable technology, such as a solar thermal panel or a wood stove, working with an oil condensing boiler.

OFTEC wants to register you for all your skills and we've opened our register to the air source heat pump and solar thermal installer (see page 39). I would encourage all OFTEC registrants to seriously consider training at an OFTEC approved centre and registering with us for one or more of these renewable heating scopes – especially as this will give you Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation for a reasonable overall price.

We believe at OFTEC that oil and liquid fuel heating still have a long and profitable future. It is encouraging that in Northern Ireland the government has decided to include bio-liquids (a mix of kerosene with 30% FAME biofuel) in their version of the RHI from 2015 and we will be working hard to ensure that there is take up of the new fuel there. In the longer term we all must recognise that there will be a mix of oil heating with renewable technologies. So it is important to have plenty of heating engineers able to take up the new renewable challenge – but at the same time to be able to install and service oil boilers and tanks.

With the RHI now available it is inevitable that you will be asked questions. For a copy of our Home Guide to the RHI and information sheet *Expand your business with the OFTEC renewable scheme*, please contact our marketing department by email marketing@oftec.org or call 01473 642742.. You will also find both items available on our website at www.oftec.org.

Jeremy Hawksley
Director general
OFTEC



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Competition hots up for oil's competitors

The latest fuel price comparison figures below show that oil is the only primary heating fuel to have fallen in price over the past three years, making it now the cheapest option for off gas grid homes.

According to the Sutherland Tables, a recognised source of independent data on domestic heating prices, the current annual cost of using oil to heat a three bedroom home in Great Britain is now 12% lower than three years ago.

The figures for homes using electric storage heaters and LPG show an increase in heating costs of 19% and 2% respectively with LPG, used by some 170,000 off mains gas properties, remaining substantially more expensive than oil. The cost of heating a typical three bedroom home with a condensing boiler on LPG is £1,924 per annum – £775 more expensive than oil at just £1,149 per annum. Electricity is also expensive at £1,552.

While off gas competitors, such as LPG, are quick to highlight what they see as the disadvantages of oil, they rarely mention the issue that matters most to consumers – price. With LPG so much more expensive than oil you can see why. Homeowners using LPG are also often tied into long contracts

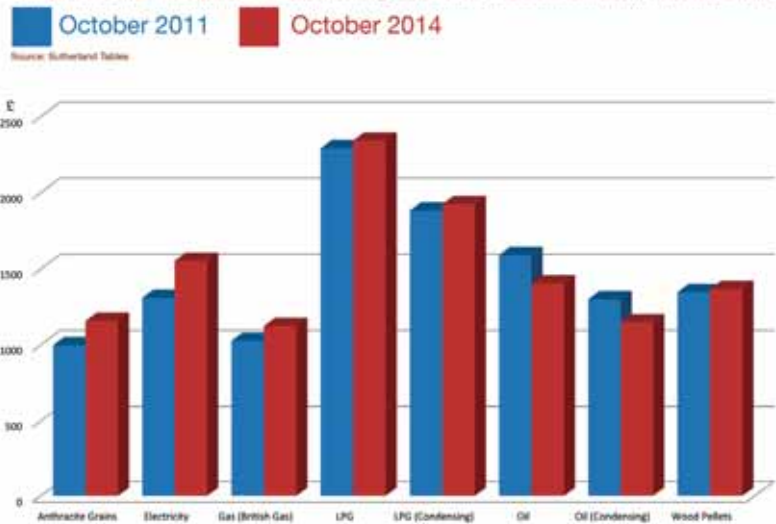
which limit their options when it comes to finding a better deal. In contrast, oil heating customers can shop around for their fuel and buy when prices are most favourable.

The latest figures also show that the price difference between oil and mains gas has narrowed significantly. Three years ago oil was 27% more expensive than mains gas but now oil costs just 2% more, when using a condensing boiler. With new research

commissioned by DECC showing that oil prices are expected to remain fairly stable, it's quite possible that the price gap will become even smaller.

The figures for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland show similar trends and differences although, in the Republic, the price of oil has risen very slightly compared to three years ago.

Comparison of annual space and water heating costs for a three bedroom home in Great Britain



Your technical topics in Oil Installer

Technical Topics

Flue gas analysis procedure

A proper flue gas analysis should always be part of the commissioning, servicing or repair to an oil fired appliance. The manufacturer's guidelines in using any flue gas analyser should be followed at all times, including recommended calibration and service intervals.

When the oil appliance has been turned on, the competent technician should listen to the start up process of the burner. Once the burner has established a flame and is running satisfactorily, a period of 10-15 mins warm up is usually recommended. Where possible, all heating and domestic hot water valves in the house should be set to the normal setting of the flue temperature which will, in turn, give a better efficiency reading.

Tip: During the warm up period, it is a good idea to use the analyser to normal and observe the CO₂, CO, O₂ and CO₂ readings around the accuracy of the appliance. Changes in any of these readings may indicate a fault. Again allow 10 to 15 seconds for the sample to travel down the length of the tube to the FGA and for the readings to change.

The flue gas analyser should be turned on in 'dry' air, i.e. somewhere where there is no CO – i.e. somewhere probe complete with transparent sensor checked and the life of the battery observed. A 'low fuel' warning should start the engine of the batteries are low. At this stage the accuracy of readings may be affected due to the pump speed so it will need to be sufficient to complete the analysis.

The correct fuel should be selected and also the correct efficiency value (given for a standard efficiency appliance and not for a condensing appliance). It is also important to use the gas from where the appliance draws its combustion air, as three analysers will now record the ambient temperature of the combustion air during the start up probe process that might affect the efficiency calculations.

After the analyser has completed the start up/heat calibration process, the readings should be allowed to stabilise at 20.9%, CO₂ - 0.6 and CO - 0 ppm should be displayed. Before starting the sampling probe into the appliance, a smoke test should be carried out as an excessively high smoke reading may damage the efficiency flue gas analyser.

When a satisfactory smoke pump reading has been taken, the analyser sampling probe can be inserted into the appliance test point. It typically takes 10 to 15 seconds for the flue gas to travel down the length of the tube to the FGA and for the readings to change. It is very important at this time to observe in particular the CO₂ and CO readings in order they start to rise quickly to a high level.

The readings should be slowly adjusted making adjustments to the burner, allow time for the readings to stabilise and compare with the recommended readings in the manufacturer's literature.

Flue gas analysers measure the chemical composition of the products of combustion (POC). By measuring the flue gas temperature and either the oxygen (O₂) or carbon dioxide (CO₂) level, the boiler efficiency can be calculated.

When the CO₂ is satisfactory, the CO ppm should be checked. As per OFTEC Technical Book 2 Appliance Section

6. Page 24 AMMO2-1213-11, when the appliance is being commissioned for the first time, when CO₂ exceeds the manufacturer's data or 100ppm, whichever is the lower, the Manufacturer should be contacted for further advice on how to improve combustion and reduce the CO level.

An O₂ reading can then be checked and should have a reading of around 2.8%. The flue gas temperature should also be checked against the manufacturer's data. Modern condensing appliances produce a significantly lower flue gas temperature than standard efficiency appliances. A high flue gas reading could mean the appliance is producing too much heat and might need to be adjusted in heat and might need to be adjusted in relation to air pressure and outside the to protect the heat energy.

When satisfactory results have been achieved, a print out of the test results should be obtained as an excessively high smoke reading may damage the efficiency flue gas analyser. If satisfactory, the results of the smoke test can be recorded in the CD11 central documentation along with the results of the test.

The above procedure should be part of any commissioning and service procedure carried out by a competent technician. It should also be carried out during any repair to an existing appliance, it may have been adjusted or tampered with in order to achieve a 'quick fix' prior to the arrival of the technician.

Tip: After finishing the test, let the flue probe cool down, disconnect the flue probe from the analyser and wrap it up so that any condensing does not. Also drain the water trap on the analyser and ensure the analyser is clean. The analyser should be stored in a safe place and the analyser should be stored in a safe place.



Norman Armstrong with Ryan Neeson

Our thanks to Norman Armstrong OFTEC regional inspector in Ireland who wrote the informative article on flue gas analysis procedure for the autumn issue of Oil Installer. The article can be found within the Technical section on page 28 of the autumn issue.

Oil Installer welcomes technical articles from readers; please contact Jane Hughes jane@oilinstaller.co.uk with details of your chosen technical topic.

Renewables to be added to OFTEC awards for excellence

There has been an important change to the next OFTEC awards for excellence.

Because OFTEC has added renewable scopes of registration, covering heat pumps and solar thermal, it makes sense to expand the OFTEC awards for excellence to include an installer of the year category for these technologies too – so we have!

However, because the renewable scopes are so new, we need to give more time for installers to take up the new registration and nominate themselves for an award. As a result we have decided to extend the time for entries and postpone the awards event from 2015 until 2016, which means technicians have the whole of 2015 to enter the competition.

Entries will be considered for installation work carried out between March 2014 and December 2015.

Entry forms are on the OFTEC website at www.oftec.org or contact OFTEC's marketing team at marketing@oftec.org who will be happy to send you a form.



See page 39 – OFTEC working with renewables

EU decision on NOx emission levels applauded by OFTEC

The EU's Ecodesign Directive may seem distant from the day-to-day work of a heating engineer but, without the efforts OFTEC and its partners, it could have had a big impact on our industry.

The Ecodesign Directive governs the design and performance of energy-using products and aims to reduce their energy consumption and environmental impact.

The new Directive contains a revised EU limit for the amount of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) that can be emitted from boilers. Unfortunately, the final draft proposals referenced an outdated standard that would have effectively outlawed the use of yellow flame burners – the type currently in use in the UK – by 2018, giving manufacturers little time to develop alternatives.

However, by working closely with DECC, DEFRA and other EU Member State organisations, OFTEC has successfully lobbied to reverse this decision and ensured that the latest standard is referenced.

This is a major win for the oil heating industry and secures the manufacture of yellow flame boilers, subject to meeting other Ecodesign requirements, until at least 2022, giving manufacturers more time to develop a new generation of oil boilers that will meet more stringent requirements in the future. It also provides sufficient time for any additional technician training which needs to be addressed.

Awards to feature Oil Installer of the Year

The Heating & Renewable Awards will return in 2015 – and will feature several new award categories, including Oil Installer of the Year.

Following September's successful ceremony at The Kensington Roof Gardens, all 13 categories have been retained, plus four which are new for 2015.

Previously known as The Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards, the awards will also be returning to its regular venue – The Ricoh Arena, Coventry – on the evening of 10th September – following The Heating & Renewables Roadshow's Midlands exhibition.

Awards categories for 2015 will include: The Contribution Award; Commercial Project; Residential New Build Project; Residential Retrofit Project; Heating & Renewables Innovation; Biomass Installer; High Efficiency Boiler Installer; Solar PV Installer; Solar Thermal Installer; Air Source Heat Pump; Ground Source Heat Pump; Commercial Installer; Heating & Renewables Installer; plus the four new categories – Apprentice of the Year; Oil Installer of the Year; Community Heating Project of the Year; and Training Initiative of the Year.

Paul Stephen of award organisers A&D Publishing, commented: "For the first time ever, we have incorporated a category dedicated to oil installers in order to recognise the important contribution they can make in reducing carbon emissions, and the considerable body of expertise and innovation which exists in this sector. We are hopeful that oil installers will put themselves forward as we celebrate best practice amongst all heating contractors."

More information, including how to enter and sponsorship opportunities, will be available in the New Year at: www.heatingandrenewablesroadshow.co.uk/awards

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New RHI data confirms the north-south divide

The first quarterly OFGEM review of homes installing renewable heating technologies under the government's domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme has revealed that the largest take up has been in the affluent south of England, underlining OFTEC's concerns that the RHI is most viable for wealthy homeowners.

Although the RHI is targeted towards off gas grid homes, the report shows that almost half (45.9%) of the households adopting the scheme are south of a line between the River Severn and the Wash – the part of Britain with the highest concentration of homes connected to mains gas.

By contrast, just 18.2% of RHI homes are in the north of England and, in areas with a much higher percentage of off-gas grid homes such as Wales and Scotland, far fewer homeowners have taken up the scheme – just 5.2% and 16.6% respectively of the total.

The divide between north and south is still apparent when population figures are taken into account, except in Scotland which is home to 8.4% of the population but has almost double the proportion of RHI households

(16.6%). However, Scotland's approach to RHI seems somewhat different to the rest of the UK with considerably more Scottish homes opting for biomass rather than air source heat pumps – the most popular technology under RHI elsewhere in the UK.

With interest rates remaining low, the RHI appears most likely to appeal to homeowners looking for an alternative investment opportunity. Concerns that the high upfront costs will limit its wider appeal appear justified and OFTEC will continue to press the government to offer simpler, cheaper, more inclusive ways for consumers to improve their home heating.

While the need to reduce carbon emissions – the main purpose of the RHI – is important, fuel poverty and cold, draughty, hard-to-heat homes are a pressing concern for many people. OFTEC believes that a boiler scrappage scheme and other low cost interventions, such as free insulation, would be a more cost-effective and practical ways to tackle this problem, and would also reduce carbon emissions.



Second phase of Green Deal Home Improvement Fund launched

By the time you read this, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is expected to have launched the second phase of the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF), following an announcement in October that it is to receive a further £100 million of funding.

While the original fund was popular and became fully subscribed within just seven weeks, it also contained some significant flaws. In particular, the original GDHIF limited the option to upgrade to a modern, high efficiency condensing boiler to consumers on mains gas – a decision that discriminated against the country's two million rural, off gas homes.

With fuel poverty such a critical issue, and one which is more prevalent in rural areas, it is vital these households have access to the full range of energy saving measures to help them reduce fuel bills. OFTEC, along with other consumer groups, has written to DECC, calling for the same energy saving measures to be made available to all homeowners, regardless of where they live.

OFTEC director general, Jeremy Hawksley, said: "With the price of oil falling and other heating fuels becoming more expensive, it makes no sense for oil condensing boilers to be excluded from the GDHIF. Simply improving insulation is not

enough. Homeowners need help to install more efficient heating as there are still thousands of old, outdated boilers running in UK homes in urgent need of replacement. An oil condensing boiler can easily be combined with a renewable technology such as solar thermal, in the same way as a gas boiler can, to provide further energy savings in the future."

DECC fuel poverty consultation

In a separate development, OFTEC has responded to a recent government consultation on fuel poverty, highlighting the urgent need for affordable options for rural homeowners.



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RHI “should provide upfront costs” for new technology installation

The UK has some of the least energy efficient properties in Europe and the poorest households continue to be disproportionately housed within those dwellings.

These are the views of the National Energy Action (NEA) – a national charity working to tackle fuel poverty by promoting energy efficient solutions and by ensuring that adequate financial resources are available to fund the necessary programmes.

“Heat has long been the forgotten element of UK energy policy,” says the charity. “However, last year the UK government set out their proposed approach to decarbonising the heat sector. The general approach of the strategy is to ‘squeeze’ fossil fuels out of heating by 2050 through demand reduction, development of district heating in built-up urban areas, and a massive expansion of electric and renewable forms of heating in suburban and rural areas.

“The strategy rightfully highlights that these new technologies have an important role in alleviating fuel poverty. However, NEA has significant concerns that despite

the potential, without further intervention, there will continue to be a lack of equal access to these vital technologies for the poorest households.”

Heat has long been the forgotten element of UK energy policy

NEA says that the main issue relating to accessibility of alternative heating and micro-generation is that existing schemes, such as the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), provide an operational incentive rather than a contribution towards the capital costs associated with the installation.

Key financial barrier

The charity believes upfront capital costs represent one of the biggest barriers to

increased take-up of new technologies by financially disadvantaged households. “As long as this key financial barrier remains unaddressed, fuel poor households will largely be unable to benefit from the operational incentives targeted at these technologies.”

So, what can be done? NEA believes the government must ring-fence an element of the current domestic RHI budget to provide the necessary upfront capital support for low income households.

“One thing is for sure,” says NEA, “The Energy Company Obligation (ECO), in its current form, is not going to fund these measures. Therefore NEA will continue to urge policy makers to accept the need for further changes to the current schemes, and most importantly the need for further adequate resources.”

The recent proposed changes to the ECO further underline the need for additional support, especially for fuel poor households inhabiting solid wall properties, says the charity. “In this context, NEA is committed to promoting the wider benefits that a much more ambitious energy efficiency programme can provide.”

Richard Gales

It was with great sadness that OFTEC learned that Richard Gales, former director general of OFTEC, had passed away in August at the age of 63.

Richard Gales had already enjoyed a varied career before joining the heating industry as managing director of Boulter Boilers. After leaving Boulter, he joined Redfyre/Don Heating before becoming director general of OFTEC.

Richard led OFTEC between 2002 and 2007 and oversaw a number of important developments, enabling it to grow towards the position it occupies today. Among these achievements were the setting up of OFTEC Direct, the beginnings of research into bio-liquids, and structural changes that enabled the registration scheme to develop and expand.

After leaving OFTEC, Richard’s career changed direction and he established his own business, specialising in the restoration of damaged furniture.

The strong reaction to the news of his passing has served to emphasise both the impact of his work and the strength and warmth of his personality. OFTEC’s current director general, Jeremy Hawksley, said: “Richard was a big-hearted man with great spirit and he led OFTEC at a critical time.”





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Changes to oil work notification requirements

Changes have been made to OFTEC's notification process and work descriptors following the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) decision to simplify and streamline the list of work that is notifiable to Local Authority Building Control (LABC).

These are administrative changes only and apply to registered technicians in England, Wales, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. The physical act of performing installation and/or commissioning work remains within the scope of regional building regulations and is unchanged.

What are the main changes?

- The work type descriptors have now been simplified to only include the notification of installation work, including any extensions to existing systems.
- A new notification descriptor 'Install a hot water system without storage' has been added to cover domestic hot water

pipework that is installed as part of a combination boiler installation.

- The descriptors relating to appliance commissioning work have been removed altogether.

When do the changes come in?

To comply with DCLG's requirement that all Competent Person Schemes in England must have in place revised work notification descriptors by 1st October 2014, OFTEC has implemented the changes with immediate effect. This means that notifications completed online, by fax or by telephone will now be to the new descriptors across all regions.

The latest work notification fax-back form (R518 Issue 11) is now available for download from the Registered technicians area of the OFTEC website:

www.oftec.org/Media/Default/DocGalleries/Registration/OFTEC_R518_Work_Notification_Fax_Form.pdf

Where does this leave commissioning work?

Whilst technicians holding an OFT-10 101/102/201 scopes of registration are no longer required to notify their commissioning works, it remains a requirement of regional building regulations that fixed combustion appliances are commissioned and information is recorded and left with the equipment owner on an appropriate form i.e. CD/11 Service and Commissioning Report.

British Standard 5410-1 *Code of practice for oil installations* is clear that commissioning work "should be undertaken by competent technicians, subject to supervision by a registration body."

Holding current OFT-10 101/102/201 scopes of registration with OFTEC demonstrates your professional status for servicing and commissioning oil appliances.

Revised rules for OFTEC registration

From time to time the OFTEC rules for registration need to be updated and published. The latest version (issue 11) has just been released and is now available for technicians.

Updates have been necessary as the registration scheme is now aligned to the ISO/IEC 17065 Standard to which OFTEC is accredited. The rules now also incorporate the requirements of the new Microgeneration Certification Scheme that OFTEC now offers as part of its renewable scopes of registration.

It is important to keep up with the latest conditions and copies are now available to download from the OFTEC website or can be requested by email: registration@oftec.org

See page 39 – OFTEC working with renewables



Warmflow launches renewables range

Northern Ireland based Warmflow has launched a unique range of fully modulating biomass pellet boilers, with variable outputs between 4kw-18kw.

The fully weatherproofed pellet boilers – the result of three years' research and development work at the company's 100,000 sq ft production plant – are designed specifically for the UK market to fit outdoors or indoors.

Each product in the new range has already achieved the highest class 5 emissions standards and comes with a wide range of factory produced flue options. All models have a 120kg built-in hopper and a self cleaning grate.

As part of its commitment to renewable technologies, in early 2015 Warmflow will also begin full production of its ground source heatpump range. Designed for the UK market with a COP of over five, they are fully modulating and range between 3kw-18kw.

Warmflow will stock and distribute the new product ranges from its newly expanded distribution centre in Telford. Product training will be available in Telford during 2015.

"These are exciting times for everybody involved with Warmflow and we are sure these new products will complement our already outstanding range of HE oil boilers and cylinders," says Phil Craggs, Warmflow's national sales manager. www.warmflow.co.uk



Step by Step videos: This is how it's done!

Now you have a chance to update your know-how on basic oil burner maintenance through a series of 18 new training videos. The short videos show how to perform basic maintenance procedures when required, thus

optimizing the service and saving time. They are ideal tools that can be used as part of a training session for new engineers looking to work with servicing oil fired heating – or simply to update your know-how.

Please go to www.burner.danfoss.com to download the videos.

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18

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Updated Home Guides available now!



OFTEC has updated three more leaflets in its popular range of Home Guides.

The three guides have been revised to reflect the latest legislation and, like the others in the series, have been reformatted to the convenient and practical DL (third A4) size, making them easy to mail out to customers. All Home Guides are now available in this format.

Like other OFTEC publications, the Home Guides are available to download from the technician area of the OFTEC website. In the same area you will find information sheets on a wide range of useful topics, along with the handy *Trust an OFTEC technician* leaflet, which has proved to be a great marketing tool for technicians.

Get your FREE copies now

While stocks last, the new publications are also available as hard copies, free of charge from OFTEC's marketing team at marketing@oftec.org as one of the benefits of your registration.

The revised Home Guides are proving to be very popular and the guide to *Why an oil boiler should be serviced regularly* has already been reprinted due to high demand.

Are you missing out on e-news?

Are you one of the 1,000+ registered technicians who miss out on OFTEC's monthly electronic newsletter, simply because we don't have your up-to-date email address?

The e-newsletter contains all the latest industry news, including important changes to legislation, and a wide range of other useful information.

It is a vital tool for all technicians so, if you're not currently receiving it, contact the registration team on **0845 65 85 080** or **01473 626298** to update your details or email registration@oftec.org.

We will not supply your contact details to any third parties and only use your email address for communications directly related to your OFTEC registration.

Race track selfie wins HWOS competition

Lucky winner of the Heating World of Spares competition, featured in the autumn issue of *Oil Installer*, is Mark Jones from Staplehurst in Kent. The competition invited entrants to send in by email or Twitter a photograph of themselves with the HWOS 2014 catalogue 'in the most unusual or interesting place you can think of.'



Mark chose the famous grand prix race track, Silverstone as the venue for his selfie. His prize-winning entry means that Mark is now proud owner of the top prize – a Kindle Fire HD. In second place was Steve from Lancashire for his shot of himself and the HWOS catalogue taken at the NFL American football at Wembley. Steve wins a Special Range brush kit.

Shackleton & Wintle – High Efficiency Boiler Installer of the Year

Cheltenham-based plumbing and heating specialists, Shackleton & Wintle, took top spot as High Efficiency Boiler Installer of the Year at the 2014 Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards in September.

Hosted by A&D Publishing, publishers of *Renewable Energy Installer (REI)* – and *Oil Installer* – more than 300 leading industry figures assembled at the Kensington Roof Gardens to witness the recognition gained by installers and products in 13 different categories, announced by comedian Marcus Brigstocke.

Robin Heffter of Shackleton & Wintle, told *Oil Installer*: "It's fantastic to have won this award. Our winning installation has proved to have saved the consumer 48% off their heating and hot water bills over its first year."

Our photograph shows (left to right) Paul Stephen, editor of *REI* who presented the award on behalf of Corgi VAT Saver, Robin Heffter of Shackleton & Wintle, Tim Knight of Severn Vale Housing Society, and Marcus Brigstocke. *Oil Installer* hopes to feature Shackleton & Wintle in its spring 2015 edition.



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The benefits of my registration

– by David Connolly

David Connolly, trading as Waterproof Plumbing in Galway, recently met OFTEC’s Ireland representative, Sean McBride, to explain the benefits of his OFTEC accreditation.

“Before I registered with OFTEC there was no definitive procedure for me to follow,” said David. “The communication between myself and the customer was limited and I had no control documentation to offer.

“Since registering I regularly use the tank risk assessment, the CD11 and CD 14s. These allow me to explain to the consumer what work has been done, and ultimately offers me protection against claims, should anything happen after my visit.

“Another benefit of registration is the up to date email information that I receive from OFTEC and the technical support. I can pick up the phone to Technical or Sean and get instant help or advice at any time – this is a huge benefit.

“Also, being registered helps

me tender for contracts with the local councils. More councils in Ireland are seeking OFTEC registration before letting contracts. My registration has helped me secure a contract with a group of leading specialists in pollution and sustainable remediation – they have offices in Ireland and the UK and will only use OFTEC registered technicians.”

He added: “I advertise the fact that I am registered by using the OFTEC logo on my van and on invoices, warning stickers, and service stickers advising when the next service is due.”

Sean McBride commented: “David has a great drive and passion for oil heating and strives to provide a very high standard for his customers. He values his OFTEC registration and has seen clear benefits from it.”

If you are interested in registering in Ireland, call Sean McBride on 0872417041 for an informal chat.



David Connolly of Waterproof Plumbing with his OFTEC labelled van



Sean McBride, OFTEC's Ireland representative, with Wicklow technicians Shane Kinsella, Wayne Byrne and Vincent O'Brien

Wicklow registers technicians “for consumer reassurance”

Wicklow County Council has recognised the benefits of OFTEC registration.

The council has registered three technicians and Sean McBride, OFTEC’s Ireland representative, visited Wicklow recently to present registration certificates and ID cards to plumbers Shane Kinsella, Wayne Byrne and Vincent O’Brien.

Wicklow County Council is the first local authority to register installers directly with OFTEC and now requires heating contractors to hold OFTEC registration in order to tender for installation and service work.

John Dunphy, senior executive engineer for the council, commented: “There are very clear benefits of having our plumbers registered with OFTEC.

“We require all heating contractors working on oil to hold the accreditation and we want to practice what we preach and have our employees at the same level.

“The OFTEC qualification gives our consumers added reassurance that the work being carried out is to a high and recognised standard,” added John.

Changes to Part J

Following the enforcement of the Building Regulations 2014 in the Republic of Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has published a new edition of Technical Guidance Document J which came into force on September 1st, 2014.

- See technical section, page 35, to discover the main changes affecting the oil heating industry.

Exclusive Insurance Policies for OFTEC Registered Technicians

Commercial Vehicle Insurance with up to 25% discount available from leading insurers.



Combined Liability Insurance including free £1,000 tools insurance. £100,000 professional indemnity insurance and £100,000 financial loss cover.



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to discuss your requirements or visit www.oftecinsuranceservices.co.uk for immediate cover.



Insurance Services



OFTEC Direct's "A Team" – manager Teresa Garnham with colleagues Aiden Dale and Hannah Tawell

OFTEC Direct – the team behind its success

How quickly times change! It was little more than 10 years ago that OFTEC began to offer a small range of useful or hard-to-find products specifically for oil technicians. Now that modest start has blossomed into a much larger enterprise, with a range of products that has grown year by year and now tops more than 160 different items.

The current range covers eight categories including workwear, tools, control documents, servicing/commissioning, electrical, installation, technical publications and miscellaneous. With OFTEC now offering renewable registration, this is likely to expand even further as new products are added to meet the specific needs of technicians working in these technologies.

The success of OFTEC Direct is reflected in the popularity of both the

online shop and printed catalogue, with sales growing steadily.

Three members of staff make OFTEC Direct tick. Managing the team is Teresa Garnham, who joined OFTEC 10 years ago before switching to OFTEC Direct in 2006. Her role covers everything from supervising day to day operations, taking telephone orders, dealing with suppliers and sourcing new products, as well as designing the website and catalogue.

Teresa is assisted by Aiden Dale who joined OFTEC a year ago. Aiden's role is to process and dispatch the orders – which means he is usually very busy! The third member of the team is Hannah Tawell. Hannah works part time and originally joined OFTEC on a government-run apprenticeship scheme. She assists with all aspects of the business.

Frequently asked questions...

The most frequently asked questions about OFTEC Direct include:

Do technicians get a discount?

Certainly. OFTEC Direct was set up to provide OFTEC registered technicians with equipment they might have trouble sourcing. It was also felt that they should be able to purchase goods at a discounted rate. Registered technicians' prices are 10% lower than non-registered technicians.

What are the delivery times?

To dispatch goods in two days, but asks technicians to allow up to 14 days for delivery of a few limited-availability items.

Is there a printed catalogue?

There is a printed catalogue which is sent out to registered technicians once a year in September. It can be also obtained by getting in touch with OFTEC Direct.

Is it safe to use my credit card to purchase goods?

The system uses the highest level of online security to give customers peace of mind when using OFTEC Direct.

Do I need to be OFTEC registered to purchase goods from OFTEC Direct?

Most goods are available to registered and non-registered technicians, although prices do vary for the two. Customers are asked for their registered technician number when registering themselves with OFTEC Direct. This means any discounts will automatically be deducted from the total bill.

OFTEC Direct monitors prices carefully to ensure they are competitive. Its aim remains the same as when it was started – to provide registered technicians with exactly what they need. With this in mind the team is always open to suggestions. So, if there's anything you would like to see stocked, please get in touch!

www.oftecdirect.com



GRANT OIL BOILERS & FLUES

GRANT CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE ex-VAT
Heat Only Boilers		
VTX1521	Pro Kitchen/Utility 15-21 Internal	£949.00
VTX1526	Pro Kitchen/Utility 15-26 Internal	£1069.00
VTX2636	Pro Kitchen/Utility 26-36 Internal	£1329.00
VTX3646	Pro Kitchen/Utility 36-46 Internal	£1492.00
VTX4658	Pro Kitchen/Utility 46-58 Internal	£1549.00
VTX5870	Pro Kitchen/Utility 58-70 Internal	£1619.00
VTXOM1521	Pro 15-21 External	£1149.00
VTXOM1526	Pro 15-26 External	£1286.00
VTXOM2636	Pro 26-36 External	£1499.00
VTXOM3646	Pro 36-46 External	£1695.00
VTXECO1521	Eco 15-21 Utility	£879.00
VTXECO2126	Eco 21-26 Utility	£965.00
VTXECO2635	Eco 26-35 Utility	£1149.00
VTXOMECO1521	Eco 15-21 External	£999.00
VTXOMECO2126	Eco 21-26 External	£1159.00
VTXOMECO2635	Eco 26-35 External	£1299.00
VTXWH1216	Eco 12-16 Internal Wall Hung	£999.00
VTXWH1621	Eco 16-21 Internal Wall Hung	£1049.00
System Boiler		
VTXS1526	Pro Kitchen/Utility 15-26	£1189.00
VTXS2636	Pro Kitchen/Utility 26-36	£1495.00
VTXS3646	Pro Kitchen/Utility 36-46	£1595.00
Combi Boilers		
VTXCOMBI21	Pro Combi 21 Internal	£1569.00
VTXCOMBI26	Pro Combi 26 Internal	£1595.00
VTXCOMBI36	Pro Combi 36 Internal	£1785.00
VTXOMCOMBI21	Pro Combi 21 External	£1599.00
VTXOMCOMBI26	Pro Combi 26 External	£1749.00
VTXOMCOMBI36	Pro Combi 36 External	£1895.00
Boiler House Models		
VTXBH2636	Pro Boiler House 26-36 Internal	£1149.00
VTXBH3646	Pro Boiler House 36-46 Internal	£1299.00
VTXBH4658	Pro Boiler House 46-58 Internal	£1499.00
VTXBH5870	Pro Boiler House 58-70 Internal	£1549.00

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www.tradeonlyplumbing.co.uk
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Calf flush Power Flushing machine.

An entry level machine at a budget price for powerflushing domestic systems.

- 0.33 HP motor
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- Supplied with flushing hoses, valves, connectors, jubilee clips and dump hose
- 15mm head - suitable for most domestic buildings
- **2 YEAR WARRANTY**



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FREE powerflush chemical Pack with every Calf flush MAX machine purchased



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The ultimate powerflushing machine for domestic and light commercial systems.

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7716100133	Danesmoor 18/25kw Internal	£1169.00
7716100134	Danesmoor 25/32kw Internal	£1489.00
7716100141	Danesmoor 12/18kw Internal Utility	£975.00
7716100142	Danesmoor 18/25kw Internal Utility	£1089.00
7716100143	Danesmoor 25/32kw Internal Utility	£1369.00
7716100144	Danesmoor 12/18kw External	£1269.00
7716100145	Danesmoor 18/25kw External	£1299.00
7716100146	Danesmoor 25/32kw External	£1599.00
7716100124	Danesmoor 12/18kw Wall Mounted	£1325.00
7716100125	Danesmoor 18/25kw Wall Mounted	£1475.00
7716100103	Greenstar 32/50kw External Utility	£1549.00
System Boilers		
7716100135	Danesmoor 12/18kw Internal	£1189.00
7716100136	Danesmoor 18/25kw Internal	£1245.00
7716100137	Danesmoor 25/32kw Internal	£1575.00
7716100147	Danesmoor 12/18kw Internal Utility	£1119.00
7716100148	Danesmoor 18/25kw Internal Utility	£1195.00
7716100149	Danesmoor 25/32kw Internal Utility	£1495.00
7716100150	Danesmoor 12/18kw External	£1439.00
7716100151	Danesmoor 18/25kw External	£1579.00
7716100152	Danesmoor 25/32kw External	£1829.00
Combi Boilers		
7716100138	Heatslave II 12/18kw Ext Combi	£1719.00
7716100139	Heatslave II 18/25kw Ext Combi	£1819.00
7716100140	Heatslave II 25/32kw Ext Combi	£1969.00
7716100129	Heatslave II 12/18kw Int Combi	£1619.00
7716100130	Heatslave II 18/25kw Int Combi	£1689.00
7716100131	Heatslave II 25/32kw Int Combi	£1859.00
Flue Kits		
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7716190064	Standard Telescopic Flue Kit	£115.00
7716190043	Greenstar Horizontal Flue Kit	£149.00

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Magnaclean Professional 2 22mm	£64.95
Magnaclean Professional 22mm with FOC chemicals	£74.95
Magnaclean Micro 22mm	£54.95
Intaklean 22mm magnetic filter	£52.95
Worcester System Filter 2609	£89.95
CHEMICAL INHIBITORS	
Calmag Calshot inhibitor	£6.95
Aqueous Logic inhibitor	£6.95
Aqueous Logic inhibitor rapid-dose	£7.95
Adey MC1	BOGOF £12.95
Sentinel X100	£9.95
Fernox F1 500 ml	£13.95
Fernox F1 Protector Express	£15.95
CHEMICAL CLEANERS	
Calmag Calshot cleaner	£6.95
Aqueous Logic sludge dissolver	£7.95
Aqueous Logic sludge dissolver rapid-dose	£8.45
Aqueous Logic super cleaner	£8.45
Sentinel X400 sludge remover	£9.95
Sentinel X800 ferroquest	£9.95
Fernox F3 cleaner 500ml	£14.95
Adey MC3	BOGOF £12.95
A RATED DOMESTIC HEATING CIRCULATING PUMPS	
Grundfos UPS2 (replaces 15/50 and 15/60)	£79.95
Lowara Ecocirc 25-4	£74.95
Lowara Ecocirc 25-6	£79.95
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- READING**
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SL1 4HE Tel: 01753 575515
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HEAD OFFICE

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Best innovation award for new Firebird heat exchanger

Hot on the heels of its launch, Firebird's new solid fuel heat exchanger unit has been awarded a "Highly Commended – Best Innovation Product" accolade at the SEAI Energy Awards 2014.

Although solid fuel heating appliances are gaining in popularity, heating installers have found them difficult to integrate with modern pressurised heating systems.



Firebird's new solid fuel heat exchanger won a "Highly Commended – Best Innovation Product" accolade at the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) awards evening in Dublin recently

Firebird has developed its new solid fuel heat exchanger to provide the solution.

Using the product, a solid fuel heating engineer can now integrate a solid fuel boiler into a pressurised heating system. The heat exchanger simplifies compliance with building regulations and avoids the need for replacement domestic hot water tanks. It also helps if there is a long distance between the stove and hot water tank.

"We are delighted that our solid fuel heat exchanger has achieved this award for innovation at the Energy Show and are proud to play a leading role in the heating industry," says Nicola Barry of Firebird Heating Solutions.

Firebird's new heat exchanger is the latest addition to the company's product range, which includes high efficiency condensing oil-fired boilers, multifuel inset stoves, range cookers, renewable biomass and solar thermal products.

www.firebird.ie



Firebird's Enviromax kitchen boiler – the true condensing boiler

STOP PRESS: With its eye on continuing development, Firebird is introducing a new, upgraded version of its flagship Enviromax kitchen boiler

Worcester's smart move for heating control

Worcester, Bosch Group has added a new programmable smart heating control – the Wave Smart Thermostat – to its product portfolio.

Compatible with a wide range of Worcester's Greenstar oil and gas-fired boilers, the device allows heating to be adjusted from a smartphone or tablet using a wireless internet connection. The black glass wall-mounted panel connects to the boiler using a low voltage two wired connection directly to the boiler PCB.

Through an app, homeowners can control their heating and hot water, whether at home or away from home. The app allows remote adjustment of both heating and hot water performance.

The Wave combines a room thermostat and programmable control in one unit and can instantly show the homeowner the current temperature of their



Worcester's Wave Smart Thermostat allows heating to be adjusted from a smartphone or tablet

home, their desired settings and whether the heating is running at its most efficient.

Martyn Bridges, director of marketing and technical support at Worcester, comments: "The Wave really is smart in that it is the only thermostat of its type that can adjust the flow temperature of the boiler to the minimum level required to enhance condensing operation yet still maintain the required room temperature level. Under the forthcoming ErP directive, controllers of this type are rewarded with a 4% uplift in system efficiency over a non-compensating thermostat." www.worcester-bosch.co.uk

5-year guarantee for all Greenstar boilers

Worcester, Bosch Group is now offering a five year guarantee with every model from its Greenstar range of oil and gas-fired boilers.

The move follows Worcester's inclusion of its best-selling boiler, the Greenstar i Junior, in its promotion which runs until 31st December 2014.

The award-winning Greenstar i Junior is available with outputs of 24kW and 28kW. Its compact dimensions make it particularly suitable for installations in small to medium-sized domestic properties.

Martyn Bridges, director of marketing and technical support at Worcester, Bosch Group commented: "Quality, reliability and innovation all are strongly associated with the Worcester brand and while our Greenstar boilers are often chosen because they are so dependable, we're keen to give homeowners additional peace of mind. The extension of our guarantee will allow so many more customers to benefit from that extra quality assurance." www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/5Year



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Grant technology – setting standards ahead of legislation

Twelve years ago Grant UK made the move into condensing technology – ahead of any change to legislation – with the launch of the first Vortex boiler. Today the range features 39 models, with outputs from 12 to 70kW (50,000 to 240,000 Btu/h). Nearly one in every two oil-fired boilers installed in the UK is now a Grant Vortex (Source: SBGI).

With SAP2009 efficiencies up to 93.3% gross (97% gross for SAP2005), Grant claims that the Vortex range not only lowers fuel bills but also reduces carbon emissions, decreasing the environmental impact of domestic hot water and heating systems.

“Grant’s innovation and commitment to oil fired technology remains strong,” says the company. “We are working hard behind the scenes

to bring a number of exciting new products to the market in early 2015, which are the result of extensive research and feedback from our installing customers.”

2015 will also see the introduction of the Energy Related Products directive (ErP) – from September, products which have an impact on energy use will be governed by new regulations, setting minimum EU efficiency standards – designed to help Europe meet its 2020 energy reduction target. Any product that does not comply with the new legislation will not be allowed to be imported or sold in Europe.

To coincide with this legislation, energy performance labels will start to appear on Grant UK boiler cartons.

Additionally, the Energy Using Products (EuP) legislation

surrounding circulating pumps – introduced in January 2013 for stand-alone pumps – will become applicable to pumps integrated in oil-fired combination and system boilers from 1st August 2015. All applicable Grant Vortex boilers will make the change to high efficiency pumps in time for this, says the company.

“The market for oil-fired boilers has been under pressure in recent years from other technologies and a lack of government support for greener oil alternatives, like bio-fuels. However, whilst in some cases renewable products are an option for off-gas users, there is no doubt that for the majority of homes, upgrading to a modern oil-fired condensing boiler from a standard efficiency model, is a good solution which would vastly reduce oil



The new Grant Vortex Pro external and boilerhouse model

consumption and lower carbon emissions.”

Grant UK concludes: “Given that most installations are boiler replacements for older inefficient products and often are distress purchases, in our opinion the oil fired market is likely to remain strong for the foreseeable future.”

www.grantuk.com

Grant launches its latest magnetic filter

Grant UK has launched its Vortex Mag-One magnetic filter which can provide protection for all types of central heating systems up to 36kW.

Using a triple action filtration design, the Vortex Mag-One filters magnetite and non-ferrous debris from central heating systems with a 12000 gauss neodymium magnet.



The new Grant Vortex Mag-One magnetic filter

Designed to enable 360° installation, features of the product include an installation and servicing date wheel, 28mm isolation valves, manual air bleed and a 500ml dosing capacity.

The Vortex Mag-One is supplied with spare sealing washers and O-rings and to provide effective cleaning in central heating systems larger than 36kW, more than one filter can be used in a parallel circuit.

Compatible with all system inhibitors and glycol solutions, the Vortex Mag-One operates at a maximum working pressure of 6 bar and a maximum working temperature of 120°C. The product carries a two year parts guarantee.

www.grantuk.com

Pembrokeshire rolls out CO detector programme

OFTEC registered technician, Antony James, is leading a team of maintenance workers, electricians, kitchen fitters and OFTEC/Gas Safe registered heating engineers at Pembrokeshire Housing for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all of the housing association’s properties in West Wales.

The independent, not for profit local housing association was established in 1981 and now provides more than 2,300 homes.

The installation programme started during the summer with the majority of the alarms being fitted at the same time as the annual landlord’s gas/oil safety check or during planned boiler replacement work. OFTEC registered technician Tom Clode, and apprentice Daniel Pannell fit the majority of the boilers – Daniel won the trainee of the year award at the 2014 OFTEC Awards for Excellence.



The Pembrokeshire Housing team looking after the installation of carbon monoxide detectors is led by OFTEC registered technician Antony James

Glow•worm

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We've produced these pocket sized booklets full of helpful tips and punchy information in an easy to understand language.

They're a great reference tool and you can use them with your customers to help recommend the best renewables solution for them.

To get your free Renewables made Easy booklets, visit:

www.renew-ability.co.uk/freebooklet

My customers need to understand the basics

Can I offer Hybrid solution with an oil/LPG boiler?

What technologies are out there?

What suits my customers needs?



What does the term Coefficient of Performance (CoP) mean?

The measure of efficiency, determined by dividing the total heat output by the total electrical input to the heat pump.

How much will I save?

an average of £200 - £240 for those heating electrically. To put it another way, they cover 20-25% of the heating bill in a postwar-constructed home.

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www.renew-ability.co.uk

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“A picture paints a thousand words”



is an old adage which is highly appropriate to our tank installation photograph...

No words can adequately sum up the shocking picture, kindly sent in by J.Seed & Co.



Send your photographs to jane@oilinstaller.co.uk

If you have come across any dodgy installations – or, indeed, any particularly impressive workmanship, special events or funny situations – take a snap and share it with us.

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The advertisement features a central image of a product catalogue with various plumbing and heating items. To the left, there are several circular icons representing different services: Natural Gas Fittings, LPG & Oil Fittings, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Plumbing Fittings, Pipe & Pipe Fittings, and Installation Equipment. The background is bright yellow, and the text is in bold, colorful fonts.

HWOS free next-day delivery

Heating World of Spares is now offering a free next-day, mainland UK delivery service on all orders over £15 + VAT.

On orders placed before 3pm, Monday to Friday, HWOS will dispatch goods to the customer's nearest UPS Access Point, usually a local newsagents or petrol station, for them to collect the next day. The free delivery service is also available for customers in Northern Ireland



– details of UPS Access Points in NI are available from www.ups.com/dropoff

Established in 2006, HWOS supplies spare parts, controls and equipment for oil and gas heating engineers throughout the UK and Europe. www.hwos.co.uk

Bentone burner exclusive to HWOS

The Bentone BF1 oil burner is now available in a UK Edition, exclusively sold through Heating World of Spares Ltd. It can be used as a replacement burner for most boilers, including high resistance and condensing.



A range of 15kw-70kw models, two blast tube lengths (80mm & 127mm), plug-in wiring adaptor and an adjustable air intake position make the BF1 a highly flexible, universal burner, says HWOS.

For more information visit www.bentone.com or www.hwos.co.uk

Oil boiler stock commitment from Williams

Coinciding with a move to extensive new warehousing and distribution facilities, trade-only heating and plumbing merchant, Williams & Co, has announced a stock commitment to Grant and Worcester oil boilers.

With 28 branches in the south and south east, the 42 year old company is moving its central warehousing and distribution function to a new, bespoke 60,000 sq ft facility in Hampshire which allows the company to make its stock commitment.

As a trade-only merchant, Williams & Co staff are free to concentrate on their core trade customers – including a next day delivery service to the UK mainland, when online orders are received before 5pm.

Micky Goddard, commercial manager with responsibility for oil products, is clear about the benefits to Williams' customers. She says: "Too often, oil installers are treated as second class citizens compared with gas boiler installers. Whereas the latter expect product on the shelf, the oil boys are expected to put up with long order times and no other option.

"With our stock commitment to both appliances and flue accessories, we can give a next-business-day service at aggressive net prices. What's more, because of our trade only policy, they don't need to worry about their margins being eroded – their customers cannot buy from us, or even see our prices."

Williams & Co was recently identified by the London Stock Exchange as one of Britain's most inspiring companies. See also pages 20 and 21. www.tradeonlyplumbing.co.uk



PHC for hard-to-find products

Powred Heating Components (PHC) is an established family business which distributes replacement parts for domestic and commercial oil, gas and solid fuel heating systems throughout the UK. Established in 2003, PHC is an appointed distributor for all heating appliance and controls manufacturers, employing 35 staff across 5 branches in Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Weston-Super-Mare and Swindon.

"Our B2B focus enables us to provide industry professionals with the right part at the best price, and we have a knowledgeable team that provides a flexible, exemplary customer service," says branch manager, Stewart McMillan. "PHC has a comprehensive stock holding reducing the time it takes to find the right spare part, and we offer special item sourcing for those hard-to-find products. Our customers range from sole traders to multi-national utilities providers including local authorities, housing associations, national heating and energy contractors and more. We take pride in being an affordable one stop shop for all products pertaining to the heating and plumbing market." www.powred.com





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All of which means reduced base construction costs for installers, lower delivery costs for distributors and a tank, which is easier to handle too. And because it's a Carbery tank, it benefits from over 35 years manufacturing experience and is OFS T100 and EN13341 compliant too.

To find out more about how Carbery can help you shed inches and save £'s and €'s... contact your local Carbery reseller, call us on +353(0)23 883 3531 or visit www.carberyplastics.com



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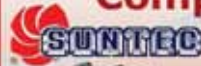


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More accolades for boiler giants

Two of the UK's best-known boiler manufacturers – Grant UK and Worcester, Bosch Group – have once again scored highly in the Which? boiler report.

Grant was named the most reliable oil boiler brand by Which?. The manufacturer's Vortex oil fired boiler range scored a consumer rating of 79% and Grant UK itself was awarded an industry-leading brand reliability score of 72%.

35% of all consumers surveyed by Which?, who had chosen an oil fired boiler in the last six years, had chosen a Grant product.



The Grant Vortex Kitchen Utility Pro boiler. Grant was named the most reliable oil boiler brand by Which?

Anna Wakefield, marketing manager for Grant UK, commented: "We're proud and delighted with this reliability score from Which?. Consumers need to know that their heating appliances are not only a reliable choice, but also companies like Grant can back it up with outstanding after sales support."

Meanwhile, Worcester, Bosch was awarded the Which? Best Buys accolade for the fourth year running across its complete Greenstar gas fired boiler range. The manufacturer scored highest in both the reliability and customer satisfaction categories.

Worcester continues to be the best gas boiler brand with the highest customer satisfaction score of 89%. The boilers also stand the best chance of remaining fault free, achieving a reliability score of 79%. Worcester was also mentioned for its oil-fired boilers. The Greenstar oil-fired range, which includes 28 different products, received a customer satisfaction score of 79%.

The customer score is calculated from the survey respondents' overall satisfaction with their brand of boiler and the likelihood of whether they would recommend it to a friend. Reliability is based on the proportion of boilers up to six years old in the survey that have needed to be repaired.

Martyn Bridges, director of marketing and technical support at Worcester, commented: "With the Which? customer score based on owner's satisfaction and how likely they are to recommend the brand, we're so pleased that this is the fifth year in succession in which no other manufacturer has scored higher on reliability."



Worcester was awarded the Which? Best Buys accolade for the fourth year running across its complete Greenstar gas fired boiler range

SPX launches Tigerloop Combi 3

SPX Flow Technology Sweden AB, Tigerholm Series has launched its latest oil de-aerator – the Tigerloop Combi 3.

In 1971, Lars Tigerholm invented the first oil de-aerator, known around the world as the Tigerloop. The new Tigerloop Combi 3 features an integrated shut-off valve, stopping the flow of fuel, for quick filter insert replacements. The optional vacuum gauge also acts as a signal to the installer when the filter insert needs to be replaced.

"With over 40 years' experience, and the Tigerloop installed in more than 5.5 million oil heating systems around the world, we have the experience and competence to further develop the world's best oil de-aerator," says the company.

"To meet the increasing demand of environmental regulations, Tigerloop improves oil-heating installations by providing clean, air-free oil to the burner, which reduces harmful emissions to a minimum."

www.spx.com/en/tigerholm

New mail order catalogue from BES

Plumbing and heating mail order company, BES Ltd, has launched its new product catalogue.

John Quigley, marketing manager for BES, said: "Customer feedback is important to BES and so we have made thousands of price reductions across our extensive product range. We have also made our index even easier to use which means finding all your product requirements really is simple."

More than 15,000 product lines available to plumbing and heating engineers for next day delivery from the company's 77,000 square foot warehouse in Birmingham.

www.bes.co.uk

Snugburner – designed to save fuel

The fuel-saving Snugburner, developed and manufactured by Wrexham-based Snughome Cookers Ltd, is designed to fit any oil or ex-solid fuel Aga and selected Rayburn range cookers to stop wick and carbon build up problems.

Fitting a Snugburner can result in minimum savings of £15 per week from the oil bill, claims the company.

"Our latest burner is the Bolt On," says Snughome's Barry Charman, "So called as it literally bolts on to the front of an originally solid fuel Aga range cooker – models made from 1941 onwards."

www.snughomecookers.co.uk



An Aga range cooker – complete with a fuel-saving Snugburner

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Tank maintenance – advising the public

Carbery Plastics took part in the Irish National Ploughing Championships recently – Europe’s largest outdoor exhibition and agricultural trade show which attracted 1,500 exhibitors and more than 279,000 visitors.

With a strong agricultural contingent present at the show, the company took the opportunity to preview forthcoming additions to its range of Fuel Point bundled diesel storage and dispensing tanks. New additions include an all-new 2,500 litres capacity Fuel King and a new generation 6,000 litres capacity Fuel Point.

“In rural Ireland, more homeowners choose heating oil than LPG, solid fuel, electricity and renewables combined,” said Pio Ronan, senior business development executive. “Heating oil is competitively priced and highly efficient. As heating oil installations begin to age, it’s more important than ever for consumers to ensure their tank is correctly installed and correctly maintained. It’s now recommended that any tank older than 20 years should be

replaced; we promoted that message at the event.”

According to Pio’s colleague, Mike Brennan, visitors were receptive. “Many homeowners and householders had never given a second thought to their oil tank. Oil tanks have frequently nestled undisturbed at the rear of their home for the better part of a generation. As well as highlighting the need for older tanks to be replaced, we also stressed the importance of ensuring storage tanks are inspected annually by an independently accredited, competent person.”

He added: “Increasing consumer awareness on such an important issue doesn’t just benefit storage tank manufacturers – it benefits installers and tank resellers too through increased supply, service and inspection activity. It also benefits the wider downstream oil industry by further reducing the environmental impact of heating oil. And of course, it benefits the environment too.”

www.carberyplastics.com



Carbery at the Irish National Ploughing Championships



Brisk business for tank suppliers

Current business is so brisk that there are not enough hours in the day, says Wendi Whittle of specialist oil tank suppliers J.Seed & Company.

“Orders are coming in thick and fast for our high quality steel tanks which can be made to meet exact requirements,” explains Wendi, whose Preston-based team is currently working seven days a week to meet customer demand.

“Recent projects include 10 tanks for a well known generator company – a nice little bespoke steel tank with security cabinet, stand and outlet on the side,

making it easy to install onsite,” she continues.

“Sales of our integrally fire protected tank are also going well, with several installers putting in repeat orders.

“We are small enough to care but large enough to cope – and working seven days a week to get tanks to our customers when they need them for.”

www.jseed.co.uk



One of 10 bespoke tanks ordered by a generator company

Do the tanks you install comply with EU Law?

Oil tank installers are reminded that when specifying a plastic tank for the storage of heating oil, the tank must be CE Marked in accordance with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR).

OFTEC has recently undertaken a compliance evaluation of all OFTEC plastic tank manufacturing members and are satisfied that requirements are being met at the production stage.

As everyone in the supply chain has responsibility to comply with CPR, OFTEC recommends that only plastic tanks manufactured by OFTEC member companies are specified and installed.

For easy reference, a comprehensive list of OFTEC members and their products is provided in the OFTEC equipment directory, located at www.oftec.org.

Also available on the website is Technical Notice 002, which provides more detailed information on CPR.

Campaign encourages consumers to 'think tank'

OFTEC has teamed up with the Environment Agency and the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers (FPS) to launch a new 'Tank Safe' campaign, urging the one million oil using homes in England, Wales and Scotland to carry out crucial safety checks on their storage tanks.

Estimates show at least one in three oil tanks currently in use are past their life expectancy of 20 years and should be replaced. Failing to do so could result in leaks which can be costly to both the consumer and the environment.

OFTEC recommends that tanks are inspected by a competent person, such as an OFTEC registered technician, at least once a year as part of a normal central heating



A modern tank installation

system service.

Malcolm Farrow of OFTEC said: "Fortunately, leaks are rare but the consequences of oil spilling aren't just inconvenient for the homeowner, they can be a serious issue for the environment, depending on how much oil has leaked."

Mark Askew of FPS added:

"It's important for consumers to have their tanks checked by a qualified technician to ensure it's in the best condition and to alert householders to potential problems before they happen. Losing a tank of oil could be expensive but this cost is minimal compared to the potential costs of a spill."

Busy times for Tuffa...

Tuffa Tanks has recently experienced its busiest ever period for tank sales – to the extent that the company is now recruiting for new staff at their Staffordshire factory to accommodate the additional work load.

The company supplies liquid storage tanks from 1,350 to 100,000 litres and is able to produce the largest roto-moulded tank currently on the market – 20,000 litres capacity in a single unit. The design of the tank enables it to be interlinked for up to 100,000 litres for any type of bulk liquid storage and equipment depending on the application, including tank farms. www.tuffa.co.uk

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- Established since 2005. • Tuffa Firestop has received national LABC (Local Authority Building Control) system approval on its Fire Protected tanks for both domestic and non domestic application

Why are OFTEC and Gas Safe inspections so different?

In the last couple of years some OFTEC registered technicians have expressed surprise about what they see as a difference of approach between OFTEC and Gas Safe when it comes to inspections and the way the two schemes are now run

This has arisen because, although Gas Safe is mandatory and the risks associated with gas are considerable, their approach to inspections seems comparatively reliant on a risk based approach and not being a burden to the good and professional engineer. By contrast, OFTEC's inspection requirements have become more frequent and are implemented on all who are registered, even though registration is optional and oil relatively safe.

So is Gas Safe being unduly lenient or OFTEC too strict, and why is this happening? In fact the reason for the difference has nothing to do with either Gas Safe or OFTEC, but is down to the way the two schemes are overseen by government. The approach Gas Safe takes to its inspection regime is laid down by the Health and Safety Executive, operating under the control of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). By contrast, the way Competent Person Schemes (CPS) like OFTEC operate is governed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

CPSs come under DCLG because the department's remit covers local planning and, as part of this, it oversees the standards required under building regulations. Because technicians registered with CPS can self-certify certain types of building work themselves, DCLG is keen to ensure they work to high standards and this has led to the tightening up of rules. This has impacted on technicians, both in the way CPSs check their competence and in the increased costs associated with the additional inspection work – which are reflected in the cost of registration.

OFTEC has welcomed some of the changes as it believes high technician standards are a crucial element in maintaining



An OFTEC technician at work

public support for our industry. However, the different requirement imposed on Gas Safe and CPS providers doesn't make sense and rightly frustrates technicians. In particular, it risks driving them away from non-mandatory schemes such as OFTEC's which would be disastrous for consumers and the industry alike.

To find a solution OFTEC has started a dialogue with DCLG to inform the government of the concerns. It is hoped that a satisfactory compromise can be reached, so look out for updates in future issues of Oil Installer.

New products in stove fan range

Heating and ventilation components suppliers, Anglo Nordic, have expanded their range of stove fans.

SmartFan Mini and SmartFan which have been designed for stoves with a top surface operating temperature of between 65°C and 330°C. In addition, Anglo Nordic are introducing SmartFan LT and SmartFan LT Mini which have been designed for stoves with a top surface operating temperature of between 60°C and 190°C.

The SmartFan is a self-powered, clean, silent and efficient device that greatly improves heat circulation from a solid fuel burning stove, says the company. It is powered by a

thermoelectric generation module which uses the hot surface of the stove to generate an electric current to propel two fan blades. Instead of rising immediately to the ceiling, heat is propelled directly into the living space to provide an increased level of comfort and greater fuel efficiency.

Anglo Nordic claim that the principal attributes of the product are that it needs no external power source and therefore incurs no running costs. It promotes efficient fuel consumption by propelling warm air into the living area, and it is virtually silent in operation.

www.anglonordic.co.uk



New BS 5410 Part 1 Update

Following closure of the public consultation on 30th September, OFTEC would like to thank technicians who submitted comments on draft BS 5410: Part 1 proposals, which cover appliances up to 45kW output and tanks up to 3500 litres installed at domestic premises.

OFTEC is pleased to report that feedback received from technicians through the technical helpline and during routine inspections has contributed to a number of significant changes and clarifications being made in the draft. These include:

Scope	...used “primarily” as a domestic dwelling. Specific text for tanks over 3500 litres to take guidance from BS 5410-2.
Oil Storage	Bunded tanks only. Reference to LABC type approved products. Additional detail on underground tanks. Additional information on tank bases, support, and restraint. Much expanded section on multiple tank installations
Oil Supply	Pressure testing on all new pipework assemblies. Additional guidance on filtration.
Appliances	Balanced flue only in garages. Recognition of open plan stair cases. CO detection with open flues. Fire valves “outside the boiler casing” on external boilers. Section 3 now an Annex and replaced with reference to CIBSE Heating Guide.
Flues	Recognition of plastic liners. Updated open flue designation table to align it with Part J. New “Table 10” with condensing flue clearances.
Ventilation	Calculation in cm ² to replace mm ² . Definition of a compartment is a space less than 10m ³ .
Commissioning	Commissioning technician to see CD/10. Focus on the appliance performance. Electronic flue gas analysis.
Maintenance	Focus on checks and reporting to the equipment owner. Electronic flue gas analysis.

BSI technical committee RHE/13 held a successful resolution meeting on 17th October to consider comments received during the consultation period. Publication is still expected later this year and OFTEC will be publishing updates to Technical Books in advance.

Keep up to date with the latest technical news

OFTEC has published two new technical notices recently:

Technical Notice 008 – This notice covers recent changes to oil work notification requirements in England and, in particular, the relaxation for the need to notify Local Authority Building Control of commissioning work under a separate work type descriptor. However, it is highlighted that this change does not negate the need to carry out the commissioning process, nor does it negate the need to complete an OFTEC CD/11 commissioning report as normal.

Technical Notice 009 – Following the enforcement of the Building Regulations 2014 in the Isle of Man, this notice was published to bring about awareness of a new requirement to install a carbon monoxide detector in the same room as any new or replacement combustion appliance installation, which is located in a dwelling and not used solely for cooking purposes.

To download these updates, visit: www.oftec.org/technicians/technical-notice-board

ASK OLLIE!



I have been asked to install an oil fired cooker at a property which already has a boiler installed. Can I utilise the existing tank?

Yes. Information on 'multiple appliance installations' utilising a single tank can be found in the 2010 edition of OFTEC Technical Book 3, section 2.3.5, page 31 and diagram 41 on page 32.

I am looking to install a 26kW pressure jet boiler with a vertical balanced flue which will terminate through the roof of a single storey extension. What distance should the terminal be away from the main building?

British Standard 5410-1:1997 requires that flue terminals serving pressure jet appliances are sited a minimum 750mm away from the side of a vertical structure.

I have been asked to install a 1900 litre bunded tank at a bungalow. Is the fire protection the same as a single skinned tank?

Yes. Fire protection requirements in BS 5410-1:1997 are the same regardless of the tank's pollution risk and construction material.

Upon servicing my customer's oil equipment, I have come across lots of anomalies with the installation. As well as the CD/11, is there another OFTEC form I can use to bring them to her attention?

An OFTEC CD/14 pad is available as a continuation pad where there is insufficient space in a CD/11 to record all observations. Alternatively it can be used in isolation. A

sample of the CD/14 can be found in OFTEC books and is available to purchase via OFTEC Direct.

Customers keep asking me how much heat energy is contained within oil and LPG. Can you help?

When burned at 100% efficiency, kerosene contains approx. 10.35kWh and LPG 7.11kWh. Your customer would also need to consider the efficiency of the appliance and the unit cost of the fuel to determine which option is cheaper but, at current prices, LPG is around 50% more expensive, assuming appliances of equal efficiency.

I have been asked to install a new oil fired boiler as a replacement for an old solid fuel back boiler. Can I just leave the redundant back boiler in situ?

No. This is due to the potential risks involved in leaving a redundant back boiler in situ where the fire place is still to be utilised. The back boiler requires to be removed as per the guidance published on the HSE website dated 2nd April 2014. For further information, visit the HSE website, www.hse.gov.uk, and in the search tool type in 'solid fuel back boiler' to access the information.

Changes to Part J in RoI

Following the enforcement of the Building Regulations 2014 in the Republic of Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government published a new edition of Technical Guidance Document J, which was effective from 1st September 2014.

The main changes affecting the oil heating industry include:

- Fire valves serving externally located appliances to be at least 1m from the appliance.
- Externally located oil storage tanks to be at least 1.8m from any oil burning appliance or be separated by a barrier with not less than 30 minutes fire resistance, extending 300mm above and beyond the ends of the tank.
- Underground oil storage tanks to be provided with secondary containment.
- Chimneys and flue-pipes connected to condensing pressure jet appliances burning class C2 fuel oil (kerosene) to have a minimum designation of T160 N2 W1 O.
- Any room or space containing an appliance (other than a room sealed appliance) to have a permanent ventilation opening with a free area of at least:
 - 550mm² per kW of rated output but in no case less than 6500mm² where the air permeability is greater than 5.0m³/(h.m²); or,
 - 6500mm² + 550mm² per kW of rated output above 5kW where the air permeability is less than 5.0m³/(h.m²) (i.e. in dwellings built from 2008 onwards).
- Carbon monoxide alarms (performing to IS EN 50291-1) to be fitted in the same room as any new or replacement open-flued combustion appliance installation, which is located within a dwelling and not designed solely for cooking purposes.
- Carbon monoxide alarms to be fitted in each bedroom (or within 5m of the bedroom door, measured along the path of the corridor) and in habitable rooms through which a flue passes.

These changes have been captured in recent updates to the OFTEC Technical Books, which can be downloaded from www.oftec.org/technicians/technical-book-updates

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Training is not a prerequisite for assessment

A guide to OFTEC assessments

by David Knipe, OFTEC training manager

Have you ever wondered why the OFTEC assessments are designed the way they are? Just as technicians taking assessments are judged against certain criteria, so is OFTEC. We follow very strict guidelines and also have to take into account the views of the industry when we put together the assessments.

Minimum standards must be met

To make sure that OFTEC's qualifications are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), OFTEC must show that its assessments meet what are called Minimum Technical Competencies (MTC's). The MTC's detail exactly what a technician should know and this will vary, depending on whether the technician is a boiler installer, a servicing engineer, a tank installer, or a mixture of these.



The assessment paperwork – a familiar sight for OFTEC registered technicians

MTC's are written by an organisation called Summit Skills, which is the standard setting organisation for the building services engineering sector, which includes plumbing, electro-technical, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration.

Because the MTC's overlap between installation, servicing, commissioning and tank work, the assessments are designed very carefully so that a technician is not repeating the same papers if he or she wants to sit, for example, the OFT10-101, 105E and 600a.

Some assessment papers are multiple choice when there is a clear answer which cannot be shown practically. Others involve the candidate giving a written answer to a question based on a drawing or photograph – for example “what is wrong with the tank in the photo?” The third type of paper is a practical paper, where the candidate will have to work on actual equipment and show competence in, for example, fault-finding.

There are differences between oil and gas

OFTEC assessments can't be compared directly with Gas Safe assessments because OFTEC have to meet the conditions for Competent Persons Schemes, which are set down by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). By contrast, Gas Safe are answerable to the Department for Work and Pensions, via the Health and Safety Executive.

The assessment questions are not written by OFTEC alone. A panel of industry experts, including manufacturers, design the assessments to make sure that all the areas in the MTC's are covered. The assessments have to be passed by the OFTEC Scheme Committee, which is made up of technicians, Summit Skills, the Local Authority Building Control, DCLG, Assessment Centres, Trade Associations, and Certification Bodies.



David Knipe, OFTEC training manager

Certification bodies play an important role

The certificate you receive following a successful assessment comes from one of seven different Certification Bodies, accredited by UKAS to a standard recognised throughout Europe. It is up to the training and assessment centres to decide which Certification Body they work with and each centre is regularly audited to ensure that they meet current standards, and that training is kept separate from assessment. This is important, because they must not cross over. For example, because OFTEC is involved in writing the assessments we cannot also write training material – this is left to the training and assessment centres who have to demonstrate that the two are kept separate.

Continuous improvement

The assessment process is regularly reviewed, and alterations are made where necessary – for example, to make the wording of questions clearer. OFTEC also welcome any feedback and are always looking at how to improve things further. For example, work is underway to develop a smaller re-assessment package for technicians who are retaking the assessments after five years. We hope that it will be ready for introduction during 2015.

I hope that this piece has shown how OFTEC involves a wide section of the industry when developing the assessments, to make sure that they meet industry requirements.

UK Certification launches new qualification

UK Certification Ltd has launched a new Domestic Energy Efficiency qualification.

The qualification has been mapped against the SummitSkills assessment criteria for domestic energy efficiency and fully meets the requirements of the Microgeneration Certification Schemes (MCS) that require operatives to demonstrate competence in this particular area.

UK Certification launched the new qualification at its recent forum attended by representatives of assessment centres which deliver a range of the organisation's technical qualifications, such as ACS, OFTEC, water regulations, vented and unvented hot water systems and Part P.

Representatives and guest speakers from EUSkills, OFTEC, and Gas Safe Register also attended a workshop run by the Dyslexia Association, to raise awareness of the challenges faced by learners with dyslexia and offer suggestions on how assessment centres could best support their needs.

More information about the qualifications offered by UK Certification are available from the organisation's website:

www.ukcertification.org or by telephone: 01458 252757.

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Diversify into renewables to thrive in tomorrow's heating market

- says Malcolm Farrow, OFTEC's marketing and communications manager

You may be surprised to hear that the UK government's commitment to reduce carbon emissions has seen it develop measures aimed at eradicating oil heating from homes by 2025. If this sounds alarming, don't worry ... the chances that it will succeed are remote.

However, it's worth remembering that this is just one element in the government's strategy to achieve its legally binding target to reduce our national carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 – it also plans to get rid of gas heating eventually too.

Fortunately for our industry the demand for oil heating remains healthy

At present, the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is the government's tool of choice to engineer change in the heating market. Fortunately for our industry the demand for oil heating remains healthy, so any change is likely to be slow. For one thing, the price of oil has fallen over the last three years and DECC's own research suggests it may remain relatively stable for some years to come. For another, many homeowners adopt an "if it 'ain't broke, don't change it" approach to their central heating.

Opportunities for technicians

However, the RHI enables homeowners to recoup much of the outlay involved in installing renewables and, if the installation is done well, they may also see savings on their energy bill. As a result, many homeowners are likely to be interested in the RHI – which means there are opportunities for technicians to get involved and benefit from the additional business the scheme will generate. This makes a lot of sense for anyone looking ahead because the off-gas heating market is certain to

become more diverse in the coming years and traditional heating, hybrid systems and fully renewable systems are all likely to find favour with homeowners. Even solid fuel stoves, which are not part of the RHI, have seen significant growth in popularity recently, so there are plenty of options to consider.

So what do you need to do? Choosing the right technology and undertaking appropriate training are the first steps and you'll need to decide which technologies best suit your skills and location. For example, if there are a lot of old properties with single skinned walls in your area, biomass might be a better bet than heat pumps. You'll also be wise to look for where there's a gap in your local market.

Look for where there's a gap in your local market

For your customers to benefit from RHI payments, you will need to sign up with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Only installations done by MCS approved installers qualify for the RHI and it's important not to underestimate the additional demands that MCS registration places on an installation business, not least the extra administration involved.

Helping you to get involved

The good news is that OFTEC can help you get involved as we now offer registration in solar thermal (OFT501) and heat pumps (OFT504) – technologies that both attract RHI payments. OFTEC's information sheet (Pub73: Expand your business with the OFTEC renewables scheme) provides more information about what you need to do and it makes sense to add renewable registration and MCS registration to your existing OFTEC oil scopes. As with oil, CPS registration enables you to self-certify controlled



Malcolm Farrow, OFTEC's marketing and communications manager

service work, with renewable installations falling into this category under Building Regulations in England and Wales.

Another advantage is that OFTEC offers one of the most competitive schemes on the market, including a 25% discount for the first year, bringing the price down to £475 per business for one renewable scope of registration and £550 for two. This includes the £110 fee that OFTEC will pay on your behalf to the MCS scheme administrators to licence you. At this price you won't need to do many installations for the investment to have been worthwhile.

Looking ahead, OFTEC intends to fully support technicians who work off the gas grid by offering registration in a range of popular heating technologies. In addition to solar thermal and heat pump scopes, solid fuel stove and biomass registration will also be available in the UK and Ireland during 2015. Bespoke training and assessment will be available for some technologies, while recognised industry qualifications will be accepted for the rest. Naturally OFTEC will offer a complete registration service in these technologies, just as we do now in oil – including free technical support, information updates and other benefits.

While the rural heating market may be changing, you can be certain that OFTEC will continue to provide the registration services that off-gas heating technicians need.

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Providing the total solution for an eco-friendly dream house

With any new build, how to heat it efficiently and effectively is always a designer's top priority. With this in mind, Grant UK has provided a winning solution for an extraordinary new residence in Grimsby

Colin Goodwin is a property developer with a passion for innovative eco-friendly technologies. So when it came to building his own home he aimed to be as green as possible. After much research, he decided that he needed to use a company which could supply and install a full range of products, so looked to Grant UK as his chosen manufacturer.

"So many manufacturers are indeed specialists in their field but could only supply one product, when a total solution was required," says Colin. "Grant could supply and design all that was needed."

Grant could supply and design all that was needed

A large PV array was installed in the garden to provide sufficient power to the property and also to take advantage of the government's Feed in Tariff (FIT) incentive. For the heating and hot water a Grant Aerona ASHE 21.5kW heat pump was chosen. This supplied a large buffer tank which, in turn, fed the underfloor heating and the hot water cylinder – all controlled by a Grant energy management system.

Due to the size of the building, and to manage those times when more people were in the property, a Grant Spira wood pellet boiler was also fitted. The Spira is currently the only MCS registered condensing self-cleaning pellet boiler on the market with an impressive 97% efficiency, eligible for the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

The unit was installed in the garage next to the control system and hot water cylinders and, via a Grant sequence controller, the Spira seamlessly integrated with the heating system, giving Colin and his family both peace of mind and significant energy cost savings.



Eco-friendly property developer Colin Goodwin with his new Grant Spira wood pellet boiler

Colin now lives in the house with his headteacher wife Jill, and his daughter Isabella. "Any project is important, especially when it's your own home," he says. "I chose Grant as it was immediately evident that the build quality, design and finish are to the high standards I require."

Oil with an air source heat pump

DECC predicts that by 2030 approximately 26% of the UK's heating energy output will be met by air source heat pumps alone, and as much as 56% will be met by hybrid systems.

A new brochure highlighting the benefits of using an air source heat pump alongside an existing oil, gas or LPG boiler is now available from Mitsubishi.

"Adding an Ecodan to an existing traditional heating system enables homeowners to maximise energy efficiency, comfort levels and reliability", says John Kellett, general manager for Mitsubishi's heating systems division.

www.ecodan.co.uk



Specflue woodburners secure DEFRA approval

Specflue, a specialist supplier of flue systems, woodburning stoves and renewable heat products, has received DEFRA approval for its most popular models of woodburners.

Manufactured by TermaTech – a major supplier of woodburning stoves throughout northern Europe – and distributed by Specflue, the DEFRA approval covers the TermaTech TT20 and TT22 ranges.

The DEFRA exemption means that the woodburners can be used to burn in smoke controlled areas, including parts of the UK where smoke cannot be released from a chimney without using authorised fuel or an exempt appliance.

Phil Lowe, head of sales and marketing for Specflue, commented: “Our TermaTech stoves are already approved by recognised European testing institutes and meet the most stringent requirements in Europe, so we are pleased that they have achieved exemption from UK regulations set out by the government through DEFRA.”

With efficiency above 82%, the TT20 and TT22 ranges have been newly developed. In addition to their environmentally friendly combustion, both ranges have been developed with a view to easy operation, better heat distribution and minimal maintenance, explains Phil. The Danish and Scandinavian designs of the stoves are also flexible, allowing consumers to change the look of their chosen appliance even after installation. See Specflue on pages 30 and 38. www.specflue.co.uk



The TermaTech woodburning stove from Specflue

Kensa roadshows provoke interesting feedback from installers

Kensa Heat Pumps took to the roads of Britain this autumn to help heating and plumbing engineers ‘unearth the significant commercial opportunities through ground source heat pump systems and dispel myths about renewable heating technologies’.

“We strategically planned this roadshow to visit areas that we know have the right geology for ground source technology and a high number of off-gas properties,” said Kensa’s technical director, Guy Cashmore. “We’re confident that ground source heat pumps offer a lucrative opportunity for our roadshow installers along with the added customer incentive presented by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).”

Supported by Plumbase Renewables, DECC and NAPIT, events have already taken place in Cambridge, York, Norwich and Lincoln with more planned for February and March 2015.



OFTEC installers gave interesting feedback after the Kensa roadshows

“We got good levels of engagement and interesting feedback,” said commercial director, Chris Davis. “We recognise that OFTEC installers want to know more about ground source heat pumps, but are sceptical about the renewable heating industry and find government incentives confusing and off-putting.”

“Many heating and plumbing engineers are telling us that conflicting reports about the RHI mean they are not using it to encourage customers to install renewable heating systems,” added Guy. “This shows us that there is still more work to be done to demystify government incentives and encourage heating and plumbing engineers to use them to capitalise on the huge opportunities that exist within this industry.”

What the OFTEC installers said...

“It was great to be able to attend an event specifically about ground source heat pumps actually in my area,” said Jody Hammond, an installer from Norwich. “I am fairly new to the technology and I would advise anyone thinking about getting into it to do your research and don’t be afraid to seek help to avoid costly mistakes. I’m a one-man-band so appreciate having an expert company like Kensa to call when I want advice or have questions. I also appreciate the fact that they are the only British manufacturer of this technology!”

John Carlisle from Lincoln said: “I’m glad I went along to the event – it was a good chance to look at the heat pump in the flesh. I know that digging trenches or drilling boreholes can put people off installing ground source heat pumps, but by partnering with local drillers or ground workers you can easily get the job done. Kensa has a network that can help with this and their ‘umbrella’ scheme will also allow me to achieve the required MCS standards without the hassle, so I think that’s a good way forward.”

Kensa is also using the events as a platform to launch its new ‘Underground Network’ programme which will allow installers to tap into ongoing training, country-wide support and qualified new business leads. www.kensaheatpumps.com/undergroundnetwork.

Forthcoming Installer Roadshow Events are as follows:

- Tuesday 10th February, Plumbase, Worcestershire, DY11 7RA
- Tuesday 24th February, Fife Renewables Innovation Centre, Fife, KY8 3RS
- Tuesday 10th March, Plumbase, Haselmer, GU27 1DN
- Tuesday 24th March, NAPIT Training Centre, Bristol, BS11 9YE
- Wednesday 25th March, Ammanford Campus, Carmarthen, SA18 3TA

www.kensaheatpumps.com/events

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