



Domestic Heat Pumps – Myths & Legends What's Held Deployment Back?

16th March 2021

The ultimate renewable energy source



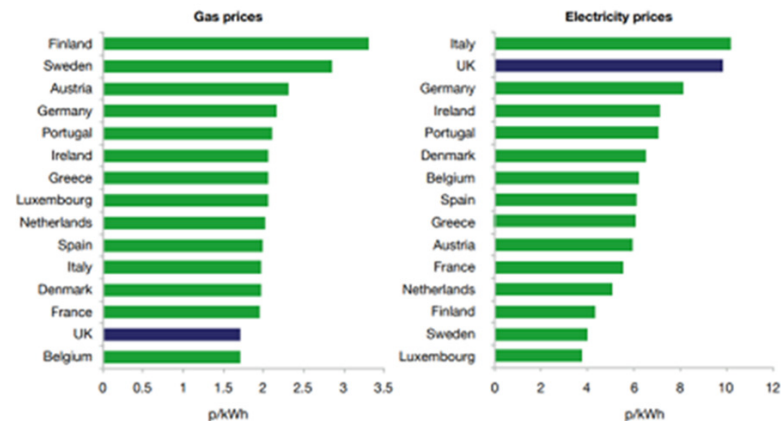
Why act now?

- The IPCC report gives us limited time to stop irreversible damage
- Current Building Regulations permit development that is adding to the problem by embedding yet more fossil fuel dependency
- Public awareness is shifting rapidly
- Generational pressure
- The Greta and Attenborough effect
- We have technologies available now that are tried and tested
- All industry watchers anticipate a much more regional and distributed energy (CCC and National Grid, etc.)
- The very rapid development of the electric vehicle market is transforming the power generation and distribution sector and plays to growth in the electrification of heat

What has held heat pump deployment back?

- Building Regulations grid carbon factor
- UK raw fuel spark gap favours gas
- Fossil fuel subsidies, “green” levies are applied to electricity only – 18% or so inflationary result
- Lack of robust fossil fuel standards environment
- Poor renewables subsidy strategy
- The interests of the incumbents
- Consumer awareness
- Heating industry skills and knowledge

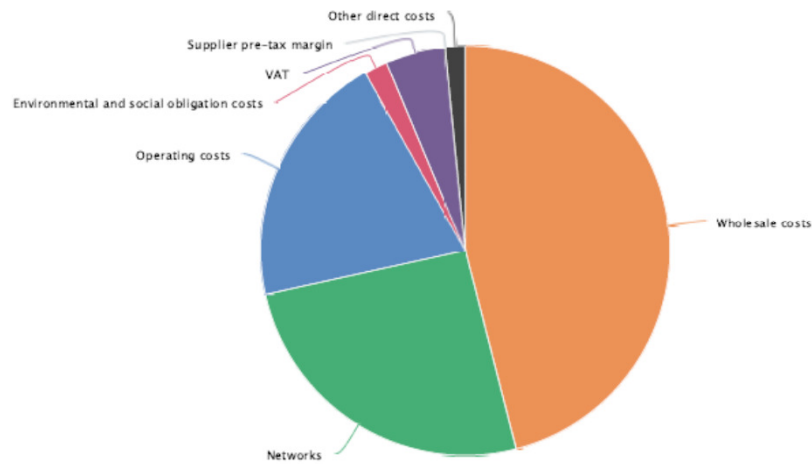
Figure 12: Industrial electricity and gas prices for large consumers in the EU15 in 2016, including taxes¹³⁵



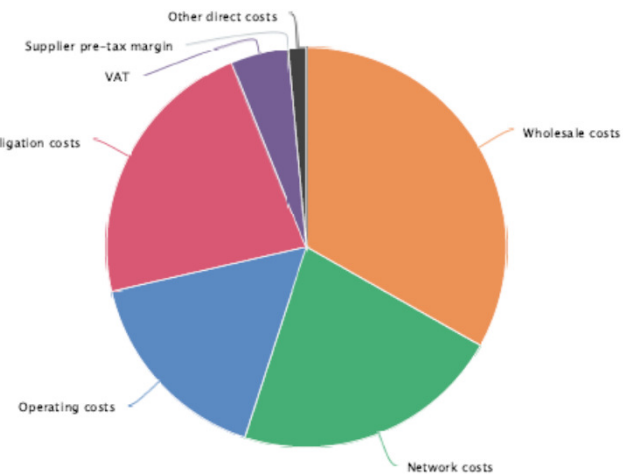
Source: BEIS

The “Spark Gap”

Breakdown of a gas bill



Breakdown of an electricity bill



https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/data-portal/all-charts?search_api_views_fulltext=bill

What drives the electrification of heat?

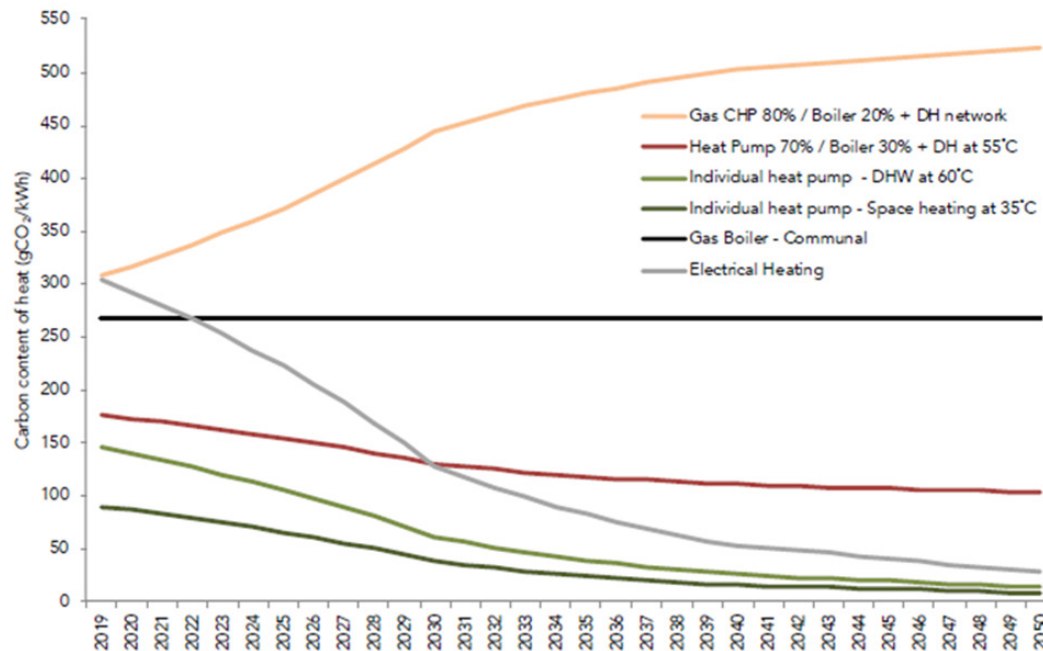
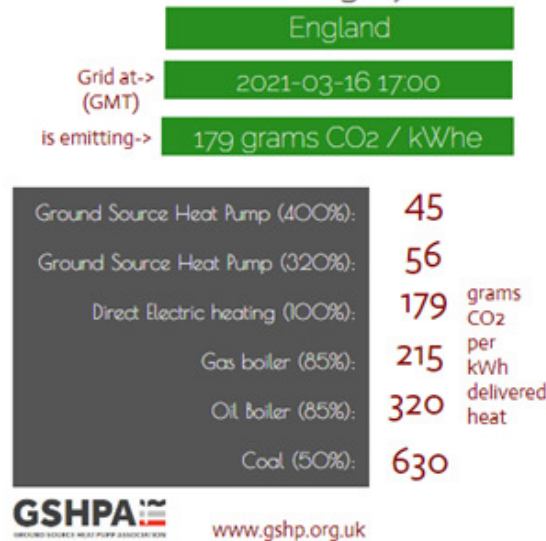


Figure 4.05 – Projected carbon factor of heat based on HM Treasury Green Book marginal emission factors

CO₂ from Heating Systems



Displaying the CO₂ released from different heating technologies. GSHPA values are for 2 typical levels of efficiency; 320% (COP=3.2) & 400% (COP=4). Grid carbon intensity uses real-time data. The value reflects the decline in generation from coal & the growing contribution from renewable power technologies.

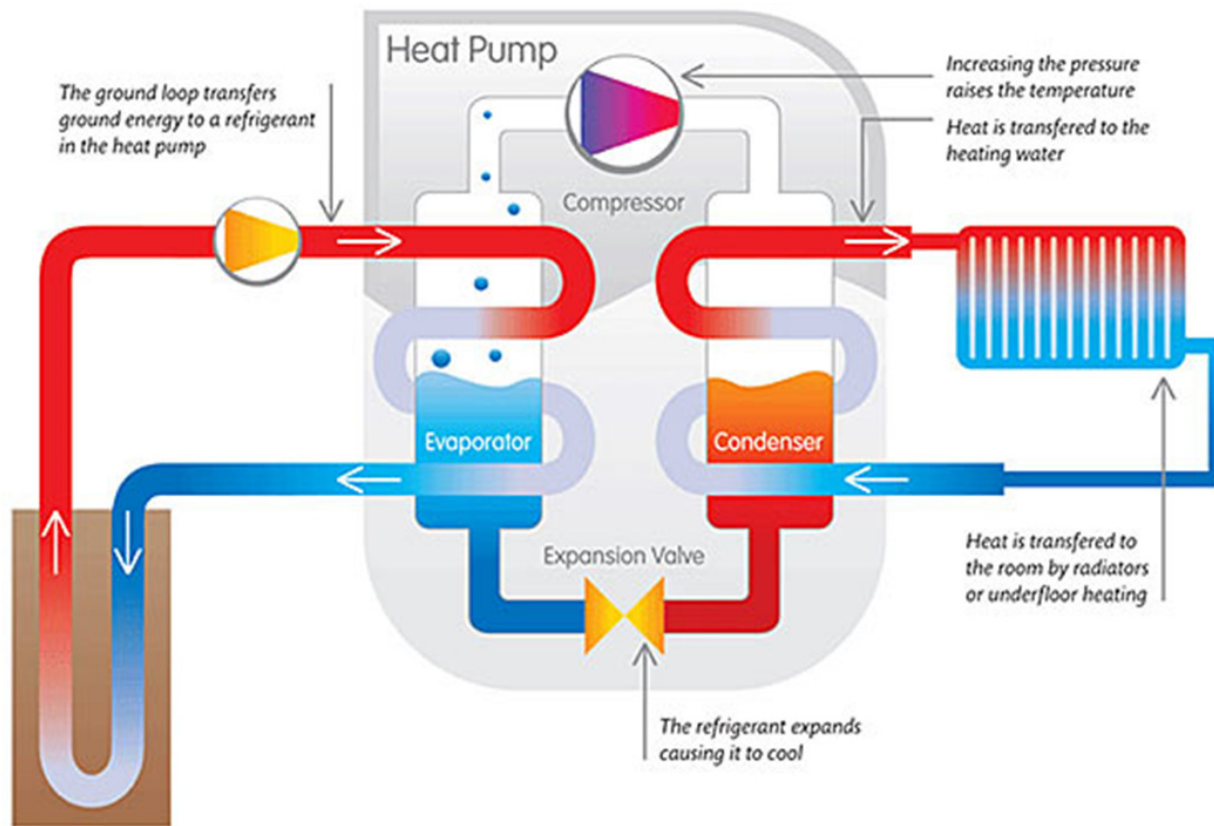
Data courtesy of National Grid CO₂ intensity API. Original thinking JCW Parker. Developed & sponsored by GeoScience Ltd. Running on pythonanywhere.

[View live UK generation status](#)

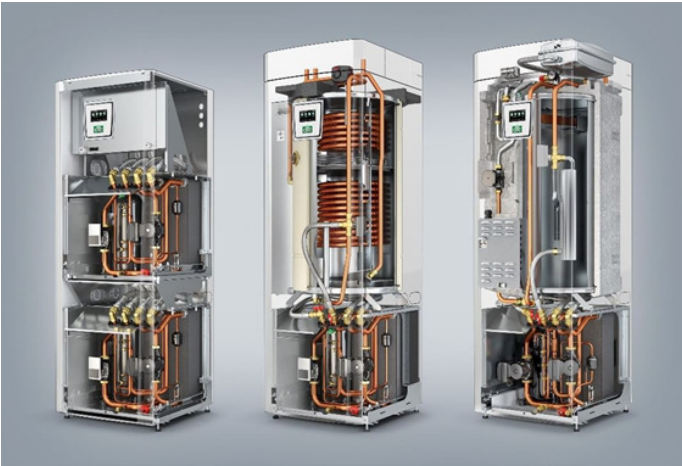
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- Yorkshire
- Wales
- North Wales
- South Wales
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East England
- S.E. England
- South England
- South West
- England
- London

Heat pumps 101



Heat pumps 101 – what do they look like?



Heat pumps 101 – where can they go?



Heat pumps 101 – any emitter type



Heat pumps 101 – all house types



Carbon emissions impact

Carbon Dioxide Emissions Comparison - Electricity vs. Oil vs. LPG vs. Gas									
(When considering a heat pump installation)									
Updated :	June	2020							
Total Heating (+ DHW) Demand	15,200	kWh/annum	Note :						
SFP	3.50								
Electricity Consumed By Heat Pump	4,343	kWh/annum	Note :						
Fuel/Carbon Emissions		Boiler Efficiency %	Carbon Dioxide Factor		Demand kWh/annum	Carbon Dioxide Emissions kg	Heat Pump CO2 Saving Against Fuel	% CO2 Saving With Heat Pump	
Electricity (National Grid)		100	0.233	kg CO2 kWh	15,200	3,542	2,530	71%	
Oil		88	0.268	kg CO2 kWh	17,078	4,577	3,565	78%	
LPG Gas		80	0.215	kg CO2 kWh	16,888	3,631	2,619	72%	
Mains Gas		82	0.184	kg CO2 kWh	16,522	3,040	2,028	67%	
Coal		80	0.333	kg CO2 kWh	19,300	6,327	5,315	84%	
Biomass (High Quality Pellets)		85	0.040	kg CO2 kWh	17,882	715	-297	-41%	
Electricity - Heat Pump		350	0.233	kg CO2 kWh	4,343	1,012			
Assumes that electricity is purchased from a standard supply. Purchasing from a green energy tariff will significantly increase CO2 emissions savings									
Carbon factors taken from Defra figures for 2020.									

The home owner is key – what factors matter?

- Fossil fuels work, or do they?
- Resistance to, or fear of, change
- Very low valuation of energy (resistance to insulation)
- Capital cost of change
- Operational costs (spark gap)
- Knowledge & understanding
- Environmental attitudes (Sir David Attenborough, Greta) and increasing intergenerational pressure
- Regulations (MEES, Building Regulations)
- Government subsidy
- A better offer (controllability), transitional approaches (hybrids)

Incumbent fear & doubt



Massive radiators, probably not!



Garden a disaster, yes, but worth it, or drill!



Re-plumb the whole house and UFH, just not necessary!



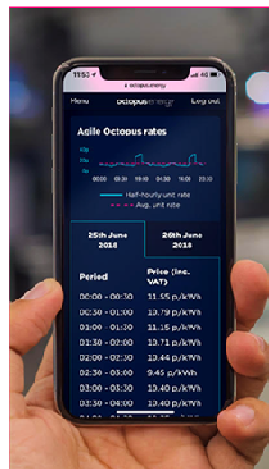
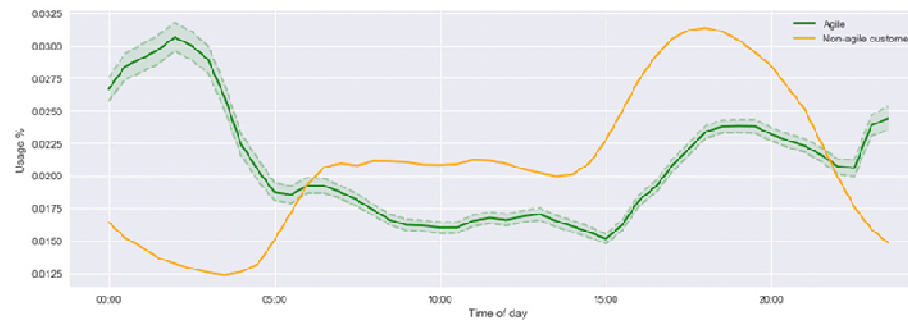
Installing central heating was a disruption, but stay with coal, really?

Renewable Heat Incentive – worked example

- Average family home – 150m²
- Peak thermal load – 7.5kW
- Estimated annual energy demand for heating & potable hot water – 16,500kWh
- Air-source operating at a seasonal performance factor of 2.8
- Ground-source operating at an SPF of 3.4
- Air-source subsidy value – approximately £1,150/annum based on a tariff of 10.92p/kWh
- Ground-source subsidy value – approximately £2,465/annum based on a tariff of 21.29p/kWh
- Budget : air-source : £7,000-£10,000
- Budget : ground-source : £11,250-£22,500

A glimpse into the future

- Octopus Energy Agile Tariff consumers demonstrate significantly different consumption profiles compared to average non-agile consumers
- Low cost electricity is a proxy for low emissions
- Initial benefits for EV charging but progressing to heat pumps with thermal storage



New funding mechanisms required

- Improved application of “time of use” tariffs and thermal storage
- Government action on the spark gap – the polluter pays!
- Encouraged use of waste heat
- Active development of co-located heating and cooling demands
- Improved access to affordable capital
- Third party investment in in-ground assets
- Accessing the value of flexibility
 - Grid balancing
 - Dynamic Response, Primary Response, Secondary Response, Capacity Mechanism
- Co-location with low or zero emissions electricity generation & storage
- Long term government policy to enable all of the above

Government policy requirements

- Local government to lead by example – Public Building Decarbonisation Fund
- Local plans to proactively seek out waste heat opportunities and ease the planning pathway for heat networks
- Central government to start tackling the spark gap
- MHCLG to revise Part L urgently and to include an annual review mechanism for carbon factors
- Adoption of Low Temperature Heating qualification
- Consider voucher funding for PAS 2035 home assessments



Thank you

www.hpf.org.uk (coming very soon)

Bean Beanland
Director for Growth & External Affairs
Bean.Beanland@hpf.org.uk
info@hpf.org.uk