

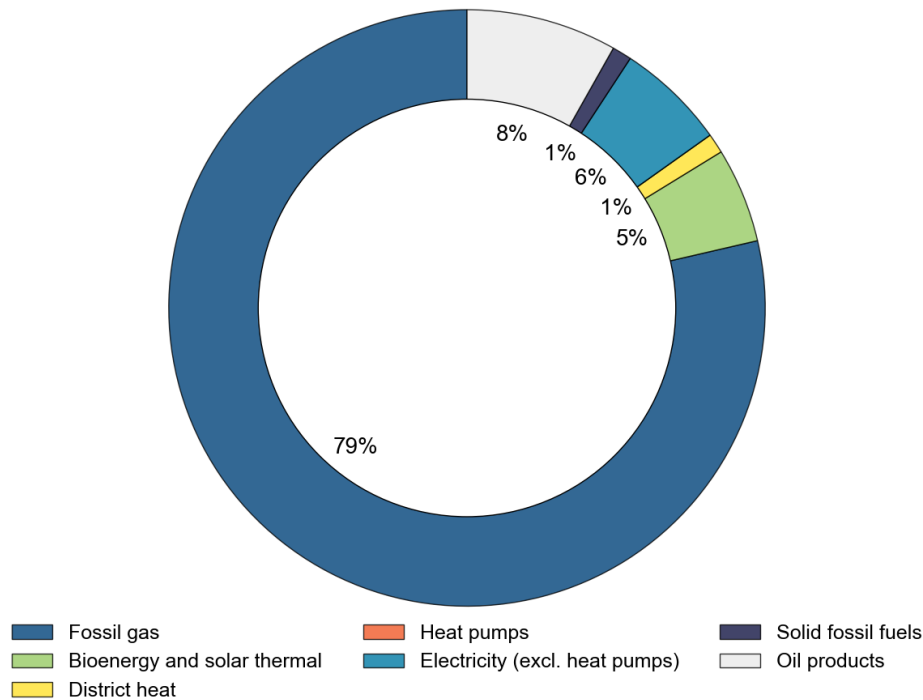


Clean Heat Policy Tracker 2025

United Kingdom



Energy used for space heating and hot water in homes in United Kingdom, 2023



Source: ECUK, 2025. Ambient heat from heat pumps was not available.

Does the country have a national heat plan? Is it statutory?

It is not statutory, however the previous Government published the Heat & Buildings Strategy and the current Government is set to publish its Warm Homes Plan, a comprehensive document setting out a range of policies to decarbonise heat and improve building efficiency. As a result, the responses to this survey are caveated and subject to change over the coming months.



Is the progress of heating decarbonisation tracked and is the information publicly accessible?

Yes. UK progress against sectoral carbon budget targets is monitored and published regularly. The English Housing Survey is published annually and tracks energy performance, energy efficiency measures, and heating systems. The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) tracks installations of heat pumps and other small-scale renewable devices.

Is the country a member of the Buildings Breakthrough?

Yes.

Is the heating sector governed by local authorities?

No, although Local Authorities have a delivery role in capital schemes such as the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund, the Warm Homes: Local Grant and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Is heat planning carried out at a municipal, regional or national level?

Local area energy planning is adopted by some local and combined authorities, but it is not mandated. The UK Government is introducing heat network zoning to designate areas where heat networks provide the lowest cost low-carbon heating option.

At regional level, the National Energy Systems Operator is co-ordinating Regional Energy Strategic Plans. NESO will adopt a whole system approach to the development of Regional Energy Strategic Plans, working across all energy vectors, including electricity, gas and across heat and transport, to help drive local energy network investment.

Is there a specific body that governs heat decarbonisation?

No.

Is heat decarbonisation part of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution?

Yes. The UK's NDC is an overall emissions target covering all sectors, including heat in buildings.

Does the country have targets for heat pump deployment?

N/A.

Does the country have a clean heating obligation or standard?

Yes. The UK's Clean Heat Market Mechanism obliges manufacturers supplying gas and oil boilers to meet targets for heat pump installations in existing properties, proportionate to their fossil fuel boiler sales. This scheme runs from 1 April 2025 until at least 2029 and applies across the UK.



MCS also sets out standards for heat pumps, applied to the design and installation of these heating systems.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in new buildings?

No. However, the Future Homes Standard, which will be published this Autumn, will see new homes built with low carbon heating, such as heat pumps and heat networks, and with solar panels as default.

Does the country have restrictions on installing fossil fuel heating appliances in existing buildings?

No.

Has the country decided on a phase-out date for fossil fuels in heating?

No.

Has the country undertaken energy pricing reforms to support electrification?

The Government is currently considering the best and most efficient way to address current distortions in electricity and gas prices.

Does the country place a carbon tax on fossil fuels for heating?

No.

If yes, please provide details. If not, is it under discussion?

The Government is considering efficient methods to lower electricity costs relative to gas, aiming to reduce running costs for low-carbon technologies.

Does the country provide financial support for heat pumps?

Yes. The Boiler Upgrade Scheme provides grants to property owners transitioning from fossil fuels to low-carbon heating, offering £7,500 for heat pumps and £5,000 for biomass boilers. The WH:Social Housing Fund currently provides grant funding for social housing landlords to improve the energy performance of their properties through the installation of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies, including heat pumps. The Warm Homes: Local Grant provides grant funding for privately owned low-income households living in the worst performing homes in England to receive measures including heat pumps.

Does the country provide financial support for district heating?

Yes. The Green Heat Network Fund supports the development of low carbon heat networks, while the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme provides grants for improving existing heat networks' efficiency.



Has the country made efforts to improve public understanding and support of clean heat systems?

Yes. The 'Warm and Fuzzy' campaign promotes the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, raising awareness of heat pumps and the £7,500 grant across various media channels and there is a dedicated website with advice.

Does the country support the development of clean heat skills?

Yes. The £5 million Heat Training Grant has supported over 6,500 trainees in heat pump installation training, exceeding its target. The Government has recently announced a further £5 million in funding for this financial year, which will support around 5,500 professionals to upskill to become heat pump installers. The apprenticeship framework for heating and plumbing has also been updated to align with Net Zero goals.

Brief overview of the biggest challenges towards heat decarbonisation in the country.

The UK has the oldest housing stock in Europe, with around a third built before the Second World War and most of these have solid walls that are difficult and expensive to insulate. The UK is also among the world's most reliant on gas heating, which is used in around 85% of homes, meaning households often don't have compatible radiators and piping. Finally, the UK has particularly high electricity costs compared to gas – again ranking among the highest globally.