

Accelerating the widescale deployment of Heat Pumps in Scotland: **The Heat Pump Association's recommendations for the Scottish Government**



In 2023/2024, **7,660 MCS-certified heat pumps** were installed in Scotland, with **256 MCS-certified businesses** working to install these¹.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) suggest that **by 2035, 40% of existing homes should be heated by low-carbon electric systems²**, including heat pumps.

The CCC also recommend that **annual heat pump installations rise to around 35,000 by 2035**, representing around a 300% increase from 2024 levels.

The Heat Pump Association (HPA) has outlined a series of urgent policy recommendations to accelerate the deployment of heat pumps and heat networks in Scotland, both proven low-carbon heating solutions, set to play a crucial role in decarbonising heat from buildings.

Listed below are the sectors 'Keys Asks' for the Scottish Government:

Prioritising these will give investors, the supply chain and consumers the confidence, clarity and certainty needed to deliver the required growth.



Regulation and Policy

Further regulatory change and promised policy development is needed to unlock many of the barriers to the widescale deployment of heat pumps and heat networks in Scotland.

- Commit to introducing a **Heat in Buildings Bill** that supports the accelerated deployment of **zero direct emission heating systems** such as heat pumps and heat networks, mandating connection of commercial and public sector-owned buildings to the heat network where suitable.
- Publish a **Heat in Buildings Delivery Plan by the end of 2025**.
- Review and reform the **Permitted Development Rights of air source heat pumps** in Scotland to align as closely as possible across the four UK nations.
- Clarify, through regulation, when the **phase-out of new and replacement fossil fuel boilers** for properties on and off the gas grid will come into force.
- Introduce **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the private rented sector by 2028**, which supports the move to zero direct emission heating systems.
- Publish the **Social Housing Net Zero Standard** to provide clarity on direction of travel and funding for the sector.
- Publish an **update on the £1.6 billion committed funding for decarbonising buildings**, allocated in the 2020-2021 Programme for Government.
- Support Councils with the next steps in their **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Plans**, in particular to map out the role of low-temperature heat networks.

¹ MCS Data Dashboard (Accessed August 2025)

² CCC, Scotland's Carbon Budgets: Advice for the Scottish Government (2025)



Financial Incentives and Support

More must be done to reduce the upfront and running costs of heat pumps to make the lowest carbon heat the lowest cost heat, ensuring the transition to net zero is accessible to all.

- Continue to fund the **Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme** with the rural uplift and 0% interest-free loan.
- Continue to fund and provide early certainty of the **Scottish Heat Networks Fund**, critical for the deployment of heat pumps in Scotland tenements and flats.
- **Continue to streamline the Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme application process** to make it quicker and easier to access. We recommend that installers take a more proactive role in applying for the Home Energy Scotland Grant and would support the installer being paid directly.
- **Continue funding the Home Energy Scotland advice service** to ensure households can access trusted, impartial advice and information about heat pumps - helping build understanding, confidence and uptake.
- Publish **Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme monthly data** on the number of measures applied for and installed through the Scheme, including information on location.



Workforce Development and Training

An adequate, skilled and competent workforce is vital for a smooth transition to low-carbon heating.

- **Continue to fund and support the first-year fees of MCS certification** for heat pump installation businesses.
- Introduce a **grant for Heat Pump Training courses**, offering a minimum of £500 per person towards recognised training courses.
- Publish a **Built Environment and Construction Just Transition Plan** by end of 2025.



Consumer Awareness

Ensuring consumers are engaged with the transition to low-carbon heating will enable a smooth and supported transition.

- Promote zero direct emission heating systems and energy efficiency through a **public awareness campaign that signposts to the Home Energy Scotland advice service** which provides trusted information and advice - including on grants and loans - for both fuel poor and able to pay households.
- Deliver the promised **reforms to Energy Performance Certificates** to ensure heat pumps are accurately reflected with them.



UK Actions

Scottish Government should seek to influence and support the UK Government to reduce the price of electricity relative to gas to support the accelerated electrification of heat in buildings.

About the Heat Pump Association:

The HPA is the UK's dedicated voice for the Heat Pump Sector, driving widespread deployment of heat pump technology throughout the UK. We currently represent over 300 member organisations working in the heat pump sector, with our members representing around 85% of the volume of heat pumps sold in the UK.

To find out more about the HPA please visit: www.heatpumps.org.uk
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