

Consultation Title	The future of low carbon heat for off gas buildings: a call for evidence
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Scottish Land & Estates is the voice of rural businesses throughout Scotland. We are a membership-based organisation representing a wide range of rural businesses, including farmers, foresters, tourism operators, housing providers, leisure companies, and renewable energy providers.

Our members provide a wide range of economic, environmental and social benefits which are vital to the success and survival of communities throughout rural Scotland. They play a critical role in ensuring sustainable, healthy and empowered rural communities, providing housing, employment and a wide range of economic, environmental and social benefits.

Current Market for Low Carbon Heat

What barriers may impede the uptake of low carbon heat in buildings not currently using mains gas?

An additional, particularly in rural or remote areas, is a lack of skills and contractors in the local construction industry.

What could we do to remove these barriers and support the uptake of low carbon heat? Can you give examples of successful low carbon heat implementation?

In order to ensure there is a suitable workforce in rural or remote areas to carry out installation and maintenance. Steps should be put in place to channel funding into education and training and provide incentives for individuals to take up relevant training.

Low Carbon Heat Technologies

What factors might inhibit uptake of the heat pumps?

A lack of consumer awareness regarding off-gas alternatives. The cost of installation and maintenance. As well as a localised lack of skills or contractors in the local construction industry in rural or remote areas.

What do you propose as solutions to overcome any barriers to uptake?

To provide incentives to install heat pumps and provide training or incentives to the local workforce in order to ensure they have the required skills to be able to install and maintain these systems.

What factors might inhibit uptake of hybrid heat pumps?

A lack of consumer awareness regarding off-gas alternatives. The cost of installation and maintenance. As well as a localised lack of skills or contractors in the local construction industry in rural or remote areas.

What do you propose as solutions to overcome any barriers to uptake?

To provide incentives to install hybrid heat pumps and provide training or incentives to the local workforce in order to ensure they have the required skills to be able to install and maintain these systems.

What factors might inhibit uptake of electric storage heating?

A lack of consumer awareness regarding off-gas alternatives. The cost of installation and maintenance. As well as a localised lack of skills or contractors in the local construction industry in rural or remote areas.

What do you propose as solutions to overcome any barriers to uptake?

To provide incentives to install electrical storage heating and provide training or incentives to the local workforce in order to ensure they have the required skills to be able to install and maintain these systems.

What factors might inhibit uptake of bioenergy technology?

A lack of consumer awareness regarding off-gas alternatives. The cost of installation and maintenance. As well as a localised lack of skills or contractors in the local construction industry in rural or remote areas.

What do you propose as solutions to overcome any barriers to uptake?

To provide incentives to install bioenergy technology and provide training or incentives to the local workforce in order to ensure they have the required skills to be able to install and maintain these systems.

What factors might inhibit uptake of the installation of heat networks?

A lack of consumer awareness regarding off-gas alternatives. The cost of installation and maintenance. As well as a localised lack of skills or contractors in the local construction industry in rural or remote areas.

Enabling the Uptake of Low Carbon Heat**How should we phase in the policy framework in order to better support the decarbonisation of heat supply to off gas buildings? Please reflect on whether or not a similar approach to that proposed for energy efficiency remains the best option.**

We support a change in legislation to enable the take-up of low carbon heating options. However, a clear framework with regulations, rules and exemptions needs to be published alongside any legislative changes and before any deadlines are announced. We also feel the ability for homeowners to support decarbonisation needs to be managed through incentives, not penalties.

How should the deployment of low carbon heat be funded? ie what relative contribution should come from central public funding, energy consumer's bills and private recipient funding?

The deployment of low carbon heat should be at least partially funded from central public funding with incentives to take up low carbon heat being offered.

What is needed to encourage private investment in low carbon heat?

Provide better education and incentives to encourage investment

To what extent should the assessment of suitability for low carbon heat relate to the proposed Energy Efficient Scotland assessment?

The main assessment of the proposed Energy Efficient Scotland assessment is linked to EPCs and we feel this process requires improved levels of accuracy and specificity. However, if this process is improved then the two could be successfully linked.

To what extent could any regulation to support uptake of low carbon heat in existing buildings link to the already-proposed Energy Efficient Scotland energy performance standards? How could a link be made?

We believe that low carbon heat solutions to improve energy efficiency are often more appropriate for rural properties than the current energy efficiency improvements currently recommended. However, until there are improvements to EPC assessments and clarification regarding the proposed energy efficient Scotland energy performance standards we cannot comment on how a link could be made or how closely the two should be aligned.

How should the Scottish Government respond to the CCC's advice and the UK Government announcement in the Spring Statement that new buildings constructed now should "accommodate low carbon heating from the start"?

We are supportive of new buildings accommodating low carbon heating from the outset but have no specific comment to make on the topic

Growing and Scaling the Supply Chain

What actions should we undertake to ensure the Scottish supply chain has the skills and capacity to capitalise on the future increase in demand for the installation of low carbon heat?

We support the Quality Assurance Short Life Working Group Recommendations Report recommendation that local suppliers, particularly SMEs are able to participate in the process. A key barrier to the installation of low carbon heat in rural areas is a lack of a skilled workforce and as a significant proportion of rural properties are oil users this needs to be considered and addressed.

The same report identified that there is not a Scotland-wide capacity issue and it is instead a localised issue, predominately in rural areas. Therefore it is important that this bridge is crossed either through providing specific skills training to rural areas or providing incentives to the wider construction sector to facilitate their working in rural areas.
