

Net Zero Heating - Why are we only talking about Heat Pumps?

5 'Zero Emission' Alternatives to Heat Pumps

LEICESTER, UNITED KINGDOM, May 5, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With net zero targets looming larger in the rear view mirror, air source heat pumps have been lauded as the main alternative to gas boilers. But despite the offer of a £5000 grant towards the cost of installation, take up for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme has been muted.

The government aims to give out 30,000 vouchers annually but only managed 9,888 between the scheme's launch in May and the end of last year. So far, annual air source heat pump installation is under 40,000. As it stands, the government's target to install 600,000 a year by 2028 seems optimistic at best.

Problematic Pumps

Criticism of heat pumps and in particular their lack of suitability for many UK homes may account for the poor uptake. Complaints from homeowners include heat pumps struggling to reach comfortable temperatures in colder weather and unwelcome noise can often be an issue due to the outdoor fan which is usually placed in the garden.

For the millions of UK homes that suffer from poor insulation, heating experts remain sceptical on the effectiveness of heat pumps, which may also require an upgrade to larger radiators for users to feel any benefit.

Pricey Pumps



The Fischer logo is prominently displayed at the top of the image, featuring the brand name in red with a stylized orange flame graphic above it. Below the logo, a dark rectangular area contains six circular icons arranged in two rows of three. The top row shows a radiator, a wall-mounted boiler, and a vertical radiator. The bottom row shows an outdoor air source heat pump unit, a wall-mounted boiler, and a radiator. At the bottom of this dark area, the text "THE FUTURE IS ELECTRIC" is written in white, followed by "powered by Fischer" in red.

Net Zero Heating - Not a One Size Fits All Solution.

Price is also an issue for many homeowners with purchase and installation costs ranging anywhere between £7000 and £14000 - considerably higher than the £2000 average for a replacement gas boiler.

Legally Binding

If net-zero targets are to be achieved, it is clear that we need to change the way we heat our homes sooner rather than later. So what are the alternative options for homes that are not suitable for an air source heat pump?

Keith Bastian, CEO of electric heating company [Fischer Future Heat](#) says:

“There’s no question that heat pumps will play a part in helping us to net zero. But heating homes in the UK is not a one size fits all solution. The Government needs to put just as much effort into highlighting other forms of zero emission heating - giving consumers greater choice to suit their circumstances.”

If you are looking to clean up your heating system but are wary of a heat pump. Here are 5 alternative options that offer the same environmental benefits of a heat pump, but may be more effective at heating your home.

Electric Boilers

Electric boilers offer high levels of efficiency and produce zero emissions in the home. With no requirement for external flues, and minimal moving parts, maintenance is a lot easier compared to heat pumps and gas boilers. They are available as a Combi-Boiler which can be swapped directly with a gas boiler to provide heating and hot water. Similar to heat pumps, a well-insulated home is important but installation is relatively straightforward and can be completed in under a day.

Electric Radiators.

Modern electric radiators are a far cry from the big and bulky storage radiators of the 1970s and can be an effective and efficient method to provide your home's heating. The best electric heaters come with individual thermostats which can be programmed to suit the user's lifestyle and may even help reduce energy use.

Electric Water Heating.

Keeping your water heating separate from the heating in your home can prove more efficient. Electric water heating systems have also come on in leaps and bounds in recent years and you no longer need huge water tanks in the loft or airing cupboard to enjoy a long hot bath. The

[Aquaefficient](#) uses phase change material to heat hot water and can fit into much smaller spaces than water tanks.

Keith Bastian at [Fischer](#) is a firm believer in separating hot water systems and heating and says:

"Having individual systems to focus solely on your hot water is far more efficient as every kilowatt will be used for that single purpose. In the summer, you can also turn off the system that supplies heating saving you money on your energy bills and if anything goes wrong with your heating system you will never be without hot water."

An electric hot water system can be paired with an electric 'heat only' boiler or electric radiators.

Infrared Radiators

Infrared heaters transmit heat through thermal radiation generating infrared rays around the room. It's the same way as the Sun works (but thankfully without the UV rays and temperature levels). Heat comes from infrared light warming your skin and clothes and bouncing off other objects in a room to heat the space.

Biomass Heating

Biomass uses wood, plants and even manure to heat homes. While it is thought to be a renewable form of heating, there is an argument that emissions released from this type of heating can cause health problems.

A biomass stove burns logs or pellets for heat and can also be fitted with an additional boiler for hot water. They don't come cheap though, with average costs reaching £16,000 for an average sized home.

Keith Bastian at Fischer believes the Government should do more to highlight the alternative options to Heat Pumps. He said:

"Mass adoption of zero carbon heating systems can only be achieved if the government push heavily towards people moving to any form of electrical heating. The end result is we're no longer using fossil fuels in the home which ultimately is what we are all trying to achieve."

About Us

Fischer Future Heat has been supplying UK homes with zero emission electric heating systems for over 15 years. With over 300,000 heaters, boilers and hot water systems installations, Fischer is the market leader in eco-friendly heating and are leading the way to net zero.

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