The Suitability Of Clean Heating Options For Challenging Dwelling Types



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Summary

To examine suitability of clean heating – especially heat pumps – in existing homes:

- Old
- Rural
- Small, and/or
- Flats.

This was achieved by

- Rapid Evidence Assessment
- Limited stakeholder interviews
- Applying industry experience (Loco Home, Luths Services)

Key conclusion: clean heating can be applied to all types of dwellings.



Old Homes: Insulation Upgrades Are Not Required

Solid walls are difficult to insulate.

15 year total cost of HP ownership 8% lower with solid wall insulation (Palmer, Terry, 2023)

Recommendation: focus on heat pump performance, installer skills (Eyre et al, 2023)

 Efficiency inversely dependent on radiator temperature

'Fabric first' needs to be redefined.



K Husbands/ Loco Home



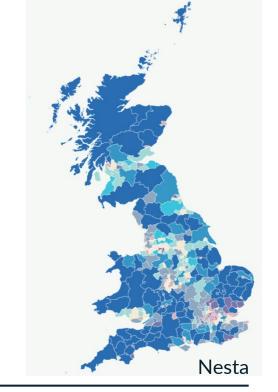
Rural: HP Uptake is Greatest in Off Gas Grid Areas

'Off gas grid' historically associated with hard to treat.

Good heat pump performance at low temperatures (Gibb et al, 2023)

Corrosion-protected HPs for coastal locations. Concerns around availability of servicing on islands.

Strong correlation between off gas and HP uptake. (Nesta, 2023)





Small Dwellings: Innovations are emerging

Industry innovations for hot water storage

Air to air as low capital cost option

Space for radiators is rarely an issue







Heat Geek



NEA



Flatted Dwellings: Innovations Are Emerging

Treat flats individually: balcony, or indoor heat pumps.

5th generation heat networks (shared ambient loop)

Cooperation issues → Tenement Law Reform





Loco Home



Recommendations

- Propositions for on-gas new build
- Options for low income households
- Support air to air, 5G heat networks

