



GSHPA response to PM's announcement that UK will aim to eradicate its contribution to climate change by 2050

12th June 2019

The Prime Minister has today announced that the UK will aim to eradicate its net contribution to climate change by 2050. A statutory instrument to implement this will be laid in Parliament today, Wednesday 12 June. This will amend the Climate Change Act 2008.

Bean Beanland, Chairman of the GSHPA welcomed the new target and said:

"The Government's commitment is welcome but undoubtedly challenging. Decarbonisation of heat will be essential to deliver the 2050 target, as nearly 70% of heat for homes and businesses is currently produced from natural gas. The Government's Clean Growth Strategy says that meeting the 2050 emissions target implies decarbonising nearly all heat in buildings and most industrial processes. Reducing the demand for heat through improved energy efficiency will have an important role to play but will not by itself be sufficient to meet the 2050 target. Reducing emissions from buildings has stalled, and the deployment of low carbon heat is still extremely limited. We need a credible new strategy and a much stronger policy framework for decarbonising heat over the next three decades starting very soon.

Ground source heat pumps have a major part to play. They are a proven, efficient and low carbon technology that can deliver heating to households and businesses at the lowest operating cost. A heat pump deployed today is progressively lower in carbon emissions over its lifecycle as the electricity grid is decarbonised further.

Existing policies to encourage the take-up of low carbon heating are not delivering change at the required pace and need to change if the 2050 target is to be achieved. The GSHPA urges Government to bring in a new support framework for low carbon heating beyond 2021, including a capital grant for the installation of heat pumps, with a target of one million installations a year by 2035, and make the energy efficiency retrofit of existing homes a national infrastructure priority."

For further information on the GSHPA, visit: www.gshp.org.uk

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