



GSHPA response to Committee on Climate Change's Progress Report 10th July 2019

Bean Beanland, Chairman of the Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA) said: "The GSHPA is pleased that today's report by the CCC continues to hold government to account with respect to action on climate change. However, it is depressing that many of the highlighted problems with respect to our sector have been so well known for so long, have been flagged by us and other heat pump sector players for years, and yet still, little by way of real progress has been made.

"Ground source heat pump technology is a long term infrastructural investment. To be investable, it needs long-term policy that is supportive and stable. Projects at scale can take years from concept to delivery and the current situation, where policy changes several times over such a period, is highly damaging to the confidence levels of domestic and commercial consumers alike.

"Pending genuine commercialisation of hydrogen, bio-oils and bio-gases, heat pumps represent the only route to large scale decarbonisation of heat (and cooling) in buildings. Government must act now to deliver policy for the next decade that will allow the heat pump sector to invest in the supply chain, training and marketing that is required.

"With the signal for no further extensions to the gas grid, the Treasury does seem to be realising that embedding fossil fuels in future buildings is unhelpful, but this needs to be built upon with the understanding that ground source infrastructure is an asset of national benefit, which brings energy resources back on-shore, contributes to UK balance of payments, employs predominantly UK tax-paying labour and which contributes significantly to local air quality improvement.

"Continuing public investment is justified, and the industry stands ready to work with government on the elements that are needed to deploy heat pumps at scale, specifically on training to provide business continuity and upskilling to the existing fossil fuel workforce."

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

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