

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) 04/22- 04/25

"The Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) will launch on Monday 23rd May 2022 and aid the decarbonisation of buildings. It will provide upfront capital grants to support the installation of heat pumps, and in some circumstances biomass boilers, in homes and some non-domestic buildings. The scheme applies to properties in England and Wales." (OFGEM)

N.B. Installers will be able to make voucher applications on this date. Please note that although the voucher application system opens on 23 May 2022 – installations commissioned from 1 April 2022 will be eligible to apply for the BUS.

The following is a summary of the available (to date) information from OFGEM which can be found on the following link

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2022/9780348232349/contents>

- Up front grants for the installation of fossil free heating systems to replace gas, oil and direct electricity heating systems
- £5,000 for air source heat pumps and Biomass and £6,000 for ground source heat pump system. Both up to 45kW.
- Voucher once issued lasts 3 months for ASHP & 6 Months for biomass
- Need valid EPC and any outstanding recommendations on it e.g. loft / cavity wall insulation must be done before applying. Certain exemptions i.e. listed buildings. To date a minimum EPC rating does not seem to be required.*
- Having received acknowledgement that you qualify, the installer will be required to lead the voucher application on behalf of the consumer.
- Installer must be MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) registered
- The heat pump must have a seasonal coefficient of performance of at least 2.8
- Biomass boiler will require an emissions certificate. It replaces the heat generating components of the original heating system installed in that property (where applicable), other than any—
 - (i)supplementary electric heater, including any immersion heater,
 - (ii)circulation pump, or
 - (iii)solar thermal collector.
- Biomass in urban area (more than 10,000 population) will not be eligible
- Grant does not apply for social housing
- Grant does not apply for new housing on estates but does include individual self builds using owners labour or resources and retro fits
- Does not apply to hybrid systems.
- Does not apply to swimming pool heating systems
- A biomass boiler is not eligible if it is to replace a natural gas boiler that is already connected to mains gas. However, if the home is on the gas grid, but is not connected, then a biomass installation may be accepted if all other criteria have been met.

Qualifying criteria:

- A valid EPC
- You must get at least 2 quotes from an MCS approved contractor to carry out the work
- Approved contractors must hold MCS and be Trust Mark registered under Government backed scheme
- Upon successful application a voucher will be issued to pass to the installer
- The voucher will be redeemable once the system has been commissioned
- The Grant is annually cash limited on a first come first served basis so early application is recommended

*N.B. Not all homes are suitable for heat pumps. They run at a lower temperature than a gas or oil boiler and the building will need to be well insulated for the heat pump to work efficiently and economically.

The Chancellor's Spring Budget announced reduction in VAT (from 5% to 0%) on the install of energy saving materials, including heat pumps and biomass boilers. It will be in place from 1 April 2022. It will last for five years, covering the entire period of the BUS

"With heat in buildings being one of the largest sources of UK carbon emissions, accounting for 21% of the total, there is an urgent need to deliver a mix of new, low-carbon heating solutions to meet our legally binding target to end the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050"

– Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Further reading, see below is recommended

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1026446/clean-heat-grant-government-response.pdf

The following is taken from The Energy Saving Trust and sets other information and the application process.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063493/bus-installer-leaflet.pdf

Stretton Climate Care cannot be held responsible for any changes to the scheme that may be made. The information above is provided in good faith.