

Tel :07528 493181 Info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk Charity No. 1159816	Energy Advice Drop In The Wellbeing Centre Church Stretton Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00	
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INFORMATION SHEET No. 35 DATE OF ISSUE April 2022

Updated 25 September 2023

***Further update May 2026**

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) 04/22- 04/30

“The Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) was launched on Monday 23rd May 2022 to 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)

NB Installers should apply for voucher on behalf of customer.

1. The scheme consists of:

- Up front grants for the installation of fossil free heating systems to replace gas, oil and direct electricity heating systems
- Grant, £7,500 for those switching from mains gas to air source, water sourced and ground source heat pumps. £6,000 for Biomass. Both up to 45kW output. Exhaust air and air to air heat pumps also included but grant only £2,500 to reflect lower installation cost. Heat batteries now also eligible, expected to be valued at £2,500 from late autumn 2026.

For those switching from oil or LPG the grant is £9,000

NB Air to Air heat pumps can also provide cooling in the summer do not provide hot water.

Hybrid heating systems, which combine a gas or oil boiler with a heat pump, are not eligible for the grant. This exclusion applies to all hybrid systems, including those that provide space heating and hot water supplied by a fossil fuel boiler.

- Voucher once issued lasts 3 months for heat pumps & 6 Months for biomass.
- Need valid EPC issues within the last 10 years. Loft or cavity wall insulation is no longer mandatory, although installers may recommend upgrades to maximize efficiency.
- Having received acknowledgement that you qualify, the installer will be required to lead the voucher application on behalf of the consumer.
- Installer and the equipment 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 boilers **

You can get a grant for a biomass boiler if all the following are true:

- your property is off the gas grid
- your property is in a rural location (check the Ofgem guidance for property owners if you're not sure)
- your boiler has an emissions certificate showing that polluting emissions are kept to a minimum
- The grant is not eligible if as part of the heating system there is a back boiler

Property eligibility

The scheme is open to domestic and non-domestic properties in England and Wales.

New build properties are not eligible for the scheme, with the exception of self-builds that:

- have been built mainly using the labour or resources of the first owner
- have never been owned by a business or organisation
- are not part of an excluded property development

Grants are not available for:

social housing – that is, any rental or owned accommodation that's provided at lower than market value to people that could not have afforded it otherwise (including arrangements like shared ownership)

properties that have already received funding from government or an Energy Company Obligation for the purchase or installation of the heat pump or biomass boiler. Properties you cannot get a grant for:-

If you own a new build property

New build properties which the developer is still building are not eligible.

If you move into a finished new build with a fossil fuel boiler, you may be able to get a grant for a heat pump under the scheme.

You'll need to show your installer proof that your property is a self build, for example, a copy of the title deeds. ** (Taken from Gov. website) For the latest details see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme>

2. EPC Qualifying criteria:

• A valid EPC ** Before 8 May 2024, BUS applicants needed an EPC with no outstanding loft or cavity wall insulation recommendations.

- This rule has been removed.
- You can now apply even if your EPC lists:
- Loft insulation recommended
- Cavity wall insulation recommended
- Floor insulation recommended
- Low-energy lighting recommended

3. No minimum insulation standard is required

- You do not need to upgrade insulation before applying.

4. Custom new builds do not require an EPC

If you are installing a heat pump in a custom new build, an EPC is not required for BUS eligibility.

- 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

*NB Most properties are suitable for heat pumps BUT they run at a lower temperature than a gas or oil boiler and unless the building is well insulated a heat pump will have to work very hard which lessens efficiency and economy.

There is no VAT on the installation of energy saving materials, including heat pumps and biomass boilers

“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 <https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme/check-if-youre-eligible>

Further reading from the Energy Saving Trust is recommended
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/boiler-upgrade-scheme/>

**** MCS / Flexi Orb accreditation certificates.**

Please note that certain micro generation installers are issuing a new accreditation certificate called “Flexi Orb.”

An MCS certificate is Government recognised and proof that your installation has been designed, installed & commissioned to the highest standard using only MCS certified products by an MCS certified installer.

Flexi Orb is an oversight body for the renewable energy sector. It exists to ensure that the sale, installation and commissioning (and recycling) of energy generating, saving and storing systems are safe and effective.

Stretton Climate Care strongly recommend you ask a potential installer which certificate they issue before signing any contract.

If you have a heat pump installed by Octopus Energy, they are issuing their own certification scheme. We advise you check with them to be sure it is recognised by the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.

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.

Updated 29/05/26

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>