carbon Connect

Future Gas Series: Part 3- Consumers and the Future of Heat
Inquiry Outline

Outline

The *Future Gas Series* is a three part research inquiry which explores the opportunities and challenges associated with using low carbon gas to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. Natural gas currently meets about two thirds of the domestic energy demand in the UK, and is particularly important in domestic heat, where it provides nearly 80% of demand. Switching UK heating systems away from natural gas is one of the most significant challenges in a transition to low carbon heat.

The Future Gas Series draws on recent and on-going work attempting to identify the contribution low carbon gas can make to decarbonising the UK energy system, and develops practical steps to deploy them where they are likely to be valuable.

Part 1 (*Next Steps for the Gas Grid*) detailed the issues related to the gas distribution network and the potential to repurpose it to use low carbon gas. Part 2 (*The Production of Low Carbon Gas*) considered the different production technologies, their sources and feedstocks, and issues related to the bulk transport and storage of gas.

This final part in the Series will examine downstream issues relating to the role of the consumer in decarbonising gas in the UK. It aims to look at the consumers attitudes towards heat, the acceptability of different decarbonisation methods, how open consumers might be to accepting changes to their homes and places of work, as well as ethical and safety considerations, particularly concerning perceptions around the use of hydrogen as a source of heat and how vulnerable customers can be protected during a transition.

The inquiry will also investigate the economic and technical implications of converting or replacing appliances to use low carbon gas, how a large-scale transition might be delivered, whether there are lessons to be learned from other sectors and how this might be paid for.

Inquiry process and methodology

The research and report compilation will be conducted by staff at Policy Connect but the work will be overseen by parliamentary co-chairs and a steering group of relevant experts. The research will mainly take the form of desk research and semi-structured interviews but written evidence submissions are also being requested. Additionally, Carbon Connect will run evidence session roundtables in Parliament to inform the project.

Co-Chairs

This inquiry will be co-chaired by **Dr Alan Whitehead MP**, Labour Member of Parliament for Southampton Test, **James Heappey MP**, Conservative Member of Parliament for Wells and **Alan Brown MP**, SNP Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

Dr Alan Whitehead MP is Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change. James Heappey MP is a former member of the Energy and Climate Change Committee and serves as PPS to the Secretary of State for Transport. Alan Brown MP is the SNP Westminster Energy and Transport Spokesperson.

Sponsors

- Baxi
- Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA)
- Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)

Steering Group

Name	Organisation
Antonia Sheedy	Carbon Connect
Joanna Furtado	Carbon Connect
Jeff House	Baxi
Stuart Easterbrook	Cadent
Nick Park	Centrica
Alice Brett	Citizen's Advice
Dhara Vyas	Citizen's Advice
David Joffe	Committee on Climate Change
Graham Bennett	DN VGL
Mike Foster	Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA)
David Weatherall	Energy Saving Trust
Tony Dicicco	Energy Systems Catapult
Ian McCluskey	Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)
Keith MacLean	Providence Policy
Rosalind Colliver	National Grid
Nick Pidgeon	University of Cardiff
Jason Chilvers	University of East Anglia
Jan Webb	University of Edinburgh
Nick Eyre	University of Oxford/Environmental Change Institute
Neil Schofield	Worcester Bosch
Oliver Lancaster	Wales and West Utilities