



**World Leaders in Heat Pump Technology**

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

### **FUEL POVERTY – IS THE PROBLEM BEING MADE WORSE?**

Thousands of already vulnerable social housing tenants could be forced into fuel poverty unnecessarily by local councils and housing associations. A survey by Calorex shows that a lack of awareness and understanding of heat pumps has led many to carry on installing new oil fired or electric heating systems in social housing schemes across the country despite concerns that many tenants won't even be able to afford to switch them on.

The cost and environmental advantages of ground source heating continue to be overlooked according to Calorex, even though funding is available to cover up to 85% of the cost of installation\*. The company, which offers solutions for residents and housing associations with its partner E.ON, blames the problem on a lack of understanding of the technology, and a misconception that ground source heating is expensive to install.

Far from being new, Calorex has been working with the technology for more than 30 years. Tony Barnes of Calorex said, "We have a proven track record of helping people to cut their energy bills by 50%-60%, and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 70%. Oil fired heating and electric heating systems contribute enormously to Co<sub>2</sub> emissions, so in effect local councils and housing associations could be responsible for creating a carbon footprint that is three times higher than it needs to be if they continue to ignore ground source heat pumps."

What's more, Calorex claims that the UK is at least 5 years behind the rest of Europe when it comes to tackling fuel poverty. More than 400,000 heat pumps will be installed in homes in continental Europe this year, whereas the UK will install maybe 3000 systems.

Simple in operation and requiring no regular maintenance or safety checks, ground source heat pumps are cost effective, quiet and designed for installation within the home. Delivering four units of heat for every unit of electricity they use, the units also deliver reduced carbon emissions. Heat pumps are also the only renewable technology capable of meeting the total space and water heating needs of a domestic property on a stand-alone basis.

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**For information, photography, filming/interview requests please contact:**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

\* Supported with grants from either the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) or Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), qualifying installations can be eligible for up to 85% of grant funding towards the supply and installation of ground source heat pumps. Funding levels are combined with a highly competitive fully installed package price for the E.ON Heatplant by Calorex heat pump and bore hole ground heat collector. A specially designed domestic hot water cylinder is also supplied which is matched to the heat pump.

Examples of the package and applicable grants- based in each case on a three bedroom semi with a 5kW ground source heat pump, are;

Existing heating system replaced	Fixed Price Installed Package	Typical Grant	Net package price to RSL	Percentage saving
Oil, gas or LPG	£7996	£3668	£4328 (LCBP)	46%
Electric heating	£7996	£4900	£3096 (CERT)	61%
Solid Fuel	£7996	£6000	£1996 (CERT)	75%

Qualifying rules apply to the grants and Calorex, who have provided more heat pumps to social housing schemes than any other company, are happy to give guidance on grants and of course the technical aspects of the installation.