

# BOILER UPGRADE SCHEME (BUS)



## What is the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)? How can it help my organisation?

BUS is a government run funding programme, offering grants to contribute to the **cost of green heating installations**. The scheme is aimed at domestic and smaller non-domestic properties in England and Wales that have a maximum installation of 45kWh. This is likely to cover many **primary care practices and other small healthcare facilities**.

A total of £450 million is available from now to March 2025. One grant is available per property, at a value of:

- **£5,000** towards an air source heat pump
- **£6,000** towards a ground source heat pump (including water source heat pumps and those on shared ground loops)
- **£5,000** towards a biomass boiler



## Why switch to a greener heating source?

In October 2020, the NHS committed to reaching net zero by 2045. The NHS estate accounts for 15% of the NHS's total carbon footprint, and **to meet this target we'll need to invest in greener sources of energy such as heat pumps**, and energy efficiency measures, in all healthcare buildings. Aside from reducing emissions, smarter healthcare facilities mean more comfortable and better-quality environments for care. These actions will help to mitigate the health harms of climate change; air pollution alone contributes to 1 in 20 deaths in the UK – and increases in cases of cancer, heart disease and asthma.

Interested in applying? Here are four key steps to the process:

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**Step 1: Check if you're eligible.** You're eligible for a grant if all the following are true. You must:

- own the property you're applying for, (or have the owner's permission)
- have installed (or plan to install) your new heating system on or after 1 April 2022
- be replacing fossil fuel heating systems (such as oil, gas, or direct electric)

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### Step 2: Check if your property is eligible

**Insulation:** Your property must have a [valid Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) with no outstanding recommendations for loft or cavity wall insulation.

**Heating system size:** The scheme supports installation capacity up to 45kWh, which covers most homes and small non-domestic properties.

The required size will vary depending on heat demand and property size, and for heat pumps, this will not necessarily be the same size as your existing boiler. If you're not sure whether your property is suitable for a low carbon heating system, or you'd like guidance on sizing, speak to an [MCS certified installer](#). They can tell you about your options

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### Step 3: Choose an installer

For a heating system to be eligible under BUS, it has to be installed by an installer certified by the Microgeneration Certification Service.

As with all building improvements, it is recommended to obtain quotes from multiple installers. You can find an installer in your area on the [MCS website](#).

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### Step 4: The installer manages the application on your behalf

The scheme is designed to minimise the amount of work property owners need to do. It is 'installer-led', which means your chosen installer will:

- Make the BUS application on your behalf
- Liaise with Ofgem when they've installed your heating system
- Claim the money from Ofgem at the end of the project

The grant value should be deducted from your quote upfront and installers are responsible for passing on the discount that the BUS grant provides to you.

For more information and detailed eligibility criteria visit [gov.uk](#) and [ofgem.gov.uk](#)

#### What else can I do to make my building more energy efficient?

Low carbon heating technologies operate most effectively in combination with building fabric updates, such as loft and roof insulation, floor insulation, external wall insulation and double/triple glazing. You can find further guidance on improving the energy performance of your building in the [Carbon Trust's Building Fabric Guide](#).



**If you have used or are planning to use the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, we want to hear from you!** We'd love to receive feedback on your experience and how it has benefitted you, so we can share learnings and examples with other NHS sites. Please get in touch with the Greener NHS at: [greener.nhs@nhs.net](mailto:greener.nhs@nhs.net)