

#TEMPERATUREMATTERS ABSOLUTELY

Q&A

Heat Pumps and A-Gas' Vision for Enabling a Sustainable Future



WORLD REFRIGERATION DAY

26th JUNE 2024 #WREFD24

In recognition of World Refrigeration Day 2024, we spoke with Toby Page, A-Gas' UK Wholesale Field Account Manager – South, and Faye Maddocks, UK Commercial Director, who have both helped to drive A-Gas' growth in the heat pump market. They share their thoughts on where it all started, the difference heat pumps will make and how they fit into A-Gas' vision.

HOW DID A-GAS BECOME INVOLVED IN THE HEAT PUMP MARKET?

Toby: A-Gas is always looking for ways to support the industry as it moves towards environmentally-conscious solutions. Becoming a supplier to UK-based heat pump Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) highlights our commitment to this.

Faye: Change is happening rapidly in refrigerants as we look to reduce our carbon emissions. A-Gas recognises the need for more efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and offers a wide range of suitable products and services to support industry developments, such as heat pumps.

WHAT ROLE CAN HEAT PUMPS PLAY IN HELPING TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IN THE HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION (HVAC-R) INDUSTRY?

Toby: Heat pumps do not use fossil fuels, unlike gas boilers that currently provide heating for the overwhelming majority of UK homes. Powering a heat pump using renewable energy enables the owner to heat and cool their home in a low-carbon way. With many new homes now being built to new environmental standards with both solar and heat pumps installed, more people have this opportunity. Outside of the residential sector, commercial use of zero-emissions heat pumps allows more ecological workplaces.

Faye: The energy efficiency benefits of heat pumps are impressive. The amount of energy needed to run them is dwarfed by the amount of energy they produce. Refrigerants-wise, there are various options for heat pumps. The key performer is R32; it has a GWP of around a third of R410A, and due to its efficiency often requires less gas to be used in the system.

HOW CAN HEAT PUMPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO GLOBAL COMMUNITIES IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

Faye: Natural gas boilers are huge emitters of carbon dioxide and contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the UK. The government has made no secret of the fact that it wants to create a society with a much-improved carbon footprint – this will see a shift away from natural gas boilers to heat pumps in new builds and retrofits.

WHY IS HEATING TECHNOLOGY IMPORTANT TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

Toby: As climate change develops, the rise in the earth's temperature has been and will continue to cause more extreme weather events. In the Northern Hemisphere, cold snaps have become more frequent and severe. Heating technology will be essential for both current and future generations to live comfortably, and it is key that global industries transition to lower-global warming alternatives.

Faye: The demand for both heating and cooling, and therefore refrigerants, is growing worldwide and it is critical that this increased demand is met in an environmentally responsible way. Lower-global warming potential (GWP), energy-efficient refrigerants with low installation and maintenance costs are in demand as we put in place the building blocks for a lower-carbon future.



HOW CAN A-GAS SUPPORT ITS CUSTOMERS AND THE WIDER INDUSTRY TRANSITION TO USING LOWER GLOBAL WARMING COOLING AND HEATING ALTERNATIVES?

Toby: A-Gas has an increased responsibility due to its unique industry position. Over the last 30 years, A-Gas has invested in recovering, reclaiming and repurposing used gases, and is leading the way when it comes to effective refrigerant management. We supply viable alternatives to our customers, while also reducing our carbon emissions through our recovery technologies.

Faye: As an industry, we must transition to lower-GWP alternatives and ensure that potentially harmful legacy refrigerants are carefully managed. This is our business. We recover and reclaim used refrigerants or, where no reuse is possible, safely destroy them to prevent their release into the atmosphere. A-Gas is well-positioned to support our industry and enable a sustainable future.



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