

‘Unprecedented Investment’ in Ground Source Heat Pumps to Cut Housing Association’s Stock Emissions by 66,000 tonnes of CO2

Submitted by: Kensa Group

Thursday, 21 March 2019

A landmark order by Together Housing to replace night storage heater’s with ground source heat pumps in over 700 dwellings across Lancashire and Yorkshire, is the largest single order of its kind in the UK. UK manufacturer, Kensa Heat Pumps (<https://www.kensaheatpumps.com>), and contractual division, Kensa Contracting (<https://www.kensacontracting.com>), will fulfil the order worth over £7.5m over the next three years.

A diverse array of properties will take part in the heating upgrade scheme, from bedsits to maisonettes, low rise flats, houses and bungalows. It is estimated the investment will reduce lifetime carbon emissions by up to 40 tonnes in the bedsits to 200 tonnes in the three-bed flats; the project will result in massive emissions savings, comparable to a 5MW solar PV farm featuring 20,000 solar panels covering an area of 30 acres.

Tenant fuel bills will be reduced by typically 30-50%, annually saving around £150 per bedsit up to £500 per house.

Patrick Berry, Managing Director of Together Housing’s Energy Services, comments:

“This investment is a major commitment to ensuring our homes are affordable and energy efficient. Using renewable heat we can provide our customers with clean, comfortable, low cost energy and lower our carbon impact. It forms a part of Together Housing’s strategy to maximise the potential of renewable heat and power and we are delighted that the projects are now underway.”

The new ground source heat pump infrastructure will consist of a series of communal boreholes connected to individual heat pumps within each property, Kensa call this system ‘ambient shared ground loop arrays (<https://www.kensacontracting.com/services/shared-ground-loop-arrays/>)’. The shared ground loop array infrastructure is deemed a district heating system, qualifying the project to be part-funded via the Energy Company Obligation and receive a twenty year income via the Non Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive.

Dr Matthew Trehwella, Managing Director of Kensa Contracting, comments:

“Together Housing’s landmark investment in ground source heat pumps via the Procure Plus framework is a pioneering step by a social housing provider to address the emissions of existing housing stock and fuel poverty levels; their commitment to innovation, community, and the environment is a benchmark for fellow housing associations and new build developers to follow.

“Their commitment to renewable heat indicates a market transformation of the UK’s approach to heating infrastructure. Substantiated by Government’s Spring Statement announcement of a future homes standard mandating the end of fossil-fuel heating systems in all new houses from 2025, following the recent Committee for Climate Change report calling for the end of gas grid connections to new build housing in

six years, this is the beginning of the end of inefficient heating infrastructure in the UK, on and off the gas grid.

"Political and building regulation pressures have built the case for ground source heat pump infrastructure in UK housing, and now the climate threat has built the urgency."

Claire Perry, Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, commented on the record-breaking energy efficiency programme of works:

"I'm delighted to see how many more businesses and organisations, such as Kensa and Together, are seizing this multi-billion pound opportunity to energize their communities to tackle the very serious threat of climate change."

A recent report by the Greater London Authority concluded that compared to various air source, direct electric, gas and CHP configurations in new build houses, shared ground loop arrays are the most efficient, lowest carbon, and lowest cost solution.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

66,000 tonnes of CO2 based on 40 year ECO deemed lifetime.

Carbon savings based on SAP 2012.

Greater London Authority (GLA), 'Low Carbon Heat: Heat Pumps in London' (September 2018).

Kensa Contracting were procured by Together Housing Group via the suite of dedicated ground source heat pump frameworks managed by social housing procurement and regeneration company Procure Plus.

Images attached (higher resolution images available upon request):

- Together & Kensa Group Shot
- 4 x Various locations of the project works (files: 286 Luddenlane, 287 Luddenlane, 356 Cherry Court, 374 Rothery)

About Kensa:

Established in 1999, privately-owned, and headquartered in Truro, Cornwall, the Kensa Group is a fast-growing collection of award-winning businesses involved in the manufacture and installation of ground source heat pumps and the ownership of associated underground infrastructure.

Now employing over 40 people the Kensa Group wholly owns Kensa Heat Pumps Limited and Kensa Contracting Limited.

Kensa Heat Pumps remains the UK's only manufacturer of ground source heat pumps and is the long-established market leader according to BSRIA annual reports. It provides products and technical support to an extensive network of plumbing contractors.

Kensa Contracting is a specialist installation business which focusses on large-scale new build and social housing retrofit programmes. It benefits from unrivalled experience and expertise and has delivered the UK's largest installations in the residential sector.

Kensa Utilities is an infrastructure asset company which funds, owns and maintains shared ground loops that serve heat pump installations. It utilises subsidy support to provide these assets at zero cost to the housebuilder or social landlord.

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