

OFTEC

OFTEC is the Oil Firing Technical Association for manufacturers and engineers active in manufacturing, installing, commissioning and maintaining oil fired equipment for domestic heating and cooking. It is a trade association and a competent persons scheme recognised by Government and it represents some 150 company members and over 9,500 registered technicians in the UK and Ireland.



ASSIGNMENT SCOPE

OFTEC has been working to develop a renewable alternative to oil fired heating, using the same equipment. FiveBarGate was commissioned to advise OFTEC on the relevant technical, project and regulatory aspects of this development program. This involved working closely with Universities, OFTEC management, OFTEC members and Government departments and other relevant stakeholders.

FIVEBARGATE APPROACH

FiveBarGate took a hands on approach to working closely with the OFTEC senior management team to directly advise on the structure and outcomes expected from developing a new fuel. FiveBarGate experience from a technical and business development role within a fossil fuel refining business helped develop key strategic options. These options were assessed from a technical, regulatory and economic point of view.

Technical advice included assessing fuel characteristics and providing an overview of field trial performance. This included detailed knowledge of fuel system performance coupled with knowledge of traditional and renewable fuel options.

Regulatory advice included review of the developing sustainability reporting requirements as they apply to liquid biofuels across transport, heat and power applications. This included a read across to the relevant policies as the Renewables Obligation and the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation in order to consider and advise on the developing Renewable Heat Incentive. Economic advice included modelling the historic pricing structures for home heating oil and relevant renewable fuel indices. These models were then applied to forecast data sets to predict the future price of renewable heating oil blends, incorporating varying amounts of fossil and biofuels.

CLIENT STATEMENT

“The breadth and depth of knowledge, experience and networks that FiveBarGate have been able to apply have helped us establish a sound technical framework based on renewable fuels for our industry. This understanding has then also been developed with key strategic influencing data, particularly the market analysis data, that has helped OFTEC demonstrate to policy makers that we can deliver a renewable solution for home heating in the oil fired sector.”

Jeremy Hawksley, Director General, OFTEC.

OUTCOMES

OFTEC has been able to develop a specification for a bio-kerol fuel for use in domestic and light commercial heating oil applications as a drop in fuel replacement. OFTEC has also been able to engage with policy makers to establish a platform of understanding where bio-kerol fuels are actively considered as a renewable alternative to liquid fossil fuels in existing fossil fuel fired domestic heating situations.

