

Public dissatisfaction grows with Government climate policies revealed in new survey

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A new ICM survey on behalf of the plumbing and heating association SNIPEF reveals widespread dissatisfaction with the Westminster government's recent delays, cancellations, and scaling back of climate change targets and policies.

According to the survey, only 19% of respondents reported feeling satisfied with the current pace of climate action. Furthermore, 35% expressed dissatisfaction with the Westminster government's handling of climate policies, with 17% being very unsatisfied and 18% unsatisfied.

Fiona Hodgson, Chief Executive of SNIPEF, commented on the survey findings: "These results should be a wake-up call to the Westminster government. The significant level of dissatisfaction among the public reflects a growing concern about the government's commitment to addressing climate change. The recent delays and rollbacks in climate policies are not only disappointing but also undermine public trust and the future of our environmental sustainability."

The UK government has recently made several U-turns on climate and emissions policy which are critical components to meeting our legally binding emissions targets. These policy changes, coupled with rumours of further delays and cuts, could jeopardise the UK's ability to meet its international commitments under the Paris Agreement and its own net-zero targets.

Additionally, the survey asked respondents whether they would support a further increase in government incentives for renewable energy installations in residences, such as solar panels or heat pumps, to help the

UK meet its climate target obligations. The results show strong support, with 59% in favour, 19% opposed, and 22% unsure.

“The strong support for increased government incentives for renewable energy installations highlights the public’s willingness to embrace solutions that contribute to our climate goals,” said Hodgson. “It is imperative that the government listens to these voices and implements policies that facilitate the transition to sustainable energy.”

Impact on the UK plumbing and heating profession

The changing targets and policy uncertainty have also profoundly impacted the nation’s plumbing and heating profession. Industry professionals are expected to install new heating technologies like heat pumps, but with the government’s shifting goals, many in the profession feel inhibited from investing in the necessary training, technology and workforce development.

“The plumbing and heating profession is crucial to achieving our climate targets, but the lack of consistent policy direction makes it challenging for businesses to commit to long-term investments,” Hodgson explained. “Our members are ready and willing to support the transition to renewable energy, but they need assurance that the government will maintain a steady course. Without this stability, it is difficult to justify the significant investments required in training and technology.”