

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape at sunrise. A dirt road leads from the foreground into the distance, flanked by tall grass and wildflowers. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. In the background, there are rolling hills and a body of water under a hazy sky.

# **The Clean Growth Strategy – A Rural Perspective**

Paul Blacklock – Calor Gas Limited





# BEIS Clean Growth Strategy – October 2017

- **Improve boiler efficiency and heating system standards**
- **2020s – focus on off gas grid properties**
- **Phase out high carbon fossil fuels:**
  - Heating oil and coal
  - Starting with new build
- **Improve energy efficiency of new and existing buildings**



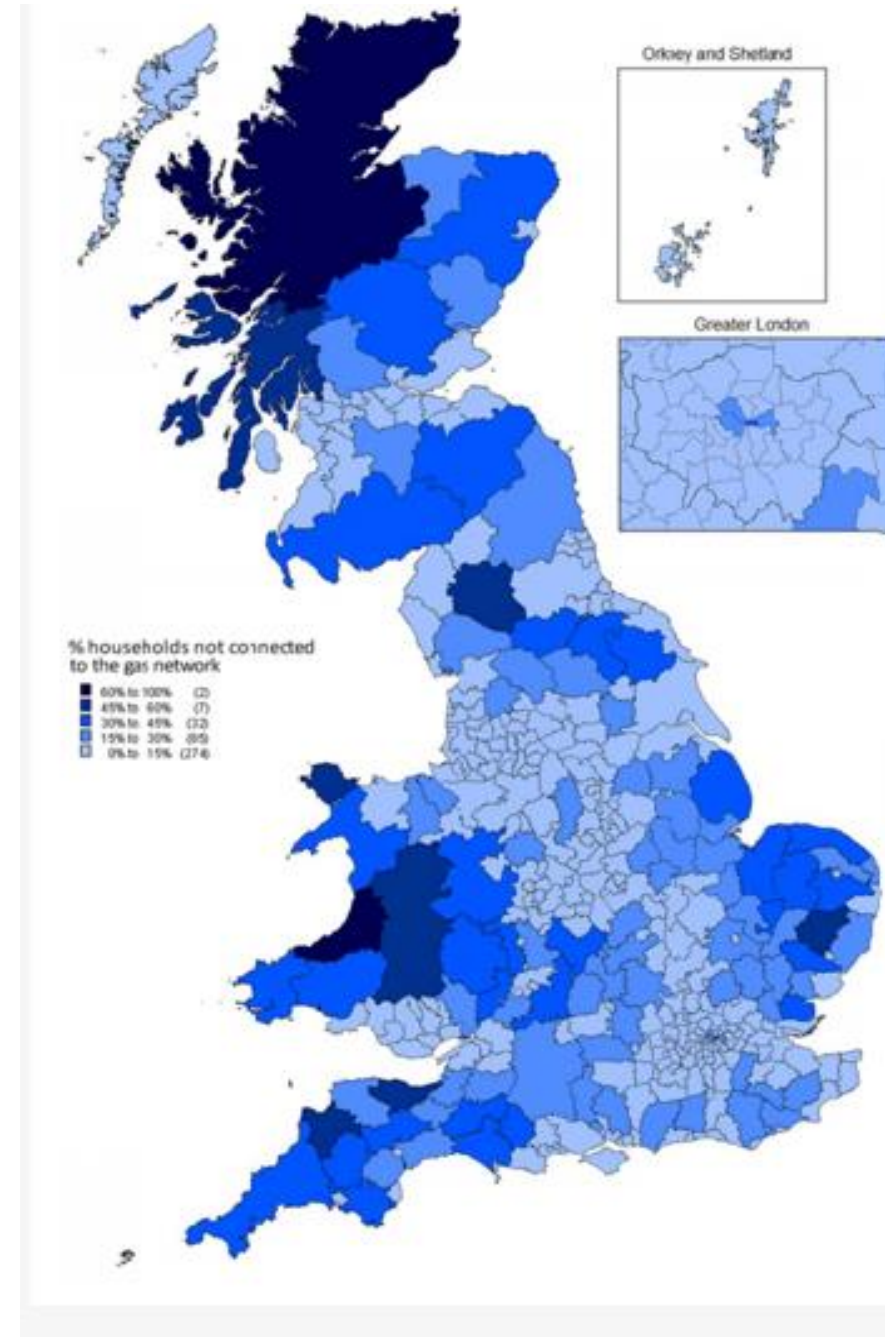
# Clean Growth Strategy and the Countryside

- Range of solutions required to decarbonise heat:
  - Existing and new technologies
  - Renewables – including bioLPG
- Requires fresh thinking in Government
- Recognition of the rural challenge – especially on costs
- We need understanding....



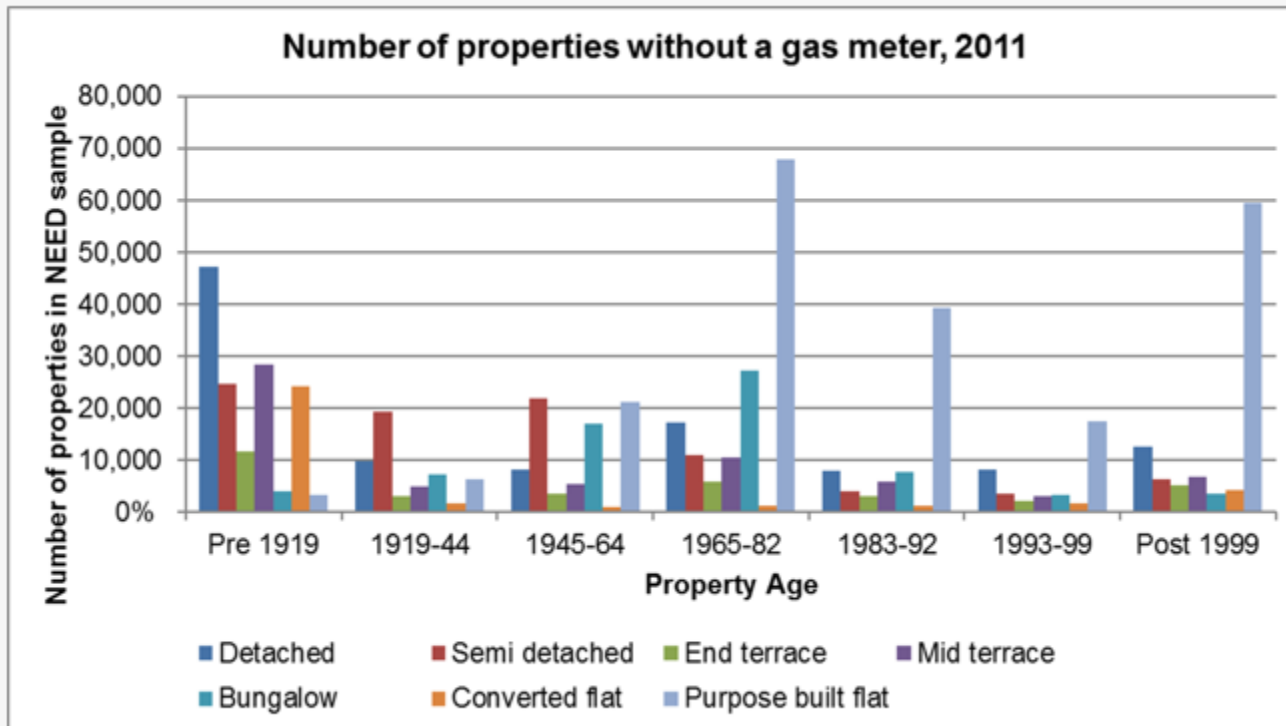
# Off-Grid Market Overview

- Almost 4 million UK households are not connected to the mains gas grid:
  - 51% rural off-grid
  - 49% urban off-grid
- UKLPG estimates that the c.2 million rural off-grid households use:
  - 54% heating oil
  - 27% electricity
  - 10% solid fuel
  - 9% LPG (Bulk and Cylinder)



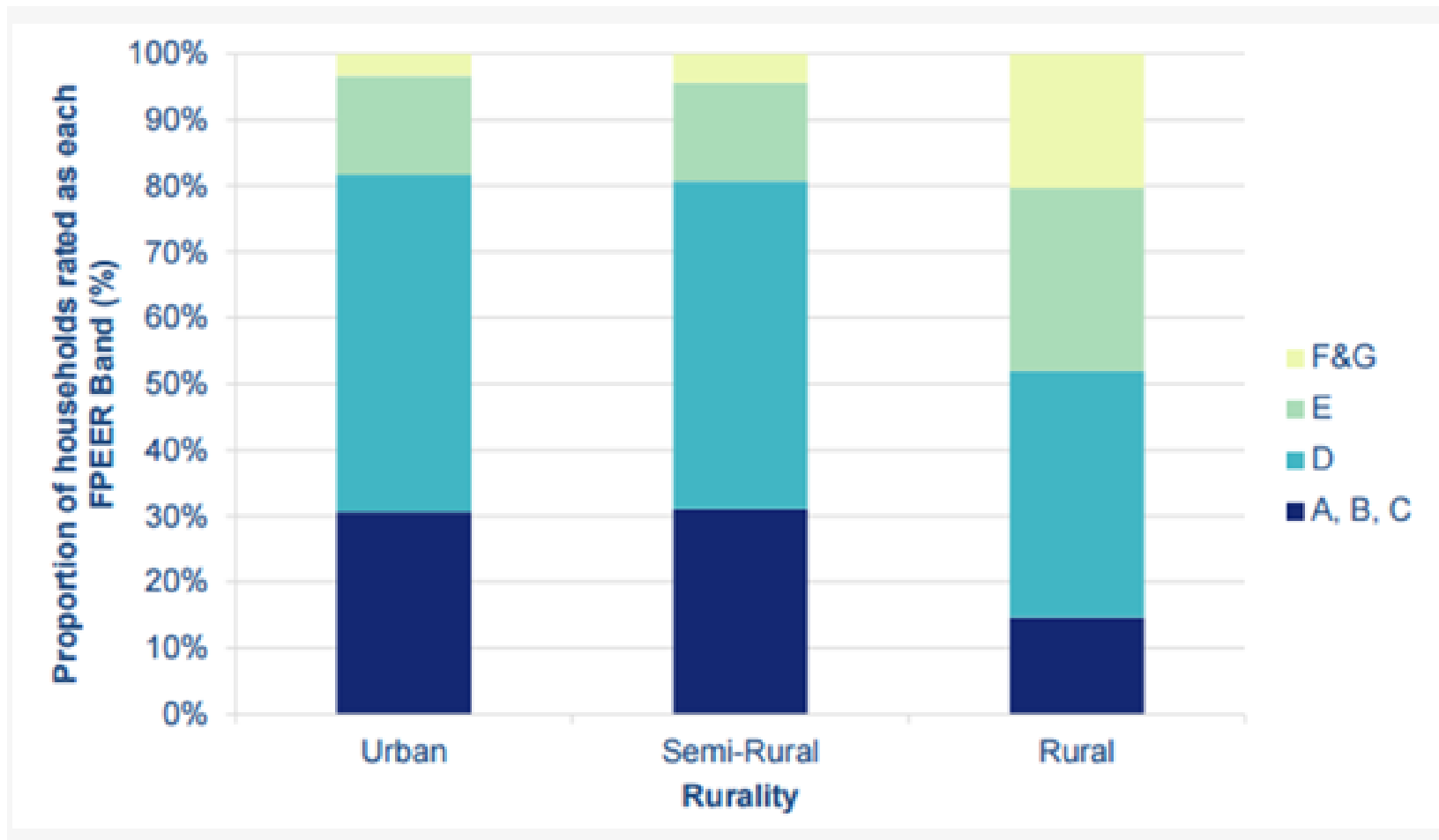


# Rural Housing Stock – Old and different!



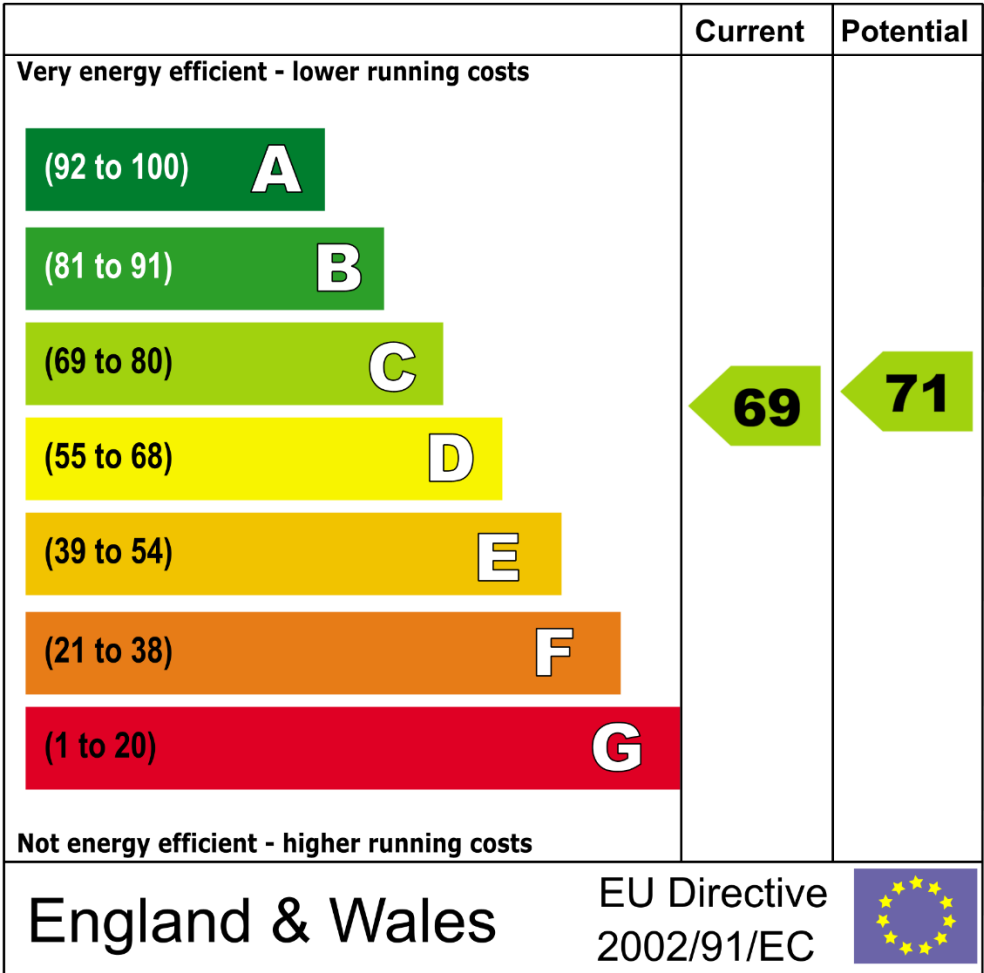
- Housing stock is diverse, but has certain characteristics:
  - Split between modern flats and old houses
- Houses:
  - Typically older properties
  - More likely to be solid wall
  - Lower EPC ratings
  - Rural: potential infrastructure challenges
- **Retrofitting off-gas grid housing stock is challenging**

## Rural Housing Stock – Less Energy Efficient

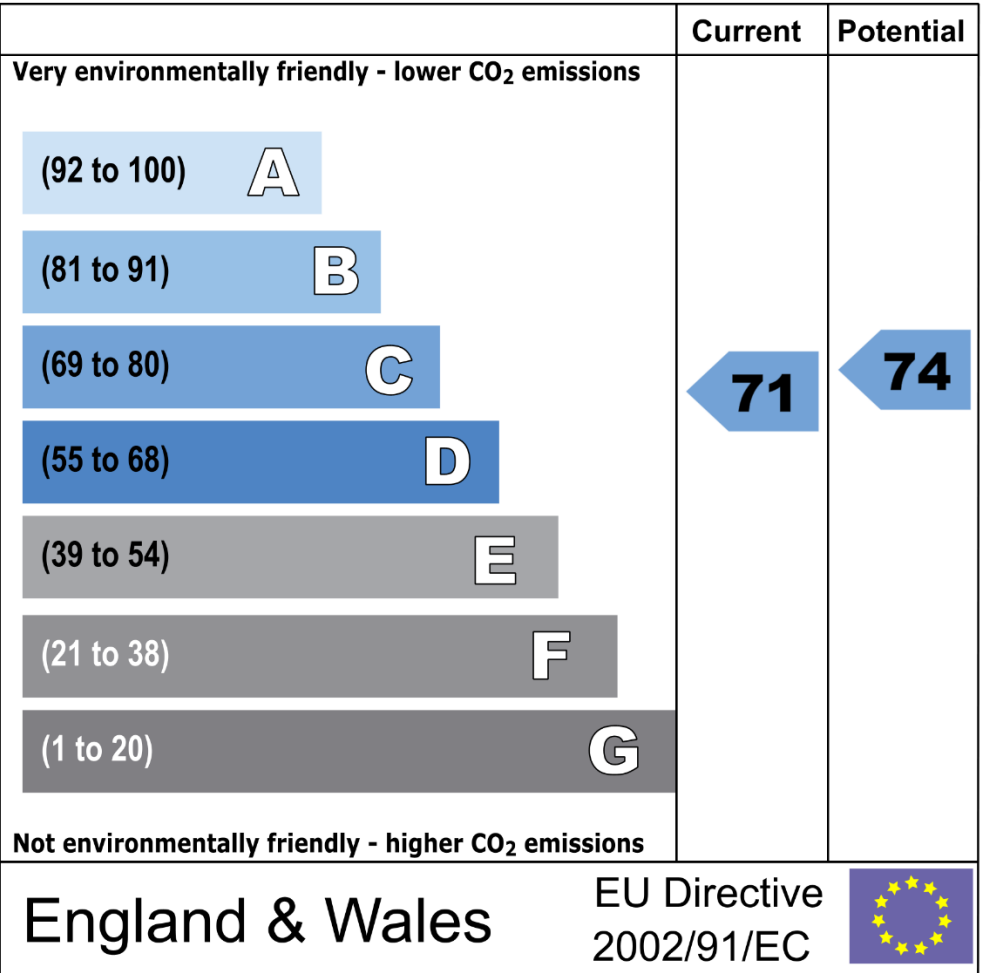


# Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) – Rural flaws....

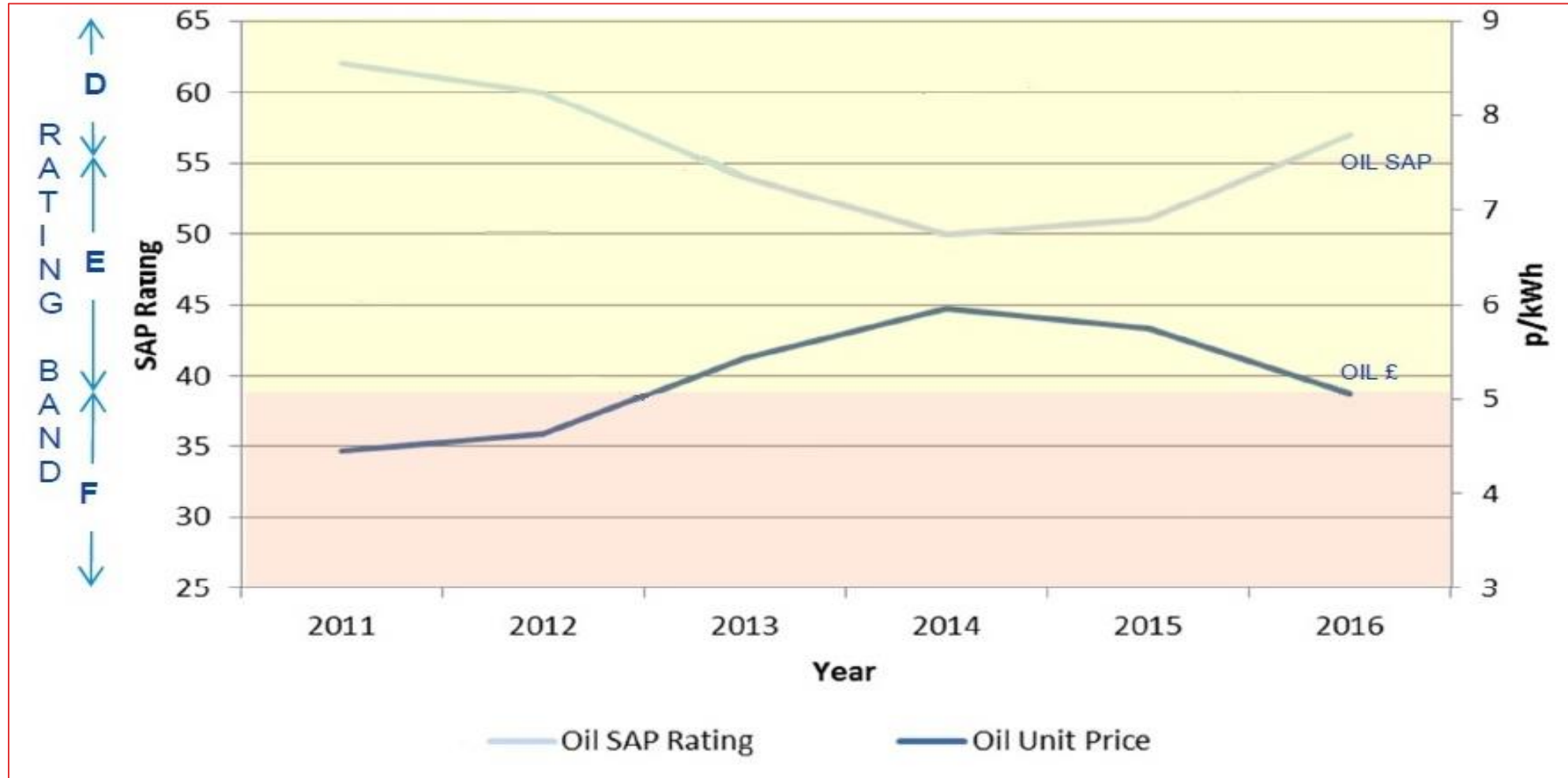
## Energy Efficiency Rating



## Environmental Impact Rating



# Rural EPC Ratings – A moveable feast!





# Policy Example - Scottish Government - REEPS

- “REEPS” - Regulation of Energy Efficiency in Private Sector homes
- All private sector housing – not just rental
- Applied at point of sale/purchase
- Plan to use EPCs as policy instrument



# Rural is different! Case study - Fuel Poverty

- **Dispersed hidden nature**
  - Isolation of households, reluctance to admit problems, area based indicators ineffective
- **Under-occupancy**
  - Retired people, large homes, unable/unwilling to downsize
- **Housing stock**
  - Hard to treat, solid floors and/or walls, listed buildings, conservation areas, planning restrictions
- **Private rented/tied accommodation**
  - Concerns landlords will increase rent, unwilling to complain
- **Lower levels of benefit take-up**
- **Relatively little new build**
- **Affordability and availability of housing an issue**

# Energy Efficiency Policies: Rural Homes left behind

- **ECO measures delivered in off grid homes <2%:**
  - Poor policy design – definition of “rural”
  - Cost of delivery
- **Rural off gas grid households excluded from “universal” schemes:**
  - Affordable warmth
  - Feed-In tariffs for solar PV
- **Fuel poverty policy conflated with Renewable targets**
  - Exclusion of LPG and heating oil from GDHIF
  - Reduced delivery due to more expensive renewables



# Clean Growth Strategy - Calor's Recommendations

1. **Fairness** - Ensure that current and future Government energy policy does not unfairly disadvantage rural off-gas grid communities.
2. **Provide equal access** - To Government incentive and assistance schemes by mandating delivery into rural off-gas grid areas, and to monitor activity levels.
3. **Get the funding right** - To tackling rural off-gas grid fuel poverty.
4. **Reform EPCs** - So that they provide a fair measure of energy efficiency in rural off-gas grid properties. To ensure equal access and avoid discrimination in future energy policies.
5. **Building Regulations** - Ensure any future reforms take into account rural factors and doesn't increase the cost of building affordable rural homes.

# Questions?