

BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker: Heat and Energy in the Home Autumn 2021, UK

16 December 2021

Official Statistics

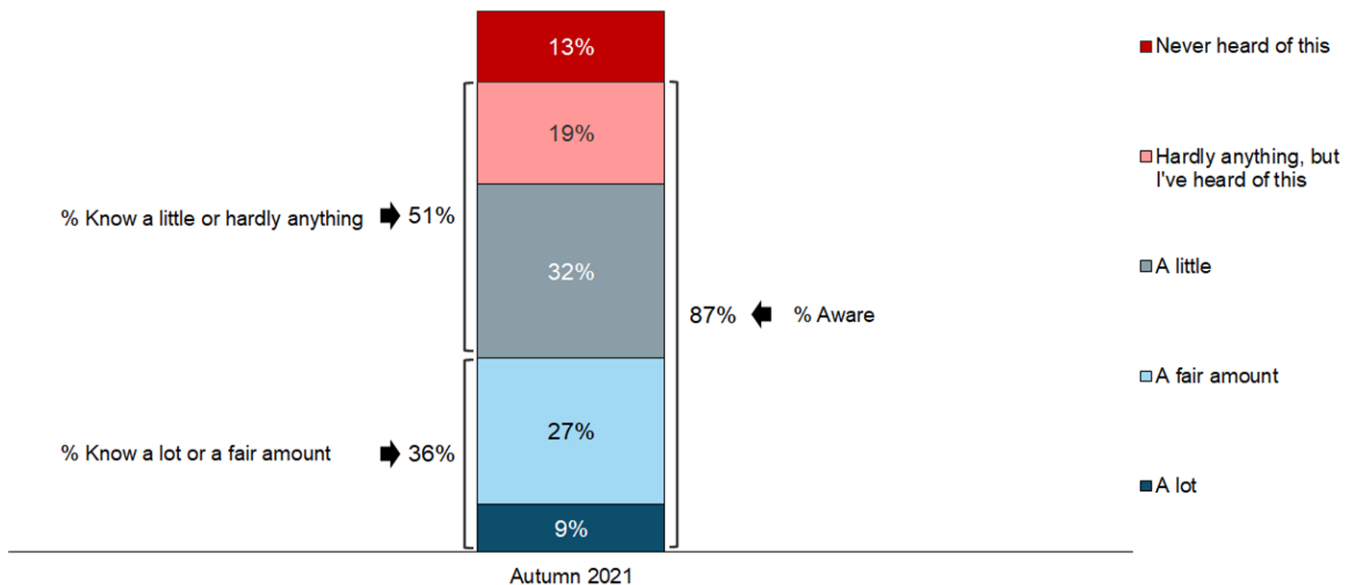
This report covers the questions asked in the BEIS Public Attitude Tracker on knowledge of domestic low carbon heating systems in Autumn 2021. This includes quarterly questions on awareness to changes required in the way homes are heated to reach Net Zero, and awareness of low carbon heating.

What you need to know about these statistics: This is the first BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker (PAT) wave using the new Address Based Online Survey (ABOS) methodology, which uses random probability sampling. The results should not be compared with previous PAT surveys, which used different data collection methods. For details, see the Technical Overview, Autumn 2021.

Low carbon heating systems and Net Zero

After being provided with an explanation about the need to change the way homes and buildings are heated to reach the UK government’s 2050 Net Zero target, 87% of people said they already had some awareness of this (Figure 3.1). The level of knowledge was however relatively low. Just over a third (36%) knew either a fair amount (27%), or a lot (9%). Around half (51%) said they were aware but knew only a little (32%), or hardly anything (19%).

Figure 3.1: Knowledge about the need to change the way homes are heated to reach Net Zero targets in 2050 (based on all people), Autumn 2021

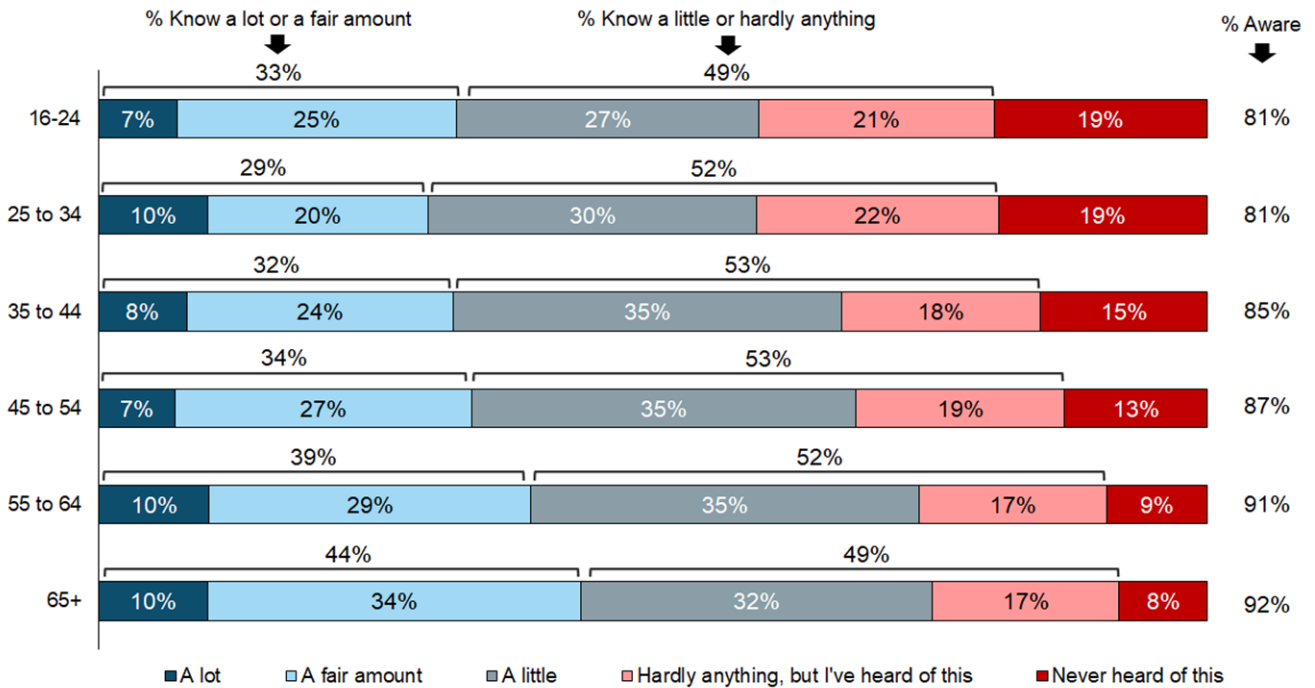


HEATHOMEKNOW. In the lead up to 2050, the way we heat almost all of our homes and buildings will need to change in order to reach the UK government’s net zero target. Before today, how much if anything did you know about this?

Base: All wave respondents – Autumn 2021 (5,552) (Asked Quarterly)

While there was only a small difference in overall awareness by gender (90% of men compared with 84% of women), men were considerably more likely to report knowing at least a fair amount about the need to change home heating systems (44% compared with 27% of women). The overall level of awareness was also higher for people educated to degree level (92% compared with 77% of people with no qualifications) and people aged 55 or over (92% of those aged 55 and over compared with 81% of those aged 16 to 34) (see Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Knowledge about the need to change the way homes are heated to reach Net Zero targets in 2050 (based on all people), by age, Autumn 2021

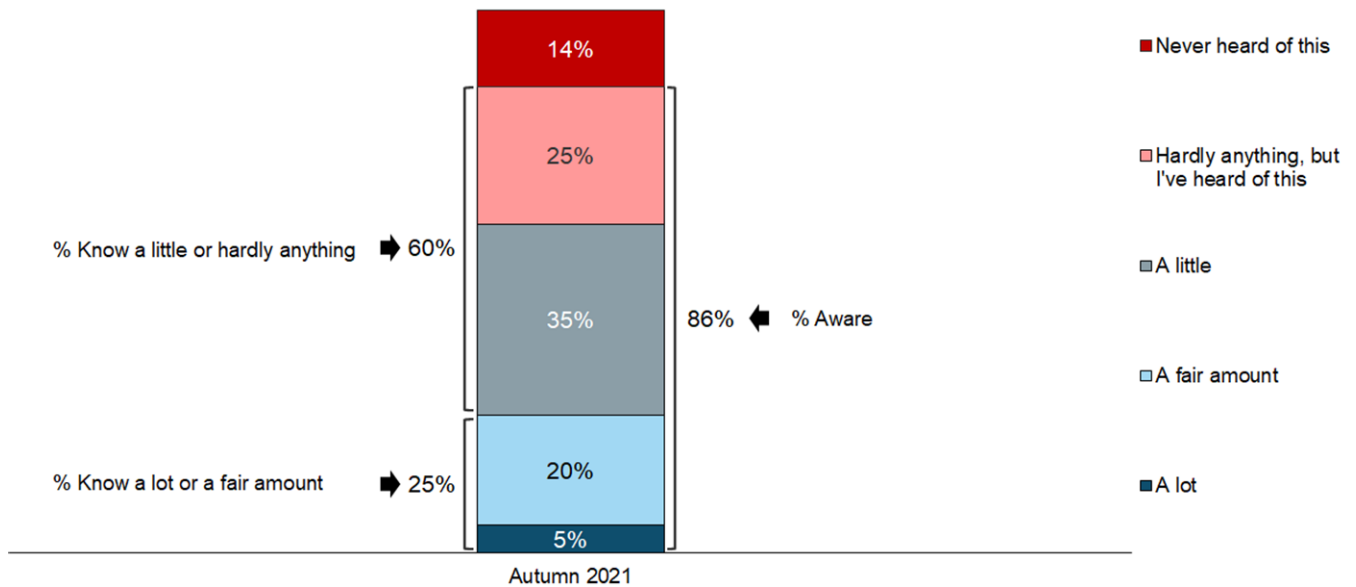


HEATHOMEKNOW. In the lead up to 2050, the way we heat almost all of our homes and buildings will need to change in order to reach the UK government's net zero target. Before today, how much if anything did you know about this?

Base: All wave respondents – Autumn 2021: 16 to 24 (332), 25 to 34 (686), 35 to 44 (655), 45 to 54 (773), 55 to 64 (905), 65 or over (2,164) (Asked Quarterly)

Low-carbon heating systems were described to respondents as ‘environmentally friendly heating systems which no longer rely on conventional gas central heating but instead use energy from low-carbon alternatives such as hydrogen, the sun, or heat pumps which draw heat from the ground, air or water to heat homes’. After reading this explanation, 86% of people said that they had already been aware of such systems (Figure 3.3), although only a quarter (25%) said they knew at least a fair amount about this.

Figure 3.3: Knowledge about low-carbon heating systems (based on all people), Autumn 2021



LOWCARBKNOW. The next question is about low-carbon heating systems. By this we mean environmentally friendly heating systems which no longer rely on conventional gas central heating but instead use energy from low-carbon alternatives such as hydrogen, the sun, or heat pumps which draw heat from the ground, air or water to heat your home. Before today, how much if anything did you know about low-carbon heating systems?
 Base: All wave respondents – Autumn 2021 (5,553) (Asked Quarterly)

Awareness of low-carbon heating systems was higher among men (90% compared with 82% of women), people aged 45 or over (90% compared with 81% of those aged under 45) and people educated to degree level (91% compared with 75% of people with no qualifications).



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