

European Heat Pump Association AISBL

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EHPA statement to the technical paper from Öko-Recherche

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"HFC availability on the EU market"

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EHPA draws attention to the **crucial role heat pumps play in decarbonising Europe's building stock**:

- Heat pumps contribute to an annual reduction of 9.16 million tons CO₂ emissions in the EU. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), heat pumps could save 50% of the building sector's CO₂ emissions, hence 1.8 billion tonnes of CO₂ per year could be saved by heat pumps ([EHPA](#)).
- From one unit of end-use energy input (99% of heat pumps are electricity driven – 1% gas) heat pumps produce about 4 units of usable heat output, from renewable air or ground ambient heat. If the energy used is generated by renewables (PV, wind, hydro, green gases), then heat pumps are 100% renewable and CO₂-neutral ([EHPA](#)).

The **multiple benefits** of heat pumps are based on the refrigerant cycle which needs refrigerants to function. Key component of heat pump technology, refrigerants are required to fully exploit the heat pumps' potential in decarbonising heating and cooling – they are the working medium that absorbs heat in a chiller process at low temperature and low pressure and emits heat at higher temperature and higher pressure.

As regards HFC availability on the EU market, EHPA draws attention to the fact that the **F-Gas phase-down** influences the role of heat pumps in decarbonising Europe's building stock:

The growth in sales of heat pumps happens at the same time as the stepwise phase-down reduces the availability of F-Gases on the EU-market. Given that increasing the quantity of heat pumps requires more refrigerants, availability and prices of F-Gases can – depending also on the availability of potential alternatives – strongly affect the heat pump industry.

While the phase-down of F-Gases intends to stimulate the use of more climate-friendly alternatives, overall effects on prices and availability of F-Gases and possible alternatives should not hamper the large-scale deployment of heat pumps.