For too long we have lived with a complete lack of accountability for the use of badly designed or old fashioned HIUs. Until now there has been no standards against which to check an HIUs performance, and the importance of certain features to the efficiency of an entire scheme has been ignored. As a result, we live with a plethora of poorly performing district heating schemes that are so inefficient they cost the end user significantly more.

This is set to change, with the first set of HIU tests now completed using a new UK standard derived from the Swedish HIU standards, but amended to better suit our own climate. A significant portion of the well known manufacturers have undergone independent testing and the results have now been published.

The chart below compares the results from the HIUs that went through testing, and is accurate as of January 2017.

The height represents the return temperature over ambient 20°C. The width represents the volume of primary water used each year. The area represents the energy returning to plant (i.e. not used) each year.