

SOLAR WATER HEATING

Solar hot water systems have proved the most popular renewable technology for households in London. These systems use free heat from the sun to warm domestic hot water. A conventional boiler or immersion heater is then used to make the water hotter, or to provide hot water when solar energy is unavailable.

If you are fortunate enough to have an area of un-shaded roof facing between South East and South West (or a flat roof) the system will be able to dramatically decrease your gas bill, and significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

The key benefits

Lower fuel bills

Solar thermal panels will significantly reduce your gas consumption, typically providing 50-70% of your hot water requirements using the Sun's energy.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

(RHIs) are planned to be available from April 2011 to provide an income for 20-25 years based on the capacity. The Renewable Heat Incentive will provide financial support for those who install renewable heating, including solar water heating.

For producers of solar hot water the RHI payment is proposed to be 18p per kWh each year for 20 years, tax free and inflation adjusted. Furthermore the parts and labour are only subject to 5% VAT. These incentives will be reduced as take up increases, eventually stopping altogether at some point in the future. It is therefore advisable install a solar heating system as soon as possible.

Adding value to your home

Consumers are demanding greener homes and house prices are currently high, industry bodies are of the opinion that there has never been a better time to invest in a greener home.

Installation of a solar thermal panel will improve the house's energy efficiency rating. This is the rating calculated in an energy performance certificate (EPC) which is now a mandatory part of the process of selling or letting a property. Anecdotal evidence from Estate Agents suggests that houses that have environmentally friendly and energy saving features are beginning to command a premium.

Combat rising energy costs

The cost of heating homes could rise to unaffordable levels, with gas and electricity bills reaching nearly £2,000 a year, unless drastic action is taken to shore up supply and overhaul the system, according to Ofgem. Reducing your reliance on gas will reduce your fuel bills now and in the future as gas prices rise. Savings are effectively a tax-free return on investment.

Environmental Benefits

Solar water heating systems are green, renewables energy and don't release any harmful carbon dioxide (CO₂) or other pollutants. They will provide 50-70% of hot water requirements using the sun's energy, which will drastically cut home or business carbon emissions, and help to create a safer environment for future generations.

References

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/explained/microgen/solar_h20_heat/solar_h20_heat.aspx

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/rhi/rhi.aspx>

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Solar-water-heating>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/feb/03/energy-bills-unaffordable-system-overhaul>

Quotation

We can establish whether a property is likely to be able to benefit from a solar water heating system over the phone, and if it is, we offer to undertake a site survey and provide a detailed quotation without charge or obligation. Quotations can also be included as a part of our eco audit, which determines the best energy saving solutions specific to individual property needs.

Product

There are two types of solar thermal panels, 'flat panels' and 'evacuated tubes'. Both have their advantages and disadvantages. Flat panels are heavier, less expensive for a given surface area and can provide more kWh of energy for each £ invested, however this can vary from product to product.

In a solar water heating system the storage and management of the energy is as important as the initial capture of solar energy. This is done through the use of a solar water heating cylinder. These are larger than traditional cylinders, and will be well insulated to preserve the heat stored in the water as long as possible.

Whichever product combination we choose, you can be sure of having the highest output from the smallest area along with quality and value for money. We have experience with the planning regulations in London Boroughs and of the local roof types and construction and will be able to specify the optimal solution for each properties individual needs.

Installation

We offer full installation of solar water heating systems, which including panels/tubes and solar hot water cylinders. We only use fully qualified and trained teams to install your system with the minimum of fuss and disruption.

Fitting solar heating systems is a straight-forward process, yet we recognise every property comes with its own set of challenges and unique requirements. We will attend to every detail sympathetically and your installation will be smooth and fast.

For enquiries and any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.