

certification

To benefit from the feed-in tariff for the Solar PV or renewable heat installations must be done by companies registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS).

green electricity

Carbon dioxide emissions caused by the energy used in your house can be reduced by signing up to an electricity supplier who pays for electricity from renewable sources.

Green electricity

Green tariffs on offer to UK domestic customers, shows how much of the supply comes from renewable sources.

www.greenelectricity.org

Good Energy (0845 456 1640)

Buys electricity entirely from renewable sources. Nearly all the other suppliers use a mixture of sources, including some electricity generated by coal and gas powered generators.

goodenergy.co.uk

for more information

Energy Saving Trust (0800 512 012)

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Centre for Alternative Technology (01654 705989)

www.cat.org.uk

Carbon Independent

Carbon emissions estimator with information on carbon dioxide emissions, climate change, and how to become independent of fossil fuels.

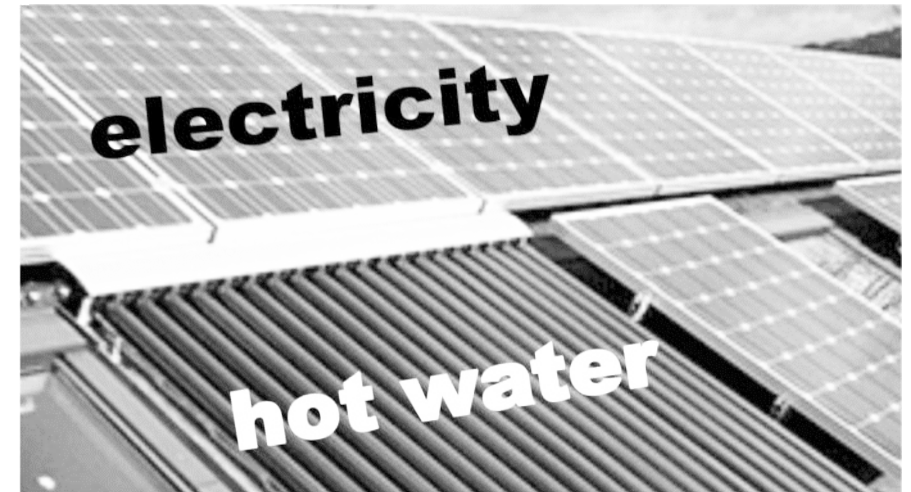
www.carbonindependent.org

Warm Front

Warm Front makes homes warmer, and more energy-efficient. It is a Government-funded initiative.

If you own your own home or rent it from a private landlord, you may be eligible for a grant. www.warmfront.co.uk

solar energy



- systems
- feed-in tariffs
- certification
- green electricity

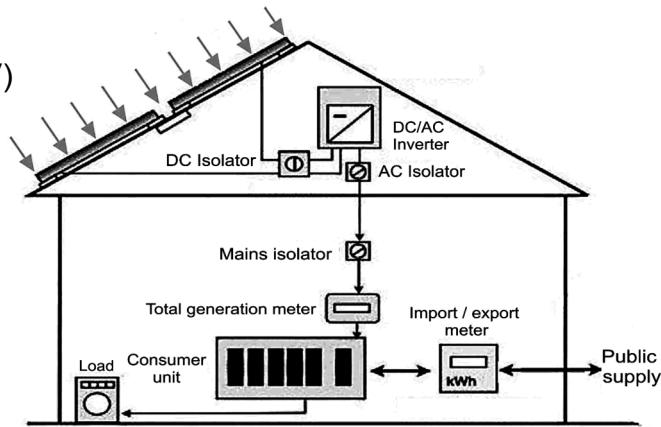


Abbots inTransition

www.altta.org.uk

electricity

Photovoltaic (PV) cells are made from silicon. When light falls on the cells electrons are displaced to make an electric current. PV panels can be fitted to most roofs facing anywhere between south-east to south-west.



Systems can also be put on flat roofs or on the ground.

The PV system feeds into the house electrical system, any surplus is exported to the national grid supply.

Panels can be used with batteries to power light and other equipment in remote locations.

costs

The average panel will pay back the energy used to make it in less than 4 years. Panels are guaranteed for 25 years and inverters can be insured for 25 years. Installation prices are typically around £10,000 for a 2.5 kW peak output system.

feed-in tariff

The UK Feed-in Tariff is a government backed policy, which came into effect on 1st of April 2010.

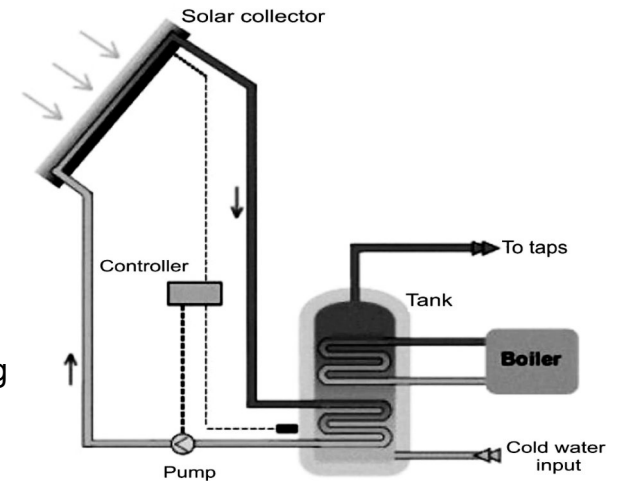
The Feed-in Tariff rewards you for the amount of energy you generate, regardless of whether you consume the electricity or not. The scheme also provides an additional payment for any electricity you export.

The feed-in-tariff for solar electricity may be reduced to 21p/kWh after 12th December 2011. The rate of return will then be about 4.5%. These proposals are currently under consultation.

hot water

Inputs from sensors at the panel and on the tank determine when the controller switches the pump on and off.

Vacuum tube collectors are the most efficient, giving an improved performance in winter.



All the water needed over the four months of June to September can come from the panel. In spring and autumn solar heating can supply about half of the hot water and in the winter nearly 20%.

Combination boilers

With a hot water cylinder in the loft and a solar switching valve, it's now possible to link solar hot water to your existing combination boiler.

costs

A typical solar heating system capable of providing around 70% of hot water for a household over a year would cost about £5000. Panels will be guaranteed for at least 20 years, with components like pumps possibly having shorter lives.

renewable heat incentive

This will be paid from October 2012. Payments of 8.5p per kWhr are expected.

The Government has set the tariff payment at a level which should give for most systems a return of around 12% a year.

The incentive is also available for biomass, ground source and geothermal systems. Homes will have to be well insulated to be eligible for this scheme.