

Solar thermal



How the technology works

Solar water heating systems use heat from the sun to work alongside conventional water heaters to provide hot water for homes or commercial properties.

There are three main components: solar panels, a heat transfer system and a hot water cylinder. Solar panels, or collectors, are fitted to a roof to collect heat from the sun's radiation.

The heat transfer system uses the collected heat to heat water, which is stored in a hot water cylinder for use later.

Requirements

A solar hot water system ideally requires 3-4m² of southeast to southwest-facing roof receiving direct sunlight for the main part of the day, as well as space to locate an additional water cylinder if required.

Planning permission

You need to contact your Local Authority for guidance on planning.

Grant funding

A 50% grant towards the cost of a solar water heating system is available through the LCBP Phase 2 to the public sector, including schools, hospitals, housing associations, local authorities and charitable organisations, until the end of June 2009. Other schemes may be available, please contact us to find out more.

Solar water heating systems use heat from the sun to provide hot water for homes or commercial properties

Key benefits

- 50% grants available
- Suitable for domestic and commercial properties
- Can provide around a third of your hot water needs
- Helps reduce CO₂ emissions

Contact us

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[†]Phone lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturday. Closed on Bank holidays.

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Case study: St George's Crypt

How we helped St George's Crypt

In 2007 Faith Lodge, a residential hostel run by St George's Crypt in Leeds, completed a £600,000 refurbishment, designed to make it as energy efficient and sustainable as possible. At the centre of the refurbishment are five solar panels which were installed to supply constant hot water to the hostel's 15 bedrooms, all of which have en-suite facilities, kitchens and washing machines.

"We are very excited at the refurbishment of Faith Lodge," said Gary Stott, CEO of St George's Crypt. "Not only will we be able to provide real opportunities for our residents to learn vital new skills, but we will also be making a contribution to using energy at the hostel much more effectively."

At the centre of the refurbishment are five solar panels that supply constant hot water

KEY FACTS

Type of panels used	5 Worcester Bosch collector panels
Area of panels installed	11.85m ²
Grant contribution	£2,020.80
Annual kWh generated	5,850
Size of kilowatt peak	8.3
Annual CO ₂ savings	900kg



More success stories

So far we have installed 44 solar thermal systems as part of the LCBP Phase 2 programme, including:

- Chisholm Court, Middleton
- Dundee City Council
- Hampton Hill Junior School, Middlesex
- Hannah House, Isle of Wight
- Project Springhead, Isle of Wight
- Richard Kitson Court, Suffolk
- Westleigh North and South Project, Uppingham
- Yates Close Phase 1, Rye
- York Arc Light, York

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