

The OFTEC

home guide to...



renewable energy and your
oil heating system



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Integrating your heating system

By integrating your current oil heating system with a renewable technology you can help to bring down the cost of your fuel bill. There are several alternatives, some are listed below:

Solar Heating

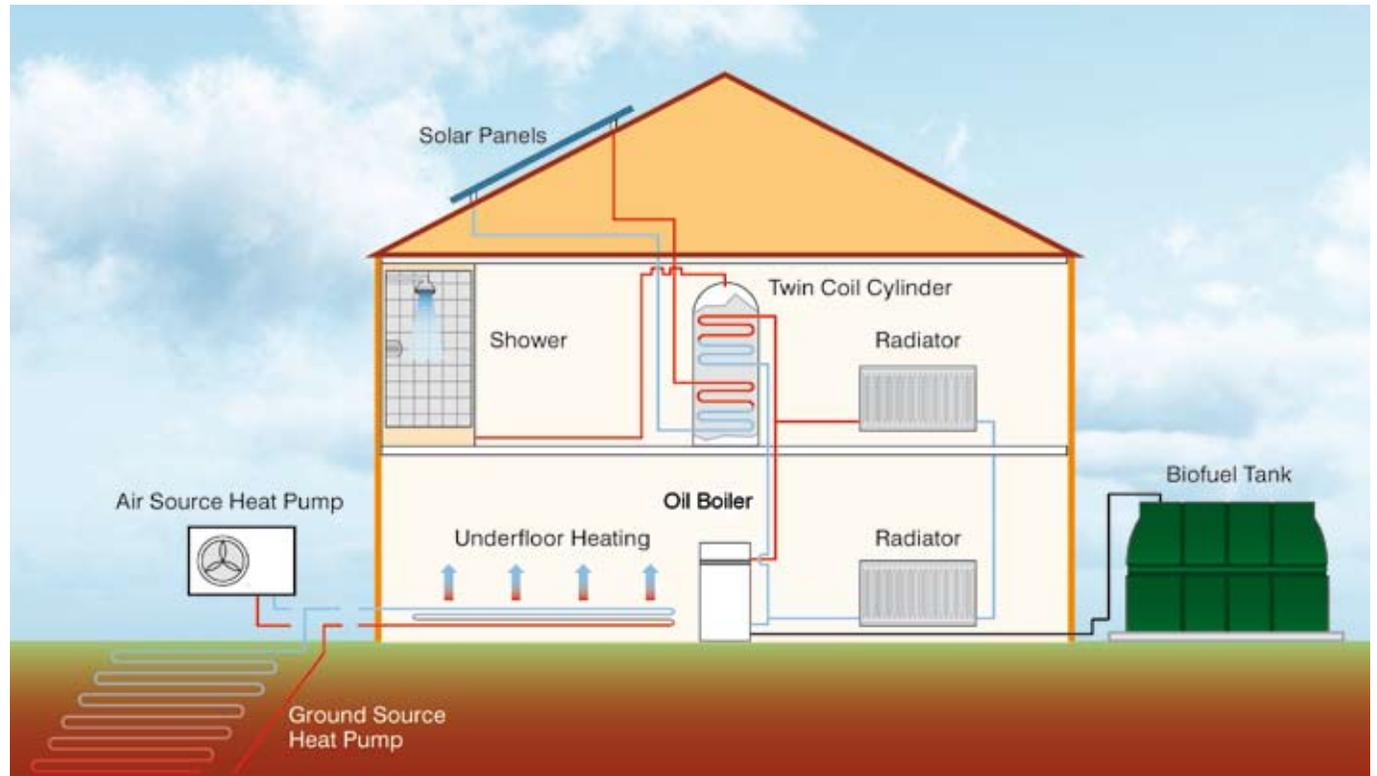
The UK climate enables a solar thermal panel to pick up heat from the sun for a large part of the year, but it is mostly low grade heat, i.e. well below necessary the flow temperature of a central heating system about 82°C or the storage temperature of a domestic hot water system at 60°C. For household purposes, solar heating can be used to raise the temperature of cold water supplied to the domestic hot water storage cylinder. The advantage being that the main heating system then uses far less fuel to raise the temperature of the water in the cylinder up to its required storage level.

Regional grant schemes may be available to assist toward the cost of installing solar systems.

Ground and Air Source Pumps

Ground source heat pumps work by taking energy from the ground by using a buried

ground loop, or a deep single bore, which transfers heat from the ground into a building to provide heating and hot water. This allows temperatures taken from the earth to be boosted to a useful level for the provision of home heating and hot water. Again this technology reduces significantly oil consumption.



heating system

Sometimes it is not possible to install a Ground Source Pump and so an air source heat pump can be considered. The only space requirement is an outside wall. Air source heat pumps work by converting the energy of the outside air into heat, creating a comfortable temperature inside the house as well as energy for the hot water system.

Heat Recovery Systems

There is normally a considerable amount of heat loss in the air that is exhausted from a building. It has risen in temperature as a result of being passed through heated rooms, being breathed into by the occupants, because of heat loss from the use of hot water, from cooking operations and from the lighting system. Apart from the heat from the heating system, all these sources are uncontrolled by thermostats and can be a significant source of waste. If this heat could be recovered, the heating system could be run for a shorter period of time and fuel would be saved.



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Heat recovery systems work by taking air from the rooms by the use of an extraction system of ductwork and fans, instead of letting it be lost to the outside through open windows or leaks in the structure.

Bio-fuel to replace heating oil

OFTEC and others have field-tested blends of FAME biofuel mixed with kerosene and with gas-oil. These trials have proven that the blends work well in existing oil boilers with some modifications. They have much lower greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels and one of the blended fuels (30% Fame and 70% kerosene) has been accepted as eligible for the Government's proposed Renewable Heat Incentive which will be paid to building owners who convert to using renewable heating technologies. Assuming that this Incentive is introduced the new fuel will be available in certain areas from mid-2011. OFTEC will offer its registered technicians special training so that they can advise about converting to the new fuel.



OFTEC

Foxwood House, Dobbs Lane, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 2QQ

Tel: 0845 65 85 080 | Fax: 0845 65 85 181 | Email: enquiries@oftec.org

www.oftec.org

