



Heat pumps – the future choice of heat for our homes

What are the different types of heat pumps?

Heat pumps come in 3 types – Air, Ground and Water Source. Ground and Water Heat Pumps can be considered specialist equipment for large users, new builds and near water sources. For >95% of homes, an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) will be the most applicable type.

How do Air Source Heat Pumps work?



A Heat Pump works like a refrigerator in reverse – instead of cooling the inside of your fridge and emitting that heat via the back of the fridge into the room, it effectively takes heat from outside (even in cold weather) and uses that to heat hot water tank(s) to give hot water for radiators, showers etc inside the home.

Why could they be good for your home?

Gas boilers will be phased out in time, so if you are considering changing your boiler you should seriously consider a heat pump. From April 2022 there will be grants of £5000 available to put towards the costs of buying and installing an ASHP system up to 45kW, making the installation costs comparable with replacing your gas boiler system. This should save you on running costs in the long term and can provide a green source of heat for your home, helping to reduce your carbon footprint. These new grants replace the RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) system currently in place.

What's the catch?

The building work may include upgrades to the insulation of your home and radiators to give the same heat benefit as a gas system so there may be some disruption during installation. You must have done the relevant insulation upgrades and obtained an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) within the last 10 years to qualify for the grant.

You should switch your electric supply to a “green” supplier, which can be a little more expensive, otherwise you are just burning more gas at the power station to provide the electric heat for your home. Eventually all electric will be green as the UK renewable infrastructure develops.

How do I start?

Here's a couple of links to let you explore the benefits further:

[Heat pumps - Energy Saving Trust](#); [Money Saving Expert Heat Pumps](#)

We can put you in touch with local residents, who have recently installed systems, for you to talk to. Please email us at: info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk