Heat pump efficiency and misinformation

By Dave Green

Replacing a fossil fuel based heating and hot water system driven by gas or oil-fired boilers with an air-source heat pump is one of the best things you can do to significantly reduce your carbon emissions.

Unfortunately, there is quite a lobby trying to rubbish heat pumps. The one that got me most annoyed recently was from a 'journalist' writing in a well-known daily newspaper basically saying that a unit of gas burnt in a home boiler is better than a unit of gas burnt in a gas fired power station generating electricity.

This completely misses the whole point of heat pumps: they are very efficient.

Over the winter, my Mitsubishi heat pump averaged around 300% and, with a buffer tank installed, a Martlesham resident with the same heat pump averaged 400%. This means that for every unit of electricity consumed, the heat pump delivers at least 3 units of heat to radiators and/or a hot water cylinder.

Even if the National Grid generated all its electricity supplied to us using gas fired power stations, a heat pump would still be responsible for less carbon emissions that a gas fired boiler.

Further, the grid is rapidly decarbonising with renewables so gas fired power stations are actually currently responsible for about 50% of our electricity.

In a climate emergency, it is depressing to see various fossil fuel lobbies deliberately misleading us.

If your fossil fuelled boiler is getting old and you are considering replacing it, come and have a look at a recent heat pump installation in Martlesham by e-mailing martleshamclimateaction@btinternet.com