

HEAT PUMPS



Heat pumps use a small amount of electricity but often achieve a 200-600% efficiency rate. They have become effective alternatives to fossil fuels and have an increasingly important role in reducing the UK's carbon emissions.

» Lower bills

» Lower carbon footprint

» Little maintenance

» Longer lifespan than typical boilers

For more information and advice, please contact Sarah Gill on 07720 098980 or sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk

In more detail:

A heat pump is like a fridge working in reverse. It absorbs and compresses naturally-occurring heat from the air, earth or water outside to heat your home and water. Since it transfers heat rather than generates it, heat pumps are one of the most efficient means of warming your house.

There are various different types depending on the source of the heat and the use of that heat in your home. While all types of heat pumps are worth the investment in the UK, your choice depends on two things:

1. Whether you want the heat to be extracted from the soil (which requires digging up your garden for laying pipes underneath), from the air (which requires little space but a fan will constantly emit a low amount of noise), or from a body of water (if you have such available close to your house).
2. Whether you want the heat to be used for domestic hot water and conventional heating using radiators or underfloor heating, or you prefer heating the home by ventilating with heated air (similarly to how an air conditioner would cool the room).

When the heat source is the soil, we talk about ground source heat pumps. Similarly, the ones using the ambient air or a body of water are called air source and water source heat pumps, respectively.

Your choice of heat pump doesn't only depend on your property but your budget might also influence your decision. Air source heat pumps are typically the cheapest option and because of this, they are the most popular choice in the UK.

When considering a heat pump, make sure your house is well-insulated as this will help the heat pump run at its best.

What does it cost?

Air source heat pumps can cost between £8,000 and £18,000.

Water source heat pumps can cost between £20,000 and £32,000.

Ground source heat pumps can cost between £20,000 and £40,000.

How much can I save?

Savings will vary considerably depending on the fuel and age of your current heating system. If replacing a new, A-rated gas or oil boiler, savings will be minimal. If replacing older gas or oil boilers, you could save £400-£500 per year. If replacing old electric storage heaters, you could save up to £1,000 per year.

Is there any financial support available?

Until 31st March 2022, new installations will qualify for the domestic renewable heat incentive where eligible installations will receive payments every three months for seven years. This is not available for air-to-air heat pumps.

In April 2022, it is expected that a Clean Homes Grant will be made available which will be an installation grant to reduce the upfront capital cost.

Will I need planning permission?

Check with your local planning authority if you need permission for the siting and external appearance of the heat pump.

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