

**CHOOSING A SUPPLIER
TO INSTALL AN
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM?
MAKE SURE THEY'RE
COMPETENT.**



GREEN SKILLS FOR A GREEN FUTURE
BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING

ENERGY COSTS ARE RISING, FUEL SUPPLIES ARE REDUCING – NOW'S THE TIME TO THINK GREEN

Energy, fuel and water costs have continued to rise in recent years. Over the next ten years, we'll be using more water and the Government predicts that the reducing supplies of fossil fuels means that electricity is likely to rise by another 15% and gas by up to 30%.



WHAT RENEWABLE OR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES ARE THERE?

There are many technologies that can help your home become more efficient. You can even generate your own energy using some of these systems:

Save and use water economically

- Water conservation
- Rainwater harvesting
- Grey water re-use

Heat your home

- Heat pumps
- Bio-Fuels (Bio Mass, Bio Liquid)
- Micro combined heat and power

Heat your hot water

- Solar water heating
- Heat pumps

Generate electricity

- Solar Photovoltaics (PV)
- Micro wind energy
- Micro hydro generation systems
- Micro combined heat and power

More information and advice on how each of these technologies work can be found at www.summitskills.org.uk or www.energysavingtrust.org.uk



HELP – AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT – IS AT HAND

To help reduce CO₂ emissions, the Government has introduced financial support for home improvements to reduce homeowners' energy consumption and carbon footprint.

Feed-in tariffs, introduced in April 2010, will see homeowners paid for generating electricity. The Renewable Heat Incentive, planned for Spring 2011, will give financial assistance to homes that generate renewable heat.

Ultimately, you could make money if you generate electricity and heat by using renewable energy.

Professionally installed renewable technologies may also qualify for a reduced rate of VAT.



WHO IS SUMMITSKILLS?

SummitSkills sets the skills standards for renewable and environmental technologies. It's our role to ensure that installers working in this area have access to relevant industry recognised training.

The essential core skills needed to install and maintain renewable technologies all fall in existing occupations, such as plumbing, heating or electrical work.

When you choose a supplier to install environmental technologies in your home, you should ensure they are fully skilled in an appropriate occupation, for instance as a plumber or electrician, and *in addition* have an appropriate environmental technology competence. It is not enough for them to have an environmental technology qualification alone.

IF A JOB'S WORTH DOING, IT'S WORTH DOING WELL

To benefit from savings, funding or grants for updating existing systems, or incentive schemes for any new or renewable technology, you need to make sure you use a competent supplier to install the equipment.

It's important that your installer has the right knowledge and skills for the job, so that the system works effectively and efficiently, or you could be wasting money rather than saving it.



MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT INSTALLER

Environmental technologies must be correctly designed, installed and commissioned, for you to gain maximum efficiencies from them. Your home must be surveyed carefully before recommendations can be made on new technology, because even two buildings of the same design will face the sun at different angles or will be shielded from the wind to different degrees.

As a homeowner, you also need to ensure that any home improvements comply with building regulations/standards and planning regulations where you live.

It's vital to choose an installer company with the skills and ability to carry out such technical work. You may find it difficult to get financial support unless you can prove that the product is approved and that the installer company is competent, with consumer protection systems in place.



Look out for installers certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (known as the MCS). For more information and to check your installer's approval, visit the website www.microgenerationcertification.org

NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT'S VITAL THAT YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR ENERGY, FUEL AND WATER USE AND MAKE YOUR HOME AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.

YOUR MCS REGISTERED INSTALLER

Is your installer registered with MCS?
Look out for this logo



MCS registration number.....

