

Microgeneration for the next generation



The first independent service of its kind for land owners, land managers, developers, architects and local authority managers:

- Advice on all small-scale renewable energy projects including solar thermal and photovoltaic, micro hydro, heat pump, wood and other biomass heating, micro wind, biogas, biodiesel, community heating and combined heat & power (CHP) ensuring optimum payback
- Specialist advice on all aspects of building scale sustainable energy systems including heating, lighting, ventilation, insulation, heat recovery, rainwater collection, passive solar, glazing and sustainable materials
- Advice and support for applications to grant schemes and project management of building-scale renewable energy systems
- National Home Energy Rating surveys



Rising energy costs and awareness of climate change and the availability of grants are leading to growing interest in building-scale renewable energy systems.

It is predicted that within the coming few years, steeply rising world oil demand will exceed supply, resulting in a sharp increase in inflation and particularly energy costs. At the same time climate change is driving governments to encourage saving of fossil energy and to penalise its overuse by fiscal and other means. The gradual introduction of Energy Performance Certificates for buildings will affect property values, with energy efficiency-related variations growing over time and buyers and tenants attracted by homes with low running costs.

As a direct result of all of the above, pay-back times on energy-efficiency measures and renewable energy systems, such as automated wood systems, heat pumps and solar collectors, will shrink. Demand is keeping costs fairly high but government grants are available which make some schemes attractive in the right circumstances, even at today's energy prices.

The market for renewable energy systems is fast-growing but is fairly impenetrable by non-specialists. Quality of advice and pricing vary. Fortunes are being made and lost and the customer is in a very vulnerable position.

Some government-funded bodies such as the Carbon Trust, the Energy Saving Trust and the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre network can provide basic and generic advice. However, except for larger businesses, detailed and genuinely independent site-specific advice is hard to find but is important and valuable.

In the past, the choice of methods for heating and powering a building was limited and basic. However with the arrival of a great variety of renewable energy options it is now broad and complicated and the assistance of an independent specialist such as Bell Ingram is essential to ensure the best possible outcome. The most cost-effective arrangement for any building will involve some combination of insulation and draft-proofing measures, heat recovery, gas, oil, wood (logs, chips pellets, grain, straw), heat pump (ground, air or water-source), solar (thermal or photovoltaic), micro-hydro or small-scale wind. The suitability of the myriad combinations of these systems is very site-sensitive. Ultimately, the difference in the capital cost and the payback between the right and the wrong choice can be huge – a fast payback or no payback!

If you require assistance with any aspect of microgeneration or energy efficient systems please contact:

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