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10 Homes with heat pumps

All kinds of houses can be warmed in a low-carbon way

WORDS AMY FREARSON

Heat pumps are an eco-friendly method of supplying a home's heating and hot water. Unlike a gas boiler, these clever low-carbon devices work by capturing warmth that already exists in the environment rather than burning fossil fuels. Air-source heat pumps (ASHPs) collect heat from the air, while ground-source heat pumps (GSHPs) absorb geothermal warmth. It's possible to install one of these systems in almost any home, whether urban or rural, and they often result in cheaper energy bills. The government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS), which supersedes the Renewable Heating Incentive (RHI), enables savings of up to £6,000 on the cost and installation of a heat pump.



1 ALL ON ONE LEVEL Durable, textural materials combine with eco-friendly ideas in this single-storey, four-bedroom family home near Wells-next-the-Sea in north Norfolk that was designed by Hudson Architects.

Walls of weathering steel and knapped flint fit with the traditional cottages and barns of the coastal region, but also help to create a highly insulated building. Heating is provided by an ASHP mounted

on the side of the 274sqm house and screened behind garden plants and shrubs.

The owners chose the Stiebel Eltron WPL 25, which cost £18,600 including installation. It is projected to cost £1,000 a year to run thanks to savings from the 4.1kW rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV). The panels are mounted on a gullwing roof that is otherwise covered with sedum to encourage biodiversity. (hudsonarchitects.co.uk) »