

# Recommendations from our heat pump field trials

Energy Saving Trust's heat pump field trial, the Heat is On, is the most wide ranging monitoring exercise of domestic heat pump installations and customer feedback undertaken to date in the UK. Energy Saving Trust carried out the trial to monitor the performance of residential heat pumps between 2008 and 2013. Heat pumps can play a significant role in helping the UK reach its carbon emissions reduction targets and provide effective, efficient solution for heating in many homes.

Findings from the heat pump field trials has allowed us to develop detailed, accurate advice and guides for consumers wanting to install air or ground source heat pumps for their own homes.

## Considering a heat pump

You should consider a heat pump if you live in a new-build property, or in a well-insulated existing property that cannot access the gas network.

Heat pumps have the potential to reduce running costs compared with oil, direct electric, LPG, or coal, and can provide substantial carbon savings over the lifetime of the installation.

## What to expect from a heat pump

- ✔ Since heat pumps provide a lower temperature heating compared with boilers, radiators will be warm rather than hot.
- ✔ A house with radiators may heat up more slowly.
- ✔ The heat pump will run for longer hours than a conventional boiler but if properly controlled will switch on and off with the heating requirements of the house.
- ✔ A properly sized and installed heat pump should be able to provide all of a household's domestic hot water, but many systems are installed with a supplemental electric immersion heater.

## Getting the best performance from a heat pump

- ✔ Ensure your dwelling is insulated as well as possible (for example with cavity wall and loft insulation) prior to a heat pump being installed.
- ✔ Install the heat pump with low-temperature under-floor heating or properly sized radiators.
- ✔ Insist on understandable, user-friendly controls.