



Using heat pumps to improve energy efficiency in listed properties

Listed properties can be expensive to heat and maintain at a constant, comfortable temperature. When taking on ownership of our built heritage, we must consider heating it along with other potential maintenance and upkeep costs. For rural listed buildings, providing heating and hot water normally means storing and burning fuel on the premises as rural locations are rarely served by the natural gas grid.

"Of the many different buildings we have heated over the years, listed properties stand to gain the most from heat pump technology," says Edward Levien, Commercial Director of heat pump installers, isoenergy. He adds "Once only viable for those early adopters with a strong desire to reduce their carbon footprint, heat pumps are now considered the baseline technology for providing maximum carbon reduction, energy efficiency, and quality of heating.

Ground source heat pump systems in particular can offer financial savings of around 60% compared to burning oil as they run on electricity, which can be sourced through a 100% renewable electricity tariff. No fossil fuel required.

Since 2011 the UK Government has supported those businesses and home owners who install heat pumps with the Renewable Heat Incentive. This has certainly helped establish heat pumps as the preferred choice for renewable energy systems. Unfortunately, the RHI scheme is approaching the end of its life and their suggested follow-up schemes, the Green Homes Grant and Clean Heat Grants offer little for many listed property owners.

Aimed to rebate those investing in energy saving measures, the Green Homes Grant is expected to provide a maximum of £5,000 to owners who want to install insulation in their walls and lofts. This is not always possible in listed buildings. Solid walls and exposed roof timbers do not suit cavity wall insulation or loft insulation. This means that listed property owners may struggle to improve their buildings' energy efficiency unless they clean up how their heating is produced. Although not confirmed at the time of print, the Clean Heat Grant may offer a similar rebate for installing a heat pump. Isoenergy expects the growing heat pump market to continue offering savings on both carbon and heating bills to listed property owners even without any confirmed Government financial support.

Bean Beanland, Chair of the Ground Source Heat Pump Association added "The Ground Source Heat Pump Association has long advocated the deployment of heat pumps,

particularly ground or water source because of the higher winter efficiencies, into period and listed buildings. The use of heating technologies which deliver a more consistent heat (and some improved humidity control) across the heating season provides an ideal route to enhancing the protection of both the period building fabric itself and the contents, which frequently includes antique furnishings. In rural settings, oil is the most common displaced fuel, resulting in tremendous carbon emissions reductions, which improve further, year on year, as the grid continues to decarbonise. Even against natural gas, well specified ground source heat pump systems can deliver over 60% carbon emissions reductions, demonstrating that even our most precious heritage buildings can contribute in full to the pursuit of Net Zero 2050."

If you would like to find out how installing a heat pump can benefit the environment, your property, and save you money, isoenergy offers a free telephone consultation to readers of Listed Heritage. ☎

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