



Glossary

Bio-energy - Biomass is derived from plant material and animal residues/wastes. It can be used to generate electricity and or heat and to produce transport fuel. Such energy is known as bio-energy.

A very wide range of biomass can be used for energy purposes. Examples include agricultural wastes, e.g. straw and other crop residues; crops grown specifically for energy production, e.g. willow, miscanthus, oil seed rape and wastes from a range of sources including food production. The nature of the fuel will determine the way that energy can best be recovered from it.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) - Carbon dioxide contributes approximately 60% of the potential global warming effect of human-made emissions of greenhouse gases world-wide. The burning of fossil fuels releases CO₂ fixed by plants millions of years ago and thus increases its concentration in the atmosphere.

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) - CHP is the simultaneous generation of useable heat and power in a single process, thereby discarding less waste than conventional generation.

Distribution Network Operators - companies that are responsible for operating the networks that connect electricity consumers to the national transmission system and provide interconnection with embedded generation.

Energy Performance of Buildings

Directive - this European Union Directive requires each Member State to: establish a methodology for rating the energy performance of buildings; ensure that energy certificates are issued when a building is built, sold or rented; establish an inspection regime for large energy installations in buildings; ensure that low or zero carbon technologies are considered when a new building is being designed.

Energy Saving Trust (EST) - the EST is a not-for-profit organisation set up and largely funded by government to manage a number of programmes to improve energy efficiency, particularly in the domestic sector.

Fuel Cell - fuel cells produce electricity from hydrogen and air, with water as the only emission. Potential applications include stationary power generation, transport (replacing the internal combustion engine) and portable power (replacing batteries).

Fuel Poverty - the common definition of a fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of household income to achieve a satisfactory heating regime (21°C in the living room 18°C in other occupied rooms).

Heat pumps - Heat pumps work like a refrigerator, moving heat from one place to another. Heat pumps can provide space heating, cooling, water heating and sometimes exhaust air heat recovery.