YOUR ENERGY
YOUR WAY

THE SMART HOMEBUYER'S GUIDE TO SOLAR & HEAT PUMPS 2025

Why your first step should be a green energy upgrade

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Buying a home is one of the most exciting and significant investments you'll ever make. Whether you've just received the keys or are preparing for move-in day, you might be thinking about renovations, decorating, and making the space truly yours. But before you knock down walls or plan a kitchen remodel, there's one smart move that should come first: **installing solar panels and a heat pump.**

These upgrades don't just help the planet, they make your home powerful—they future-proof your home, lower your bills, and increase its value from day one. This guide will show you why green energy solutions should be the first investment you make in your new home.

Let's explore why installing solar and a heat pump should be your top priority as a new homeowner.

Why green energy should be your first home upgrade

Most homeowners plan to renovate in phases, prioritising kitchens, bathrooms, and interior updates before thinking about energy solutions. But starting with solar and a heat pump first can save you time, money, and effort in the long run. Here's why:

Lock in Lower Energy Costs Immediately

Don't wait for your first energy bill shock. Start reducing your electricity and heating costs right away by generating your own power.

Work with Your Renovation, Not Against It

If you renovate first and install solar or a heat pump later, you might need to redo work—like moving wiring, modifying heating systems, or adjusting roof structures. Doing it first means no costly rework.

Take Advantage of Grants & Incentives

Programs like the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (£7,500 for heat pumps) and the Smart Export Guarantee (earn money from surplus solar power) help cut costs. These incentives won't last forever.

Increase Your Home's Value Instantly

Homes with green energy upgrades sell faster and for more—3-4% more on average. Installing solar and a heat pump early means you benefit for as long as you own the home.

Future-Proof Your Home

Planning a loft conversion, extension, or kitchen remodel? Your solar and heat pump system can be sized to accommodate future changes, making later upgrades simpler and more cost-effective.

What to consider when installing solar & heat pumps

01

Plan for your home's energy needs early

Instead of retrofitting later, design your energy system to work with your future home improvements.

- **Assess roof suitability for solar** – If your roof needs work, plan solar panel installation alongside any necessary repairs.
- **Ensure your heat pump is the right size** – A properly sized heat pump today ensures future rooms or extensions are efficiently heated.
- **Consider battery storage** – Even if you don't install one immediately, pre-wiring for a battery makes it easy to add later.

02

Work with the right installers

Not all solar and heat pump systems are the same. Make sure you choose a provider that:

- **Has great customer reviews** - Ensure they've been in the business for a substantial amount of time and they are MCS registered.
- **Offers tailored solutions** – Avoid cookie-cutter systems that don't consider your home's needs.
- **Handles permits & paperwork** – A reputable company will manage grant applications and grid connections for you.
- **Uses high-quality components** – Choose installers with a proven track record of reliability and performance.

03 Make energy upgrades part of your mortgage planning

If you're still finalising your home purchase, explore green mortgage options that offer cashback or better rates for energy-efficient upgrades. Many lenders now offer green mortgage incentives to help fund solar and heat pump installations.

How much can you save by installing green energy first?

Upgrade	Annual Savings
Solar Panels	From £250 per year on electricity bills.
Heat Pump	For every 1kWh of electricity used, they generate 3 to 4 times as much heat.
Battery Storage	Stores excess energy, reducing reliance on the grid.
EV Charger	Charge your car with free solar energy instead of expensive electricity.

> ***"Over time, these savings add up to thousands of pounds—all while increasing your home's value and making it more sustainable."***

Why this is a great use of an inheritance or lump sum

Many new homeowners receive financial help from family, an inheritance, or a work bonus. Instead of spending it all on furniture or cosmetic upgrades, investing in solar and a heat pump gives you lasting financial and lifestyle benefits.

- **Immediate Financial Return** – You'll start saving on bills right away.
- **Higher Property Value** – Energy-efficient homes are more desirable to buyers.
- **Energy Security for the Future** – Protect yourself from rising energy prices by generating your own power.
- **A Smart, Sustainable Legacy** – Investing in renewable energy helps create a greener future for generations to come.
- **Tax Benefits & Incentives** – You may be eligible for government grants and lower-interest green mortgages, and currently all installations are VAT free!

Fabric First is not always right

For years, the industry recommended an approach called “fabric first”—insulating homes and improving energy efficiency before considering renewable technology. However, the latest research shows that starting with renewables first—such as a heat pump and solar panels—has a far greater and immediate impact on energy savings and carbon reduction.

The best home energy systems follow a four-stage journey, evolving from basic solar panels to a fully integrated, self-sufficient home:

01 **Solar panels generate free electricity.**

02 **A home battery stores surplus energy for use when needed.**

03 **Smart controls manage when and how you use energy to reduce costs.**

04 **A heat pump provides energy-efficient heating.**

This joined-up approach is more efficient and cost-effective than tackling energy upgrades in isolation.

Should You Install Solar Panels or a Heat Pump First?

If you’re unsure where to begin, here’s a simple decision-making framework:

Want to reduce your bills immediately?
→ Install solar panels and a home battery first. This lets you generate and store your own electricity, cutting costs straight away.

Want to reduce carbon emissions immediately?
→ Install a heat pump first. It drastically cuts CO_2 emissions and ensures your home is powered by clean, efficient energy.

Want to maximise both savings and sustainability?
→ Install everything together. This is the fastest way to lower costs, reduce reliance on the grid, and make the most of smart tariffs.

To discover more about what to start with first watch our free webinar here.

What gives you the best outcomes for your investment?

The easiest answer is to say that the best way to invest in renewables and save money is with a solar PV system. Spending £10-15k on solar and battery gives you the best bang for your buck.

And we could leave it at that, but we wouldn't be telling you the whole story. The fact is that there are lots of different ways to get value depending on what's important to you.

We've created this overview to help you unlock the value and understand what will work for you. Please note, we've been conservative with our annual saving and C02 reduction. And depending on energy rates, you can save even more when you're able to sell back to the grid at a profit. Right now the rates are in your favour, but we don't know how long that will last.

Outcomes	Installation	Sizes	Annual Savings	Annual CO2 Reduction	Cost after grants
A low-cost entry solution bringing immediate savings that you can expand later	Small Solar	3.6kWp	£250	27%	£7,500
Best for C02 reduction	Average Heatpump	7kW	£300	63%	£10,000
Bills are halved	Small solar Small battery	3.5kWp 5kWhr	£850	27%	£10,000
Best for money saving	Large solar Medium battery	5kWp 10kWhr	£1,250	37%	£15,000
Best for CO2 reduction and annual savings without solar	Average heat pump Medium battery	7kW 10kWhr	£530	63%	£15,000
Going completely green + great annual savings	Average heat pump Large solar Medium battery	7kW 5kWp 10kWhrs	£1,500	100%	£25,000

Based on a home with a 7kW heat loss, 2,700kWhrs electricity per year, 11,500kWhr gas per year, heat pump COP of 4.25, overall running cost of £1,700 annually, good south facing roof. All avoiding Octopus Go tariffs as only available to owners of electric vehicles.

How to get started

01

Home Energy Assessment

Get a professional evaluation of your home's suitability.

A Solar PV & Battery survey should typically take around 1 ½ hours and include measuring the roof (we prefer using a laser measuring tool where appropriate) and carrying out a visual inspection from the ground, in the loft, and even using a drone to check that the roof is sound to confirm the load of the panels will not damage the roof.

Heat pump surveys start at around 2 hours but can require a few days to complete. Good installers should be talking to you about how they generate your Heat Loss Calculation (HLC), the industry standard report. The process is to measure all the walls, windows, floors, etc., of your building and combine this with information about the fabric of your home in order to accurately calculate the size of the air source heat pump that would heat your home.

We prefer to perform a Matterport scan, which collects visual data and turns it into a computer model bespoke to your home. This allows us to forecast your heat and energy demands. We start by scanning your home's interior using 3D imaging technology to map dimensions and identify radiators accurately. We then combine this model with historical satellite weather data and energy usage patterns to plan your renewable energy project.

In the winter months, we also leave data loggers at your home for 3 weeks to give us a more accurate reading of your heat loss. This allows us to accurately size the heat pump, which can save money by reducing the size of the heat pump and number of radiators you need.

Depending on the home, you might want to add an air pressure test to measure the speed of air changes in your building per hour. This allows you to see where you have draughts that are making your building inefficient and uncomfortable. Our air pressure test will provide you an Air Permeability Certificate registered with Elmhurst Energy.

02

System Design & Quotation

Don't settle for a one size fits all solution.

As the saying goes, your home is your castle. Getting the right solution is really important to ensure you've got a system that will last and meet your needs. A good supplier will discuss different options and provide you with alternatives to help ensure you're planning for the future.

03

Hassle-Free Installation

Most systems take just one to two weeks to install. Make sure your chosen provider commits to minimising disruption and clearing up after themselves- while being considerate of your home and the things you value.

Frequently Asked Questions

❓ Can I install solar and a heat pump before moving in?
✅ Yes! Many homebuyers schedule installations before they move in to start saving from day one.

❓ What if I plan to renovate later?
✅ That's even more reason to install early! Your system can be designed to accommodate future home improvements.

❓ Will I qualify for incentives?
✅ Most homeowners are eligible for the £7,500 Boiler Upgrade Scheme for heat pumps and can earn money back through the Smart Export Guarantee for solar energy. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) is also a scheme to help low-income households install energy-efficient systems. Many installers will offer to help you qualify for free funds only they can help with. Be careful. This is often a scam to get your details to offer you their services.

❓ Does solar really work in the UK on cloudy days?
✅ Absolutely. Solar panels still generate power even when it's overcast, making them effective year-round in the UK.

❓ Will my home be warm with a heat pump - I hate the cold?
✅ There is a misperception that homes with heat pumps don't leave your home warm. The truth is that heat pumps are designed to keep your homes at a constant and perfect temperature year round.

❓ Do I need a south-facing roof for solar panels to be effective?
✅ South-facing roofs are ideal, but east- and west-facing roofs still work well. Even north-facing panels can generate energy, though less efficiently. And we can even install great solutions on flat roofs. Battery storage can additionally maximise savings by storing energy for later use.

❓ Can I keep my gas boiler as a backup if I install a heat pump?
✅ Yes! Some homeowners opt for a hybrid system, where a heat pump handles most heating, and a boiler supports during very cold spells. However, all modern heat pumps can handle UK winters without backup, and we do have to warn you that keeping your boiler means you most likely won't qualify for the government grant.

❓ Do I need a lot of outdoor space for a heat pump?
✅ Air source heat pumps require a unit outside, about the size of an air conditioning unit. Ground source heat pumps need more space for underground pipes but are ideal for homes with large gardens.

❓How much does it cost to retrofit solar panels and a heat pump?
✅ Costs vary depending on your home's size and requirements. On average:

- Solar panels: £5,000–£10,000, with battery storage adding £3,000–£8,000
- Air source heat pump: £7,000–£14,000, depending on system size and installation complexity
- Ground source heat pump: £18,000–£30,000, due to excavation work

❓ How long do solar panels and heat pumps last?
✅ Solar panels last 25-30 years, and heat pumps 20+ years. Keeping us warm, protected and powered through bad weather, blackouts and increasing energy costs.

What's next? How do I get started?

You've found the perfect home—now let's make it energy-efficient, cost-effective, and ready for the future.

Book a free no-obligation discovery call today and take the first step toward a smarter home. Book here or call us on 01784 530018.

About Us

This guide was created by Your Energy Your Way, specialists in green energy solutions. We stand apart in an industry plagued by cookie-cutter solutions and false promises. For a decade, we've been a trusted partner to homeowners and businesses across Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, and West London, championing personalised solar and heat pump installations that work for your unique needs—not someone else's.

Our team brings over 25 years working in technology and renewable energy.

We were installing solar and heat pumps when the Big Six energy suppliers were still selling coal fired energy. We're nice, honest, reliable, and dependable industry experts. We genuinely care about this industry and its future, which means we make every job our priority, as you can see from our

We are also a Community Interest Company (CIC).

We are a social enterprise that uses its profits for the public good. Our goal is to be part of the future of the industry, one that is inclusive and supportive. To help deliver this we are proud to be running a trainee scheme which focuses on training new entrants into the sector, particularly women.

Check out our customer reviews here.

Google Reviews
5.0 ★★★★★ (20)

Which? Trusted Trader

"The team at YEYW delivered us the full sustainable package of heat pump, solar panels and batteries. They provided an excellent service throughout and are highly recommended."
Dan Curran
★★★★★