

CASE STUDY

Energy Saving in Comrie

Biomass – Wood Pellet Boiler replacing LPG



Background

The Clarke family moved into a rural 19th Century solid stone house in May 2012. The heating was fuelled by LPG using a very old, inefficient boiler. The costs for heating and hot water rose from £130/month to £170/month within the first year.

This prompted the Clarke's to request a visit from a Renewables Advisor from the Energy Saving Trust Scotland. Due to the position and layout of the house, biomass was recommended.

The EST's Home Renewables Loan Scheme provided a means of financing the boiler. In addition, upon installation they would receive a £2,000 cash back voucher from the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) and annual Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Payments from 2014.

Making the Change

The Clarke's made use of the Green Homes Network, allowing them to visit a similar-sized home with a pellet boiler installed. It was very helpful to see the boiler and ask questions about running costs and maintenance.

They contacted local biomass installers Perthshire Biofuels to obtain a quote for the installation. Perthshire Biofuels measured the size of the house to estimate the power output required and recommended a 13kW Palazzetti Ecofire Marta Idro Automated Wood Pellet Stove with a hopper capacity of 30kg. It was decided to place this in the kitchen as it was appliance sized and has an attractive flame when it is on.

The application for the Home Renewables Loan was accepted for the full amount and work commenced within a few weeks. The installation took 5 days. The boiler requires the pellets to be fed into the top of the boiler and regular cleaning of the ash pan; these jobs take less than 5 minutes a day. Bagged pellets are being used here due to space restrictions. It is estimated they will use 4-5 tonnes per annum.

Costs and Savings

Cost of Boiler	£9116
Home Renewables Loan	£9,116 repayable over 8 years
Cash back voucher from EST (requires Green deal Assessment)	£2,000
Cost of Pellets (no delivery cost as supplier local)	£200 per tonne (£800-£1000 per annum)
Previous cost of LPG	£2040 per annum
Cost savings (Renewable Heat incentive payments from 2014 will cover loan repayment)	£1000 per annum
Carbon savings	20 times less than LPG

For further information please contact local energy advisor Naomi Clarke 07999585732

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