

# Save money with alternative energy sources

It's never been easier or cheaper to start using alternative energy in your home.

The pressure on UK energy consumers following multiple price rises has created a surge in demand for energy saving technology and interest in self sufficiency.

As the global demand for energy soars and the traditional resources to supply it dwindle, the need for cheaper and more sustainable sources of energy will only increase.

Although just 2% of electricity generated in the UK currently comes from renewable sources, the Government's target is to increase this to 10% by 2010. So now is the ideal time to learn how you can begin to integrate these new technologies into your home to save money and reduce the impact further inevitable energy shortages.

## Alternative Energy Technologies

There are currently five main technologies for alternatively generated energy which can be installed and used throughout your home to compliment or replace the gas and electricity you currently use.

These sources of alternative or renewable energy are no less reliable and don't require a change of lifestyle or household appliances.

- Solar power
- Wind power
- Hydro power
- Ground heat pumps
- Biomass fuels

## Alternative Energy Grants

The initial cost of some alternative energy systems can be high. So to encourage homeowners to install these technologies various grants are available from the DTI low carbon programme.

These grants are available for most forms of Microgeneration technology such as solar photovoltaics, wind turbines, small scale hydro, solar thermal hot water, heat pumps and bio-energy. To be eligible you must use an accredited installer and an accredited product.

**Energy Saving Tip:** Insulate your home to save energy and reduce your bills. Insulating your loft can save £180 a year. You may also be able to get an energy saving grants to help with the cost.

