



who has got energy for life?

name

Jenny

occupation

Local Doctor and Mum

location

Home

introducing Jenny

Jenny is a local doctor in West London, working full time and a busy mum raising a two and half year old son along with her husband who also works full time, all in all they have a very busy household (which includes Iggy the adopted Iguana).

"I am into sustaining things for the future, for our children's future..."

"I have seen a **massive change in the climate within my child's lifetime** and I am genuinely concerned that **he will not see the same things that my generation has come to expect** as the norm."

In 2006 the family decided to extend their home, we "wanted to incorporate some form of green energy whilst we were extending the loft and we have opted for two types of solar panel system one which heats the water and one which generates our electricity. **It is very low maintenance and not a lot of work.**"

Jenny says "I have been itching to put solar panels on to our house since we first moved in" and saw this as the ideal opportunity.

"**There is an awful lot that we can do to reduce our footprint**" in fact Jenny says "the solar panels are just one of at least 20 measures that can successfully reduce a household's carbon footprint." She reckons "if each household just did **2 or 3 things this would make a profound difference to the climate.**"

"On an individual level **I have tried to do everything I can to lower my (carbon) footprint** from; recycling our waste using a wormery to reducing the number of long distance flights our family makes."

Before considering solar energy for their household Jenny recommends people need to do two things.

"**First thing is to reduce your energy usage**, for example by changing to energy efficient bulbs or by not leaving the appliances on standby. The **second thing is to look at the alternative source of energy**" such as solar energy.

"By installing solar thermal panels we think **we are using less than 10% of the gas** we previously were. Since the installation of the solar photovoltaic panels **the amount of electricity we use has probably halved.**"

"**I would say you cannot lose money if you have a building that is going to stand for the next 20 years. Why would you not want to invest** in a system that is maintenance free, and that you don't have to think about and it saves you money as soon as you put it on your roof?"

"**I think personally it is a no brainer frankly.**"

For Jenny installing solar panels was clearly "not just about saving money' it was to be more energy independent of carbon source fuels" and to "**sustain things for our future, for our children's future.**"

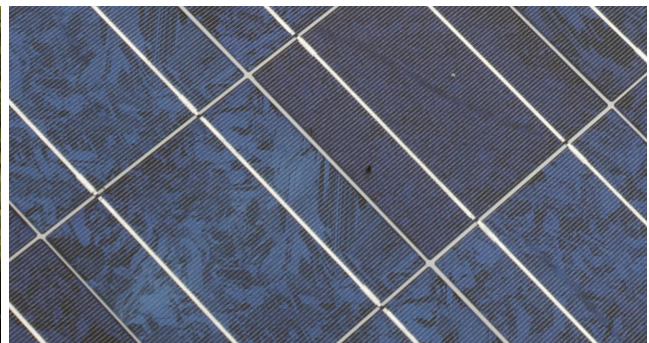
"we are using 10% of the gas we previously were"

"the amount of electricity we use has probably halved"

Jenny's home

This Victorian terrace in West London has been fitted with Solar Hot Water and Solar Photovoltaic panels which provide the home with hot water and electricity simply generated by the sun. The panels were installed as part of other work carried out to extend the house and to make it more energy efficient with some very impressive results.

The owners have seen the installation of the solar panels, along with the other measures, reduce their demand for gas by 90% and their electricity by 50%.



solar photovoltaic solutions

Retrofit over tiled roof

area (sqm)

12

size (kW)

1.6

solar hot water solutions

Retrofit over tiled roof

area (sqm)

2

project details

Customer

Jenny

Type of building

Home

Date completed

2005

Location

West London

carbon saved / energy generated

Annual carbon saving

1 tonnes

Lifetime carbon saving

35.8 tonnes

Annual energy generated

2380 kWh

For further information on other innovative ways of incorporating renewable energy in your building see our Solution Sheets.