

Lashings of lovely hot water



Technologies installed Solar Panels

That's how Nick Finnegan sums up the success of his solar panel. This renewable form of water heating has proven so efficient and effective; the family hasn't needed to use their immersion at all in the six months since the panel was installed.

Because the Finnegan home is a complete new build, Nick was able to plan the energy saving features he wanted right from the start.

“Energy prices in this day and age are increasing. Particularly with the last house I built, we saw the oil lorry coming far too often. And the price of oil is not going to get any better in the future.”

The aspect of the house was ideal for solar. A 30 tube solar panel placed on the south facing roof would maximise the thermal energy from the sun.



Nick Finnegan and his thermal panel

When designing his new house, Nick incorporated the lessons he had learned from his previous self-build project. 'It's vital to get decisions made at an early enough point to avoid headaches down the road. I made sure everyone involved in installing the solar panel knew well in advance, so that the roof joists and tiling were right. If you plan accurately and well with the people doing the job, building in renewable technologies shouldn't cause any difficulties.'



Making the immersion obsolete – the Finnegan's solar panel.

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Nick chose solar because it was a renewable source that would save money after the initial installation cost, and would be particularly useful for the family, especially on a good day. And so it has proven to be. 'With a young child and one on the way, we have a great need to have lots of hot water. This thermal panel is doing it in buckets.'

Even better, now that oil deliveries are greatly reduced, the Finnegans no longer pay the oil

company as much. Nick is delighted that these advantages come with no negative effects to the environment.

Securing the Reconnect grant was straightforward and easy. 'Staff involved were very helpful at every stage, so applying caused no difficulty whatsoever. All questions were answered quickly and directly; no time wasted. The staff were on the ball.'



“I would recommend the grant initiatives to anyone in a position to take it up, whether new build or an existing property. They'd be foolish not to investigate it. The grant money is there and it cushions the blow for the homeowner, while the benefits are reaped forever after.”

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