



WOOD PELLET HEATING

CATEGORY: CASE STUDY YEAR: 2008

Business Details:

Bleasdale Cottages
Lower Fairsnape Farm
Lancashire
PR3 1UY



www.bleasdalecottages.co.uk

Description:

Bleasdale Cottages, owned and run by Robert and Anne Gardner is a Four Star self catering business in the Forest of Bowland. Currently a holder of the GTBS Gold award there are numerous examples of sustainable business practice. The cottages themselves are converted farm buildings and incorporate many green elements in their design including excellent insulation and glazing. But it is the heating system that is the most innovative part of the site. Rather than going for a conventional fossil fuel based system Robert and Anne opted for twin wood pellet boilers. That means all heating and hot water is supplied from a central boiler room which is then piped into the cottages. Burning wood as a source of heating is hardly new but this system takes the best of the old and mixes it with new technology to give a much more efficient heating system, which is fully automated, reliable and good for the environment.



£ Economic

Total cost of installation was £55k + Vat, but there were £18k in grants to help with set up. Estimated running costs are for ~30 tonnes of pellets per year at a cost of £140 per tonne. Robert built the hopper which stores the pellets himself and it is a sight to behold. Cost may seem high but bear in mind that the cost is all inclusive and the system supplies all heating and hot water to 3 cottages and Robert and Anne's living area. Also bear in mind that as the buildings were converted from existing farm buildings and a more standard heating system would have required significant capital investment as well.

Environmental

Wood pellets come from a renewable resource in this case from Wales and although there are emissions associated with processing and transport the overall carbon emissions are significantly lower than for fossil fuels. Wood if it is harvested sustainably is an entirely renewable resource. Many other environmental considerations have been addressed, wildlife watching in particular with provision of a bird hide as well as comprehensive information for guests.

😊 Social

Fuel sourced from the UK supports UK jobs. The alternative would be a fossil fuel based system and there are huge social consequences associated with the extraction and production of oil, gas and coal particularly in developing countries where land rights and pollution issues as well as no share in the profits are common.

WEB

Forest of Bowland www.forestofbowland.com
 Logpile www.nef.org.uk/logpile/
 Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel
 Energy Saving Trust www.est.org.uk
 Biomass Centre www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk