

## Solar Thermal Panels

### What are they and how do they work?

Solar thermal (hot water) is a renewable technology that uses the sun's energy to generate hot water and transfers this heat for storage in a hot water cylinder. The panels are fixed to the roof of a property, and are most efficient when south-facing.



### Benefits

- Can achieve bill savings as the panels reduce heating demand on a boiler or immersion heater.
- Reduces dependency on energy companies.
- Contributing to reduced energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Usually requires one panel, so does not take up much roof space.
- Low maintenance requirements. An annual service, and a 5 year thorough service is recommended by most installers.
- Life-span of approximately 20-25 years.

### Things to consider

- Requires space for a larger hot water cylinder. If you currently have a combi-boiler, a cylinder will need to be added to the system.
- The system will not meet the entire hot water demand all year round, (approx. 90% in summer but can be just 25% in winter) so you will need to heat water further with a gas boiler, immersion, or air source heat pump.
- Unlikely to be a permitted development on a listed building. Could require planning permission in a conservation area.
- Will need freeholder permission if property is shared ownership.
- Often not feasible for installation to be funded on blocks of flats or maisonettes.
- The ownership of the panels is transferred upon sale of the property to the new buyer.

### Funding Expectations with Action Surrey

**Funded:** Surveys, panels and mounting equipment, labour costs, cylinder installation, commissioning, inverters, scaffolding. Lodgement with Trustmark and MCS.

**Not funded:** Bird protection netting. Specific models as requested by the customer will not necessarily be funded due to availability of supply and timescale of funding. Additional requirements should be discussed with the installer.

#### Supported by:



Energy Centre, 9 Poole Road,  
Woking, GU21 6DY

[www.actionsurrey.org](http://www.actionsurrey.org)  
0800 783 2503

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