

Glossary

Biomass	Organic materials, such as wood by-products and agricultural wastes, that can be burned to produce energy or converted into a gas and used for fuel
CfSH or CSH	Code for Sustainable Homes, a rating system for the sustainable performance of houses
CIBSE	Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers
CO₂	Carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to global warming
Cold/Thermal Bridging	An element of the building's construction that allows significantly higher heat loss than the surrounding area.
Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	A system which uses waste heat from power generation, typically to heat other buildings nearby.
DBERR	Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, formerly the Department of Trade and Industry
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Demand Driven Ventilation	The use of e.g. CO ₂ sensors, to avoid unnecessary ventilation of a space, reducing fan power use and heating/cooling loads.
District Heating	Heating systems which distribute steam or hot water to a number of buildings across a district. Heat can be provided from variety of sources, including geothermal, CHP plants, waste heat from industry and purpose built heating plants.
Energy From Waste	A generic phrase that covers a range of technologies which generate energy (electricity and heat) from waste. Typically waste is incinerated to produce steam and run a turbine to create electricity.
EST	Energy Saving Trust
Geothermal	Energy derived from naturally occurring underground heat.
Ground Source Heat Pump	A type of heat pump that uses the natural heat storage ability of the earth and/or the groundwater to heat and/or cool a building.
Heat Recovery	The process of capturing heat that normally would be wasted and delivering it to a device, space or process where it can be used.
IEA	International Energy Agency
IES Virtual Environment	A software program that allows detailed modelling of building energy use; approved for use in Part L calculations.
Infiltration	The uncontrolled inward leakage of air through cracks and gaps in the building envelope.
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
Intelligent Control Systems	Systems that sense and react to the internal environment.

kWh	The work performed by one kilowatt of electric power in one hour. 1 MWh is 1000 kWh.
Natural Ventilation	The movement of air into and out of a space through openings, such as windows and doors due to wind pressure or buoyancy effects.
NWSC	North West Sustainability Checklist, a checklist for reviewing good practice and demonstrating the sustainable performance of proposed developments
Orientation	<p>Orienting the buildings correctly can reduce demand for heating and cooling. Orienting occupied spaces to the North or South can avoid overheating from low angle solar gains during summer months.</p> <p>Orienting buildings to self shelter from prevailing winds reduces infiltration losses.</p>
Passive Design	Energy efficient design that makes the most of local conditions, using natural light, shade, air movement etc and avoiding the use of systems that require mechanical or electrical energy.
Renewable Resource	A naturally occurring raw material or form of energy which has the capacity to replenish itself through ecological cycles and sound management practices. (the sun, wind, falling water, and trees)
SAP	Standard Assessment Procedure, a system used to calculate the performance of a building in relation to building regulations.
Solar Hot Water	A system that uses solar radiation to produce heat energy for domestic hot water.
Solar Photovoltaics (PV)	A system that uses solar energy to induce a direct electrical current.
Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)	Government's standard for home energy rating. SAP ratings provide a simple indicator of the efficiency of energy use for space and water heating in new and existing dwellings. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 (poor) to 100 (excellent).
Thermal Imaging	Images produced by the detection of infrared radiation from heat sources, used to find areas of heat loss from buildings.
Thermal Mass	Refers to the solid part of a building, such as block or brickwork, in which heat energy, from the sun or other sources, is absorbed, stored and then gradually given off.
Trigeneration or CCHP	Combined Cooling, heat and power, a CHP system with an associated absorption chiller that converts the heat into cooling.