

SOLAR WATER HEATING – HABINTEG IN CASTLEROCK

Background:

Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd is one of the leading social housing providers in Northern Ireland. As a first step in utilising renewable technologies, they have incorporated an evacuated tube solar water heating system into a new property designed to accommodate a family with particular special needs and a high demand for hot water.

The house, which will also accommodate carers, (further increasing the energy requirements), is now completed, with the solar panel providing both hot water and under-floor heating.

Habinteg are closely monitoring the performance of the panels and have subsequently made the decision to install solar panels on 28 homes on a new housing development in Co Down.



How does it work?

There are two main types of solar water heating system:

1. Evacuated tubes
2. Flat plate collectors.

The system installed by Habinteg uses Riomay evacuated tubes which are mounted to the roof and integrated with both the domestic hot water system and the under floor heating system. Solar water heating systems typically provide around 60% of a household's hot water requirements.

Cost:

The Castlerock installation, which is larger than the typical household size, costs £7,200. Grants are available for households and organisations for solar water heating from NIE and Clear Skies through the SolarSmart programme. See the contacts section for details.

Useful contacts:

www.niesmart.co.uk

www.clear-skies.org

www.actionrenewables.org

Supported by:



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