

DOMESTIC COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (D-CHP)

Background:

Domestic CHP essentially is a home heating appliance that also generates approximately 1kW of electricity and has the potential to revolutionise how we heat and power our homes.



NIE have teamed up with New Zealand developer Whisper Tech and local partners, Phoenix Natural Gas, the Housing Executive and Energy Saving Trust to trial two units in Northern Ireland homes.

The CHP units were installed in March 2004 and early indications are positive. The D-CHP systems are providing all the heating and hot water needs for the two homes, and generating around 9kWh of electricity each day.

Mike McKimm, BBC Northern Ireland's Newsline environmental correspondent described the units as 'a mini power station in your home'.



How does it work?

The units use Stirling engine technology and, unlike industrial CHP, are heat led. The Whisper Tech units operate on natural gas only and it is hoped that they will save around £200 per year on household energy costs. The units would be used as a replacement to a normal central heating boiler.

Extensive monitoring equipment has been installed and regular performance reports will be made over 12 months.

Cost:

The units are not available commercially at present, but it is hoped that an extended trial will be developed as a precursor to full market availability.

Useful Contacts:

www.niesmart.co.uk
www.whispergen.com

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