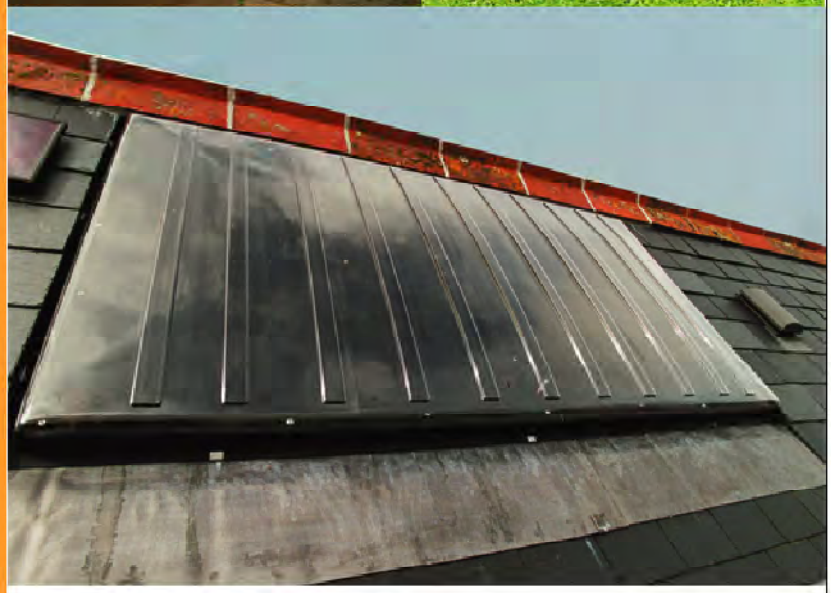
CASE STUDY

Domestic Solar Hot Water System



Mr & Mrs Douglas, Friendship Farm, Exmoor, Devon

First government grant aided installation in the UK

"Going solar was an obvious and straightforward way to reduce our adverse impact on our environment, and as a bonus, to cut our water heating bill. It's even better with a Government grant."

George & Ann Douglas, Friendship Farm

Installation by accredited agent, Eco-Exmoor

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"It's both a privilege and satisfying to be the first to receive the grant through the DTI's Clear Skies Initiative."

George and Ann Douglas, Friendship Farm

Government Grants

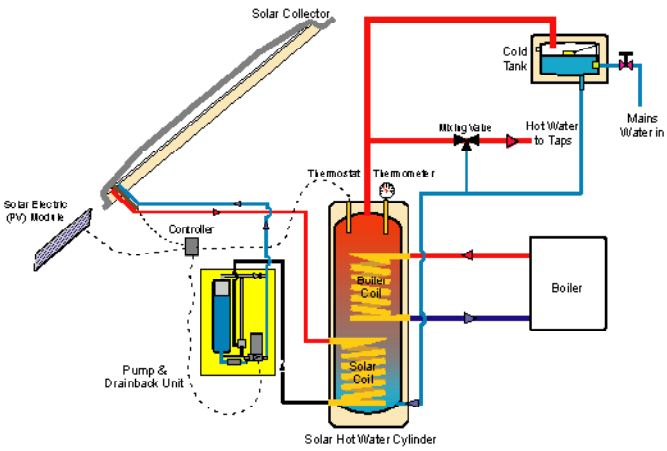
• Mr & Mrs Douglas were the first to receive a 'Clear Skies' grant from the Government to install a domestic solar hot water system.

• The grants programme offers homeowners a unique opportunity to invest in solar energy and make their own contribution to carbon emission cuts

• Grants are also available for community and charity projects

• The installation was officially opened on May 16, 2003 by Local MP, Nick Harvey, & Clear Skies Manager, Chris Roberts.

"The Clear Skies Grants Scheme provides a great opportunity for many people to generate their own energy from non-fossil fuel sources and make a contribution towards the UK Government's target of achieving 20% of energy generated by renewables by 2010. "
Chris Roberts, Manager of 'Clear Skies'



System Description

• The solar collector was installed on a valley roof which was having the slates replaced

• The system is powered by a solar electric (pv) module, so there are no running costs and it will not be affected by power cuts, which can occur in rural areas

• The solar collector is connected to a twin-coil cylinder, with one coil providing the cylinder with solar heated water and one providing supplementary heat from a boiler - in this case a wood burner

• In other cases the back-up maybe from gas, oil or electricity

• The system utilises the principle of drain-back, which protects it from freezing or overheating. When the light drops below the sufficient working levels or when the cylinder reaches its maximum temperature (80°C) the system will shut down and drain back the water to a storage vessel.

Technical Specifications

Size	1 solar collector
Area	2.7 m2
Cylinder	160 litre twin coil cylinder

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