

Union club

Jason Hobbins, managing director, EnergyMyWay, looks at architects and renewable energy specialists as a perfect partnership

As eco homes and renewable energy become more popular and new technologies emerge, architects are faced with a growing challenge. Clients want the very latest in sustainable design, but how does an architect make sure they give the best advice and select the most appropriate technologies for their scheme?

Jason Hobbins, EnergyMyWay, explains how the company is pioneering a new partnership with architects, enabling it to present an expert 'eco partner' to its clients.

"There is increasing pressure on architects to produce the very latest sustainable designs. At the same time the renewable energy industry is becoming more refined, with technology development accelerating and options for clients broadening. At EnergyMyWay we have developed a relationship with architects who wish to form a partnership to provide a specialist renewable energy service.

"In many cases, architects have suffered from legacy issues, particularly when working with ground source or air source heat pumps that may have been poorly installed or under-sized, leaving their clients with much higher energy bills than anticipated and leaving the architect with an ongoing problem.

"Too often a design reaches the build stage and renewable energy becomes more of a 'plug on' than an integrated part of the property, causing problems for builders, architects and importantly clients. Our involvement from the start means a smoother process for everybody."

Oxfordshire based architectural practice, The Anderson Orr Partnership, has forged a successful relationship with EnergyMyWay. Managing partner, Richard Anderson said: "The majority of our clients are looking to include an element of sustainability within their building design. The latest renewable energy products work most effectively

with heating, water and electricity systems when the designs integrate these products intelligently from the start.

"Having a renewable energy expert in our team means our clients have the reassurance of a single source of advice for this part of the build. More often than not EnergyMyWay then acts as a subcontractor on the project, supplying and installing the products, which ensures the renewable technologies are installed to the highest standards, giving our clients confidence they will get the best energy performance for their investment."

The Anderson Orr partnership worked with EnergyMyWay when it designed a complete renovation of a 1960s property in Oxfordshire. The existing property was not on mains gas, and the oil heating alternative meant the client enduring increasingly high bills. The client was looking for a complete re-build and wanted to create an environmentally sensitive property, with much lower running costs.

Following meetings with the client to establish what they wanted to achieve, a three-stage approach was created. Firstly, looking at the fabric of the building, cavity wall insulation and external insulation were specified as well as low U-value windows.

Once the building fabric was as energy efficient as possible, space heating and hot water generation were considered. A 25kW Earth Save Products air source heat pump was specified and linked to 400m² of under floor heating, via a 500litre buffer tank.

The hot water could then be supplied by a 300litre Earth Save Products Ecocent hot water heat pump, which substantially reduces the annual running cost of hot water generation as it is mechanically separated to the external heat pump.

Now the client has a house that exclusively uses electricity for space heating and hot water, free from any reliance on oil. The natural next step was to use solar to

generate electricity, a 3.76kWp photovoltaic array was designed for the garage roof.

The end result was a property with a completely integrated energy efficiency solution, an intelligent eco home, sustainable for the long term and low cost to run. The architect produced the best solution for the client and importantly was not left with legacy issues from poorly installed systems where bills are higher than anticipated.

Richard Anderson added: "The partnership of our company with EnergyMyWay means we can give our clients a full service for the sustainable elements of their build; the very best advice, intelligent design and quality-assured installations."



Clubbing together: EnergyMyWay, is pioneering a new partnership with architects, enabling it to present an expert 'eco partner' to its clients