

Vokèra Zenith solar thermal system achieves significant savings for Doncaster homeowner

INTRODUCTION



A Vokèra Zenith solar thermal water heating system installed in a 1960s bungalow in Doncaster is saving the homeowner in excess of £300 a year in energy bills. With the system's highly insulated cylinder keeping the water hot for up to two days, homeowner Adrian Davis believes that, in the long-term, his energy savings could be in the region of 50 per cent.

Mr Davis and his wife decided to invest in a new water heating system in June 2010, as their existing 8 year old open vented water heating cylinder needed to be replaced. Local installer Wiles heating from Doncaster recommended a twin coil cylinder and solar thermal collectors, and after explaining that this type of system could help the couple to combat rising energy costs, they decided to proceed.

Solar thermal systems work by converting free solar energy – the most abundant energy source on the planet – directly into heat, without producing any greenhouse gas emissions. The energy gathered from the sun's rays heats a liquid contained in the system's pipework, which then circulates through a solar coil located in the base of a cylinder, transferring heat to the stored water.

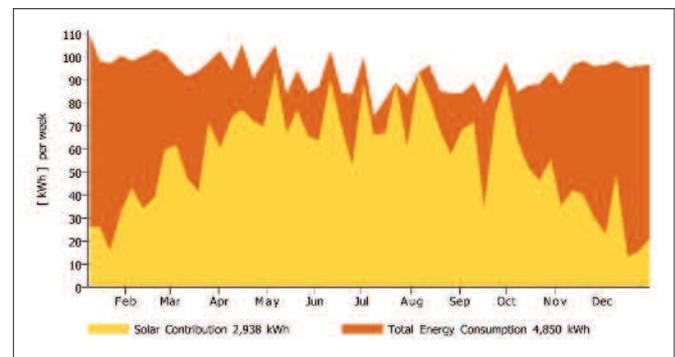
THE SOLUTION



Duncan Wiles (installer) chose Vokèra's Zenith collectors and AquaFlow cylinder because he had fitted these systems before and knew Vokèra had a dedicated Pre-Sales department that would survey the property and provide detailed solar simulations and

estimated savings for the Davis'. The Pre-Sales team also helped the installer to calculate how many collectors were required, and to size the cylinder.

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COST EFFECTIVE

Mr Wiles (installer) said:



"This was a straightforward, cost-effective installation, especially as it was a bungalow. We saved on scaffolding costs and it only took one day to install the whole system."

We opted for two flat plate inset collectors, totalling four square meters, which are aesthetically pleasing as they sit neatly within the roof space, rather than on top of the tiles. With the property being a bungalow this was an important consideration, as the roof is more visible to passers-by."



Adrian Davis said:

"The system works really well, even in winter, and we don't have to interact with it at all – although our installer has shown us how to check the temperatures on the solar control if we want to. If the solar energy doesn't heat the water up to the correct temperature then the boiler will automatically step in – so we know we'll always have hot water".

"The cylinder is so well-insulated that it keeps the water hot for at least a day, and in the summer it can be two days. This suits us as we tend to shower in the morning, so we use the stored water heated by the sun's energy the previous day".

SOLAR SAVINGS

"I expect long-term our energy costs will be halved. Even though in 2010 we had one of the worst winters on record we saved more than £300 on energy costs, and in the first quarter of 2011 our bills were reduced by over £100. With no plans to move from the bungalow, after the initial payback period we will benefit financially. So I don't think it will take long to recoup the £3,000 we spent on the installation, and of course we're also reducing our carbon emissions."



The bungalow has recently been re-insulated and has underfloor heating and a heat recovery ventilation system.

VOKERA RANGE

Vokèra offers three types of Zenith solar collector – on-roof flat plate, inset flat plate and evacuated tubes – ensuring there is a solution for every conceivable application. The solar absorbency and energy performance of the Zenith collectors has been maximised through a highly selective finish, so they perform even on cloudy days. Being a fully filled, pressurised system, the Zenith system will respond quickly and efficiently to sunlight and daylight. To complement its solar thermal collectors, Vokèra offers the AquaFlow twin coil cylinders in 250 and 300 litre capacities. The Zenith system can be connected to any existing sealed system or regular boiler with a twin coil cylinder, but the package is an ideal partner to Vokèra's Mynute HE sealed system boilers and Mynute VHE regular open vent boilers.

ABOUT VOKERA

Vokèra offers a comprehensive range of high efficiency domestic and light commercial heating and hot water solutions for a large range of applications, offering stylish designs and many optional extras as standard, at an affordable price.

For further information call 0844 391 0999 or visit www.vokera.co.uk

