



Another Great Conversion from England Rugby Player Garath Archer

Durham Based Garath Archer, the England rugby hero who earned 21 caps also playing for Clubs Newcastle Falcons and Bristol Shoguns talks to Ice Energy about his renewable heating system. Garath installed an Ice Energy Heat Pump two years ago - in this video interview he talks of his experiences.

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of Garath Archer

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As owner of local and regional Building and Refurbishment Contracting Company, Archer Knight Ltd, Garath decided to take the plunge and build his own family home. In spring 2007 he found some land for sale and began to investigate the various heating options available.

There was no standard mains gas in the area and he knew LPG and Oil would be costly to run. In addition, Garath was keen to build his home as environmentally friendly as possible.

"Everyone has their own take on what it means to be environmentally friendly. To me, it is the way I want to go, but it has to make financial sense as well. If being green is significantly more expensive than the current technology then, in my opinion, it is not a solution. But where green technologies are financially competitive it would be irresponsible and foolish not to use them. "



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Garath initially saw Ground Source Heat Pumps on Grand Designs and thought they looked too good to be true. He immediately made two common assumptions; that the technology would only work alongside the main system; and that it would be prohibitively expensive, both of which are wrong. The heat pump stands alone and provides a 100% solution for all heating and hot water in the house.

"It also comes in at a price that makes it not only a competitive product financially, but when running and installation costs are projected over a five to six year period it starts to become cheaper than the more traditional technologies of fossil fuels. Better for the environment and better for my pocket it was a no brainer."



Garath investigated the heat pump market and found Ice Energy Heat Pumps. IEHPs is the largest supplier of ground source heat pumps in the UK and, having at the time installed over 1,500 systems (now 3,500), had the knowledge and expertise Garath was looking for. He has now been living in his new house for almost a year and is delighted with the heat pump. Despite the aggressively rising price of all fuels, including electricity, he does not find the bills a problem,

"Obviously I would rather be paying last year's prices but in the circumstances I feel comfort that every time prices go up I am proportionally saving more and more money than had I taken the

alternative route and installed a fossil fuel system."

Another great benefit Garath appreciates is the way in which the heat pump heats his home - by heating the fabric of the building and then simply topping up any heat loss. Garath has seen a noticeable difference compared to conventional heating systems,

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"It works efficiently, creating a small amount of heat consistently, therefore once your house is up to temperature it keeps it there 24/7 never getting cold. I find it great when I have to get up really early on the odd morning and the house is lovely and warm. It just starts the day off better."

The Ground Source Heat Pump provides all hot water and heating to the property by pipes located in two 72 metre trenches dug in the ground 1 metre deep, as seen in the picture below. Where less land is available alternative methods of groundworks can be used. Garath has underfloor running throughout the downstairs and radiators upstairs, but finds the heat from the ground floor works up through the house leaving very little for the radiators to do.



Groundworks



Groundworks field 1 year

ArcherKnight Ltd are now registered partners of Ice Energy Heat Pumps, installing heat pumps across the north eastern region. They have carried out several installations into brand new properties as well as retro fitted into older and period properties, where they can be used in the same way.

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"I recognised an opportunity to train our people to install this equipment and to strike up a relationship with Ice Energy to bring this fantastic product to the people of our region. We work towards creating homes that are greener, cheaper to run and consistently warmer, so heat pumps are the ideal solution."

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Brief Background

A ground source heat pump provides constant, seamless warmth by heating the fabric of the building and then simply topping up any heat loss. Consequently your entire home will become inviting and warm whatever the conditions outside and whatever the time of day. A clever addition to the heat pump is summer comfort cooling. By installing a simple heat exchanger in the loft space, warm air is sucked from the house, cooled and then returned.

At one metres depth the average soil temperature in the UK remains consistently between 10 and 13 degrees. The "ground loop" is a pipe which is buried in the garden at this depth and filled with a mixture of water and food friendly glycol. The mixture is kept at a low temperature and gently warmed by the surrounding soil as it is pumped through the pipe. It is then put through a process which involves a series of heat exchangers and a compressor where the heat is concentrated so that temperatures of 65 degrees are achieved. This then feeds your underfloor heating pipes or radiators and the domestic hot water tank to complete a cycle of environmentally efficient heat collection and delivery which will change the way you live.

Notes for editors:

For more information please contact David Hutchinson at Ice Energy on 01865 885199 or email david.hutchinson@iceenergy.co.uk
Ice Energy Website: www.iceenergy.co.uk

Archer Knight Construction

Tel: 0191 3831995

Email: ENQUIRIES@ARCHERKNIGHT.CO.UK

Website: www.archerknight.co.uk/