

Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Study

Comments on Assumptions

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Solar Thermal – Only mentioned at the start – why and only for hot water? In theory it can be used for space heating in passive house design (applicable by 2016?).

Decarbonisation of the electricity network may favour electric systems.

Biomass efficiencies appear high, whereas heat pump efficiencies appear low – can the rationale for these choices be justified? Can biomass fuel type be sustained i.e. not using wood from the land without replacement? There is considerable difference between practice and the efficiencies quoted here e.g. air source heat pumps under test have a COP >3.0 while ground source heat pumps under test in European accreditation laboratories have COP's >4.0 .

In general for heat – can the building/process efficiency be taken into account so that the role of renewable energy is not being abused by a poor process/building that potentially will receive a high subsidy?

Energy costs – Ofgem's Project Discovery shows trends for domestic "green" and "commercial" scenarios.