

Jargon buster

We are taking steps to help make retrofit and renewable energy easier to understand, and we hope our jargon buster does just that.

Air source heat pump (ASHP)

An air source heat pump (ASHP) is a low-carbon heating alternative that works by extracting heat from the air and transferring it into your home.

Carbon footprint

When people refer to their carbon footprint, they're referring to a measure of how much carbon dioxide is produced from their actions. A carbon footprint can be measured for a particular individual, organisation or community.

Carbon offset

Carbon offset is generated by an activity that either prevents the release of, reduces, or removes greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. An action intended to compensate for the carbon dioxide emissions released into the atmosphere, such as planting a tree, is classed as a carbon offset.

Climate change

Climate change is a shift in average conditions we're used to seeing, so any significant change in temperature, precipitation, wind, and weather that is different from the norm, is known as climate change.

Energy performance certificate (EPC)

An EPC (Energy performance certificate) shows how energy-efficient a property is on a scale of A-G. The higher the rating, the more efficient the property. If you're buying, renting or selling a property, an EPC is needed.

External wall insulation (EWI)

External wall insulation is a layer of insulation that is added to the outside wall of a home. It improves the energy efficiency of your home by preventing heat escaping, making it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Please be aware specialist fittings are needed to mount items such as doorbells, external wall lightings, and your door number. Please contact LiveWest for permission and further information.

Fossil fuels

Fossil fuels are non-renewable sources of energy. They are finite resources from crude oil, coal and gas. Once we've used up our reserve of fossil fuels, they can't be replaced. It takes millions (sometimes hundreds of millions) of years to obtain fossil fuels, which is why they are regarded as a non-renewable source of fuel.

Global warming

Global warming describes the increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere. It's caused by greenhouse gases – which in turn is caused by increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases (GHG)

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are compound gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases) that trap heat or longwave radiation in the atmosphere and make the Earth's surface warmer.

Ground source heat pump (GSHP)

A ground source heat pump (GSHP) is an energy-efficient, low carbon technology that is particularly suited to properties on larger plots. With GSHPs, pipes are used underground to extract heat from the ground.

Low-carbon energy

The term low-carbon energy is any energy that minimises the amount of carbon dioxide (or greenhouse gases) emitted into the atmosphere. Low-carbon energy can be any renewable energy source and can also include nuclear power.

Microgeneration certification scheme (MCS)

Microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) is a mark of quality and makes sure installers meet good standards and demonstrate compliance to industry standards.

Net zero

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

Photo-voltaic (PV)

Photo-voltaic is the conversion of light from the sun that is turned into electricity.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy refers to the energy that comes from a sustainable source – something that can't run out or is endless, like the sun.

Retrofit

Retrofit, or retrofitting, is when an existing structure is upgraded with a range of home improvement measures. When we talk about retrofitting, we're referring to making homes more energy-efficient, focusing on the fabric of the house first such as the walls, roof, floors, windows and doors, including strategies for ventilation and heating efficiency.

Social housing decarbonisation fund (SHDF)

The social housing decarbonisation fund is the funding that is provided by the government to LiveWest and other housing providers to improve the energy performance of domestic properties in England.

Photo-voltaic panel inverter

A solar inverter is an electrical converter that changes direct current (DC) electricity captured by solar panels into alternating current (AC), which is the standard flow of electricity required for electrical circuits and domestic appliances.

U-values.

U Values show us the ability of a building element to transfer heat from a warm space to a cold. It helps us know how well certain building materials keep the heat in and the cold out.

For more
information and
energy advice, visit
[livewest.co.uk/
energy-advice](https://livewest.co.uk/energy-advice)