# BREEAM Ene 01 Options Summary

River Academy Reading

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# Introduction

Build Energy Ltd has been appointed to undertake energy modelling, to examine the impact of improvements to the River Academy building on it's BREEAM scoring. The improvements investigated for this exercise are as follows:

- The replacement of the current gas heating with an electric heat pump system.
- The provision of a solar photovoltaic array.

Maiden Erlegh Trust plan to review these options on a bi-annual basis, and to implement the proposals should funding become available.

# Electric Air Source Heat Pump

Under the first scenario, the building was modelled with an electric air source heat pump system in replacement of the current gas system. The system modelled was a single duct VAV system with a SCoP of 3.4 and an SEER of 6.5. Under this scenario, six credits are achieved under BREEAM New Construction (2018) ENE 01.

Heat pumps transfer heat from a lower temperature source to one of a higher temperature. These are split into three main categories:

- Air source heat pumps operate by converting the energy of the outside air into heat, creating a comfortable temperature inside the building as well as supplying energy for the hot water system. Air-to-water systems provide hot water for direct use or to supply 'wet' heating through underfloor heating or radiators. Air-to-air systems provide hot air, either directly into an internal space, or to be distributed by fans.
- Ground source heat pumps apply the same principle to heat energy stored underground. In this case a circuit of piping is buried horizontally or via a bore hole.
- Water source heat pumps absorb heat from a local water source, such as a lake, river, well, or borehole.

The most prevalent system is an air source heat pump. As with all heat pumps, air source models are most efficient when supplying low temperature systems such as underfloor heating.

An air source heat pump extracts heat from the outside air in the same way that a fridge extracts heat from its inside. It can extract heat from the air even when the outside temperature is as low as minus 15°C. Cold water or another fluid is circulated through pipes, picking up the ambient temperature and then passing through the heat exchanger (the evaporator) in the heat pump unit. The heat exchanger extracts heat from the fluid, using a refrigerant compression cycle to upgrade the heat to a usable temperature (+55°C). This heat is then transferred to the heating system via another heat exchanger, the condenser of the heat pump.

Accordingly, ASHP heating systems generally run at a lower temperature than conventional heating systems. There are two main types of air source heat pumps. An air-to-water system uses the heat to warm water. Heat pumps heat water to a lower temperature than a standard boiler system would, so they are better suited to underfloor heating systems than radiator systems. An air-to-air system produces warm air, which is circulated by fans to heat the building. Whilst heat pumps are not a wholly renewable energy source due to use of electricity, the renewable component is considered as the heat is extracted from the air. It is measured as the difference between heat outputs, less the primary electrical energy input. Using this heat, for every Watt of electrical energy supplied to the system, 4 Watts or more of heating energy can be supplied to a heating system. This 'Coefficient of Performance' (CoP) of 4 is effectively an 'efficiency' of 400% for the system and compares very favourably with even the best gas condensing boiler's efficiency of around 85%. The smaller the temperature difference between the source and the output temperature of the heat pump (i.e. the temperature of the distribution system) the higher the heat pump's CoP. Unlike boilers, there is no pollution on-site and as the mix of power stations used to supply the electricity grid gets 'cleaner', with more renewable electricity generation being brought on line, so the carbon emissions from the heat pumps system will decrease even further.

# Solar Photovoltaic Array

Under the second scenario, an array of solar pv (photovoltaic) panels was added to the model in addition to the changes above. A south west facing array mounted at c.a. 15' has been modelled, accounting for approximately 800m2 of roof space.

Under this scenario, nine credits are achieved under BREEAM New Construction ENE 01.

Photovoltaic panel systems convert energy from the sun into electricity through semi-conductor cells mounted in collector panels. The panels are connected to an inverter to turn the DC output into AC for use in the building to which they are attached and to be fed back into the grid when not required. Photovoltaic arrays provide a quiet and effective renewable energy source with a relatively low aesthetic impact. The major benefit of PV systems is the significant reductions they can achieve in comparison to other technologies, in terms of $CO_2$ and energy use.

The PV panels should ideally be orientated between southeast and southwest.The optimal tilt angle (inclination of panel from horizontal) should be calculated to ensure the best possible output of the system during the year. In the UK, the angles of most pitched roofs are suitable for mounting PV panels. Panels can also be mounted on A-frames on flat roofed buildings. PV technology comes in a range of forms: PV panels that can be retrofitted to the roof of an existing building or equally, sunk to fit flush with the roof line; PV cells that are 'laminated' between sheets of glass to provide shading in a glazed area, and PV cladding. PV systems are low maintenance as they have no moving parts and panels generally have 25 year warranties, although the lifetime of the panel can be expected to be beyond this time. The PV systems should not be shaded. Shading caused by other buildings, greenery and roof 'furniture' such as chimneys or satellite dishes, even over a small area of the panel, can significantly reduce performance. Excess energy can be exported to the grid. Future consideration may be given to the benefits of battery storage.