



Restoration heroes choose Ecodan for their renewable heating

Two designers from London, looking to create an ideal out-of-town family home have been called 'restoration heroes' on prime time TV for their uncompromising stance on quality.

When Alison and Matthew Grey decided to purchase the Victorian pumping house in Newgate Street village, Hertfordshire, they agreed to allow Channel 4 to film for the TV series Restoration Man.

“We knew a building this size would be extremely costly to heat without some form of sustainable energy.”



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Case Study Pumping Station restoration, Cheshunt

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ABOVE: The two 14kW Ecodan units work together to meet the 20kW heat demand of the renovated farm buildings.

BELOW: The air source heat pumps will keep the family warm even in the depths of winter.



The programme followed the Grey's throughout 2013 as they struggled to keep costs down, whilst restoring the pumping house in ways which retained the design integrity and allowed them to create a modern, family home.

"Our biggest challenge was deciding how to replace the windows, which are a major feature of the building," explained Alison Grey.

"George Clark, the presenter called us restoration heroes because we spent almost half our allocated budget on steel window frames which were much more sympathetic to the original design than the UPVC ones we inherited."

The couple's angst over the cost of metal versus plastic or wooden window frames did take up a lot of the programme which unfortunately meant that the Grey's focus on renewable technology was not covered in as much detail as they wanted:

"We filmed quite a bit on why we had chosen to install an Ecodan heat pump for our heating, photovoltaic panels to help generate electricity and a Lossnay heat recovery ventilation unit, but most of this ended up on the cutting room floor," explained Alison.

In fact the couple had spent almost as much time researching renewable heating as they did on the windows, it was just that the choice of heat pump was much easier to make.



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ABOVE: The Grey's now have a stunning yet sustainable family home.

BELOW: Family and friends celebrate the last day of filming with George Clarke of Channel 4's Restoration Man.



Built around 1888 on Darnicle Hill, Cheshunt, the pumping station was decommissioned in 1970 and passed through various owners before the Grey's bought it for £750,000 in 2012.

"We knew that heating a building of this size would be extremely costly without some form of sustainable energy," explained Alison.

"When we spoke to our installer about heating and looked at the options on the market, there was only one clear winner.

Ecodan was streets ahead of other heat pumps in terms of performance, flexibility and support from the manufacturer."

The Grey's sought the advice of Tony Owen of AOS Solar, installers of renewable technology across Hertfordshire, Essex and North London. AOS Solar is an approved Ecodan installer and has vast experience of both heat pumps and photovoltaic panels. Certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), AOS Solar customers are also eligible for any available government funded grants, such as the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

In terms of the principles that the couple used to develop their dream home, a primary one is making the best of the old, but bringing the best of the new.

This is reflected in their choice of using air source heat pumps and one of the best aspects from an energy point of view is that they will now benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive.



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Case Study

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ABOVE: Ecodan's intelligent, self-learning controls help ensure the house is heated in the most economical way possible.

The heating and hot water system

A 14kW Ecodan air source heat pump supplies the heating for the building and a 5kW unit delivers all the hot water the family needs.

The couple will receive quarterly RHI payments for the next seven years.

The Ecodan system works in conjunction with PV panels and a solar thermal both of which are on the roof.

The site is off the gas main so the couple's options were electric or having LPG or oil delivered. It doesn't take much calculation to work out how expensive oil and LPG is these days as well as the space needed for deliveries and storage.

"The heat pumps are a miracle on the ground and are absolutely phenomenal," said Alison.

"To think that they're pulling heat out of air when it's snowing outside is incredible. And they do it fast too. You don't have to wait too long before its then heated up the tank again."

The Grey family now have a beautiful and unique family home, with a sustainable heating system that will help protect them against rising fuel costs.

"The Ecodan system delivers an even, moderate temperature, always. You don't have to worry about turning it on or off, it just looks after itself and that's actually, an ideal way to live and a much more effective and efficient way of running things."

Further details on the complete range of Ecodan systems can be found by visiting the dedicated website: www.ecodan.co.uk.



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