

Listen to an energy expert, Sue Booth, talking about how to use renewable energy sources in the home.

**Optional activity:**

While you listen, decide whether the following sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True or false?
1. Sue says householders can do little to reduce their energy bills.	
2. Sue says that a lot of energy is lost through the floors of homes.	
3. According to Sue the key to saving money is better insulation in homes.	
4. Householders can produce power too.	
5. Houses in the UK can produce electricity using photovoltaic cells.	
6. Photovoltaic cells can produce hot water.	
7. It costs £3,000 to install solar panels for an average UK home.	
8. The UK government help householders to buy solar panels.	

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**Interviewer:** Good morning, today in the studio we have Sue Booth from Eco Power, she's here to tell us about renewable energy sources and how we can use them in our homes.

**Sue:** Good morning ...

**Interviewer:** Sue, energy is a hot topic at the moment, with petrol prices at record highs, gas shortages and price increases everywhere, what can the average householder do to save money?

**Sue:** Well, we're talking about the UK here – I think there are two issues.

**Interviewer:** What are these?

**Sue:** Well, first we need to use energy in the home more efficiently, then we can look at a couple of ways of using renewable energy sources in the home

**Interviewer:** OK, how can I make my home more energy efficient?

**Sue:** Let's start with insulation – make sure that the roof and the walls of your house are insulated, and you'll save money on your heating bills. Next look at your windows, do these close well? Do you have draughts? Consider installing double glazing – this is expensive initially but again you'll save in the long term ..

**Interviewer:** Ok, so 'insulate' seems to be the key word

**Sue:** Definitely, yes, now as regards actually producing energy in the home, solar power is a solution

**Interviewer:** Energy from the sun? In this country?

**Sue:** Typical reaction .. you know it *is* possible to produce energy from the sun even in this country. There are two possibilities, the sun's energy can be used to produce electricity using photovoltaic cells

**Interviewer:** Sorry what was that ..?

**Sue:** Photovoltaic cells – these convert energy from the sun into electricity

**Interviewer:** I see .....

**Sue:** Or solar panels can be used to produce hot water

**Interviewer:** Which do you recommend for the average British household?

**Sue:** Well, of the two I'd recommend solar panels to heat water for central heating and showers.

**Interviewer:** How much does this cost?

**Sue:** Well it's hard to say precisely, this depends on the size of the house, but for an average house in the UK installation costs would be four to five thousand pounds

**Interviewer:** Rather a lot of money

**Sue:** Initially yes, but within three years the system will have paid for itself and there are government grants available to help with the installation costs

**Interviewer:** So solar power's the answer

**Sue:** It can definitely help to reduce those gas and electricity bills

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**Answer key:**

1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T.