

## Association welcomes 'positive probe into GSHP performance'

**B**ritain's Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA) has welcomed a recent report by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) entitled "Getting warmer: a field trial of heat pumps," which the association claims provides useful information on how domestic heat pumps perform when retrofitted to existing houses.

David Matthews, GSHPA chief executive said "We are pleased that this EST heat pump report has clearly shown what we have been promoting for several years that well designed, installed and commissioned GSHP systems will provide very comfortable homes & buildings and also, reduce running costs."

As well as highlighting good practice, however, the report also documented some inadequate heat pump installations, pointing out that these would lead to poor performance and unsatisfied householders.

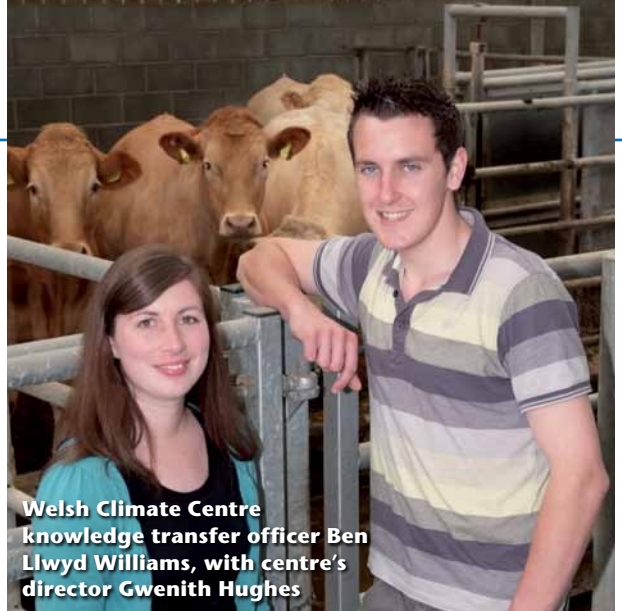
The GSHPA was established in 2006 to support the fledgling heat pump industry and address the skills, training and quality needs and improve installation practices.

Since then, it has actively supported the growth of a number of initiatives in the industry, including accreditation for installers; helping to develop customer and industry-facing guides and improving skills and training.

The association explains that ground source heat pumps use renewable energy stored in the ground. They do not require hot rocks and can be installed in most of the UK using a borehole or shallow trenches containing heat collecting pipes in a closed loop to extract this stored energy.

This is then passed through a heat exchanger to provide space heating and domestic hot water. The only energy used by the systems is electricity to power the pumps. ■

➔ Log on to [www.gshp.org.uk](http://www.gshp.org.uk) for more information



Welsh Climate Centre knowledge transfer officer Ben Llwyd Williams, with centre's director Gwenith Hughes

## Welsh support for 'attractive option'

The Wales Climate Centre (Canolfan Hinsawdd Cymru) has held two open days in the past four months on farms that have installed ground source heat pumps.

Both farms used heat pumps with small wind turbines installed nearby and other complementary renewable energy technologies such as biomass boilers and an anaerobic digestion unit to heat holiday cottages and the farmhouses.

"Ground source heat pumps will become an increasingly attractive option, providing the Renewable Heat Incentive comes into operation, as expected in April 2011," said the centre's programme manager Dr Gwenith Hughes.

An in-depth fact sheet on heat pumps would be available soon and several evening meetings had already been arranged to provide further information on the benefits of heat pumps, she added. ■

➔ For further information, log on to the centre's website at [www.climate-wales.org.uk](http://www.climate-wales.org.uk)



Leonard Goodier with his pigs in their new accommodation

## Energy-saving heat pump keeps piglets comfortable

A Lancashire farming partnership has installed a air heat pump to extract latent heat from the air to warm water-filled creep mats for their pigs in a new 32-place ARM farrowing house near Preston.

The house is part of a major investment programme by David and Leonard Goodier on their 275-sow breeding and finishing unit at South View Farm, to make it as efficient as possible by improving production and cutting costs.

Situated outside the house, the pump will work in temperatures

as low as minus 20°C and Leonard said that they were expecting savings throughout the year. Although the heat pump cost £6,000 they are expecting it to pay for itself within a couple of years.

Thought to be the first one of its kind to be used on a pig farm, the heat pump (supplied by Global Energy Systems) is like a scaled-up version of a car air-conditioning unit, but instead of cooling it extracts heat from the air to warm the water in creep mats. ■