



McCarthy & Stone Pushes The Envelope

Britain's leading retirement builder McCarthy & Stone continues to use Dimplex electric heating for its developments and worked with Dimplex to explore how to make Part L compliance straightforward.

Air tightness now has a direct effect on all the other criteria subject to measurement, because the better the air tightness, the lower the heat loss. Improvements in the standard building envelope were therefore selected as the simplest, most cost-effective and long term robust route to Part L compliance.

Changes required to the structural elements were kept to economical levels, with standard walls, roofs and exposed floor u-values being improved, and blockwork, cavity width and window u-values remaining unchanged.

Marc Primaroh, group research and development manager at McCarthy & Stone, explains: "Dimplex made Part L compliance straightforward by working closely with us to help find the solution that was right for us and our customers."

Barratt Opts For Electric

Barratt has built over 300,000 new homes and collected every major industry award along the way, including being named What House? 'Housebuilder of the Year', a record four times. Keeping build costs down is obviously fundamental and here Barratt recognises the benefits of using high performance and economical electric heating in its developments.

A selection of highly controllable Dimplex heating solutions are regularly specified, including electronic EPX and RPX panel heaters, which can be fitted to the RXPW4 programmer for a centrally controlled heating system, and PLXT1 panel heaters with built-in 24 hour timers.



Bill Haspery, Dimplex key account manager for Barratt comments: "We've been able to work closely with Barratt to ensure the company can continue to use electric heating to achieve compliance without causing too many problems."



SAP Assessor Shown The Way

SAP assessors had told Essex developer Newell Homes that its three storey apartment development would not comply with Part L if it installed its preferred heating choice - electric. However, a quick call to Dimplex's heating design experts revealed that, in fact, the simple step of incorporating solar hot water in the upper floor apartments and using the block assessment method in SAP meant compliance was easy.

Block assessment allows multiple occupancy dwellings, like flats and apartments, to be treated as a whole with the carbon emissions from better-performing homes traded against those properties which don't perform as well, to provide one single, averaged out, assessment. Simply adding low-energy solar hot water to the upper floors, where it is easiest to install, improved the whole development's SAP score.

To make life easy for the developer, Dimplex's heating design team dealt directly with the SAP assessor and the revised plans for the block easily gained Part L approval. The development is now set to go ahead, revitalising a high profile corner site in Colchester than had been unused for nearly a decade.



Dimplex Saves Developer Substantial Sums

Southampton developer Heywood Homes UK Ltd has achieved Part L compliance and saved £10k and on a development of nine flats by using electric heating instead of gas.

The architect had originally specified a gas system, incorrectly believing that compliance using electric heating can be complicated. However, with costs of over £9,000 just to run a gas supply to the site from the street, as well as higher capital costs and all the flueing issues typical of a multi-dwelling development, the developer looked again at an electric solution.

By using solar thermal water heating for some of the flats and specifying efficient EPX panel heaters with RXPW4 central control systems, Part L compliance for the whole project was achieved using the block assessment methodology in SAP. Not only that, but electric's faster installation speed meant that the development was built and even partly occupied within just two months.

Paul Dennis of Building Regulations Consultants Ltd, who assisted Heywood Homes with the project, explains: "Using SAP's block assessment methodology, improving the rating of selected properties in a development, for example by adding solar hot water, makes compliance using electric heating simple for the block as a whole."

DuoHeat Proves A Part L Winner

When Dr. Miller, a private homeowner, wanted to upgrade the electric heating in his four-bed Lincolnshire cottage, he knew he wanted to incorporate Dimplex DuoHeat electric radiators, as there were already some installed in the property and he was very happy with their performance and economy.

However, he needed to ensure the changes he wanted to implement met current Building Regulations, so he turned to Dimplex for advice.

For the space heating, the Dimplex heating design team prepared a scheme incorporating DuoHeat radiators, EPX panel heaters and a DTR towel rail - all controlled by a RXPW4 central controller; they also advised a modest improvement in the building's insulation and air tightness levels. This, together with the addition of solar thermal water heating for the domestic hot water, means the period cottage is ready to meet the energy challenges of the 21st century.



For further information on Part L and the Code for Sustainable Homes, please visit www.dimplex.co.uk. For advice on compliance, please speak to our heating design team on 0845 600 5111.

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