

Oxford Brookes University receives a first for energy efficiency



“The service was nothing short of brilliant”

Darren Taylor
at Solar Solutions

Project: Oxford Brookes University

Product: 18 x SKS 4.0 Solar Thermal Panels

Contributors: Solar Solutions

In 1992, Oxford Brookes became a university and has grown rapidly, gaining a high academic reputation. In 2007 it received a first class rating for its environmental credentials in an environmental table of universities.

Darren Taylor of Solar Solutions worked closely with Bosch to design the optimum solar system to heat the University's 25m swimming pool. “The service was nothing short of brilliant” remarked Darren. “In addition to helping with the system design, they also advised on grant availability, provided detailed analysis of performance, carbon footprint and payback periods as well as giving our installation team special training at their training centre. We were very impressed with the panels too, with high build quality and high performance.”

There are 18 solar panels, fitted using the on-roof mounting system, giving a 40m² collector surface area to keep the pool constantly up to its 29°C temperature. Buderus SC40 solar optimising controls, and a KS pump station were also fitted to maximise operating efficiency between the boiler and the panels, optimising flow rates. The specification was created using a comprehensive database of weather and temperature conditions in the Oxford area over a 10 year period and included external weather sensors as part of the controls package.

Together Solar Solutions and Bosch have ensured an environmentally friendly installation. The high efficiency solar system heats the pool for the majority of the year, only requiring supplementary heat from the existing boiler on the limited number of days without sufficient solar irradiation levels.

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