

Cogeneration – Also known as Combined Heat and Power (CHP), is the use of a heat engine or a power station to simultaneously generate both electricity and useful heat in one single process from a single fuel source. Considered highly efficient, co-generation captures heat lost during the production of electricity and converts it into useful thermal energy, usually in the form of steam or hot water. Co-generation systems are typically 60-80 percent efficient which is significantly more efficient than the traditional power plant efficiency of approximately 30 percent.

EIFS – Is an acronym for exterior insulation and finishing system and is a type of building exterior wall cladding system that provides exterior walls with an insulated finished surface and waterproofing in an integrated composite material system. EIFS are proprietary systems of a particular EIFS producer and consist of specific components. EIFS are not *generic* products made from common separate materials. To function properly, EIFS needs to be architecturally designed and installed as a system.

Photovoltaic's – Also known as PV, is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity using semiconductors that exhibit the photovoltaic effect. Photovoltaic power generation employs solar panels composed of a number of solar cells containing a photovoltaic material. Solar cells produce direct current electricity from sun light, which can be used to power equipment or to recharge a battery.

Solar Water Heating – Solar water heating (SWH) or solar hot water (SHW) systems can be either active or passive. An active system uses an electric pump to circulate the heat-transfer fluid; a passive system has no pump. The amount of hot water a solar water heater produces depends on the type and size of the system, the amount of sun available at the site, proper installation, and the tilt angle and orientation of the collectors. Solar water heaters are also characterized as open loop (also called "direct") or closed loop (also called "indirect"). An open-loop system circulates household (potable) water through the collector. A closed-loop system uses a heat-transfer fluid (water or diluted antifreeze, for example) to collect heat and a heat exchanger to transfer the heat to household water.

Building Envelope – Is the physical separator between the interior and the exterior environments of a building. The physical components of the envelope include the foundation, roof, walls, doors and windows. The dimensions, performance and compatibility of materials, fabrication process and details, their connections and interactions are the main factors that determine the effectiveness and durability of the building enclosure system.

Geothermal Heat Pump – Also known as ground source heat pump (GSHP) or ground heat pump is a central heating and/or cooling system that pumps heat to or from the ground. It uses the earth as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer). This design takes advantage of the moderate temperatures in the ground to boost efficiency and reduce the operational costs of heating and cooling systems. This energy comes from the earth and can be harnessed with relative ease in any climate, day or night; making it one the most versatile forms of renewable 'green' energy on the planet.

Renewable Energy – Sometimes referred to as simply renewables, is energy which comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat, which are renewable (naturally replenished).