Fuel Cells

Owners may wish to consider replacing part of their electrical supply with a fuel cell generator. Fuel cells are an energy user's dream: an efficient, combustion-less, virtually pollution-free power source, capable of being sited in downtown urban areas or in remote regions that runs almost silently, and has few moving parts. The fuel cell generates an electrical current by converting the chemical energy of a fuel (e.g., natural gas) directly into electrical energy. Fuel cells differ from conventional electrical cells in that the active materials such as fuel and oxygen are not contained within the cell but are supplied from outside. It does not contain an intermediate heat cycle, as do most other electrical generation techniques.

The primary obstacle to fuel cell use has been cost but there has been significant public investment in efforts to bring costs down through more efficient manufacturing techniques. In addition there are federal and sometimes state incentives to further bring costs down.

Additional information at: http://fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/fuelcells/
And : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuel_cell