I must admit that when I first saw this I was a bit skeptical. I mean I know compost generates heat and I have heard several stories of compost heaps actually catching fire... The thing is I assumed that the high temperature generated by the bacteria in the compost, would only last a few days and then drop down to a lower level for a few weeks. With this in mind I thought what's the point as you'd only have hot water for a few days at a time? However after having read through the post below, they state that this system can get up to 70 degrees centigrade and maintain this for three
weeks or so.

Now I am assuming you could do this with either a compost heap or a wheelie bin, but if you used some wheelie bins you could stagger them at different stages, so once one bin begins to fail, you can switch the coil to the next bin and so on to maintain hot water... If this has caught your interest, head over to 'The Permaculture Research Institute' for more information.

Compost Bin Hot Water System: Heats Water to 70 Degrees Centigrade

(Image from: Eco Films)