

Insulate yourself against energy price rises – special offer for Bristol and Somerset

Lots of people in our area are worried about their heating bills or are struggling to heat cold homes. As energy prices rise, you want to use less – but how can you do that and still stay warm? A new, charity-led insulation scheme might be able to help.

Good insulation can make a huge difference to your energy bills and how warm you feel. Less heat will escape from your home, so you will stay warm while spending less on heating. Cavity wall insulation can save you an average £190 per year on your bills* – even more if you have electric heating. And the savings will increase as energy prices keep on rising.

Through the Home Energy Upgrade, residents of Bristol, Taunton Deane, Mendip, North Somerset, West Somerset, South Somerset and Sedgemoor can get funding for loft and/or cavity wall insulation, paid for by an energy supplier. To get the full funding, you need to either live in a particular postcode or receive certain benefits – call 0800 082 2234 to see if you're eligible. Everybody else can get cavity wall insulation installed for a standard price of £49 or £99 (depending on your circumstances) and get loft insulation installed as well for an additional £99 (all subject to survey and available funding). These improvements would usually cost around £500 each.

The Home Energy Team's Paul Winney said, "We don't want people in cold homes turning their heating off in winter because they can't afford the bills. Getting an insulation upgrade is an excellent way to protect yourself for the long term against energy price rises – and this is a great opportunity to improve your home for a bargain price or even for free."

You'll get a free initial assessment to check your home is suitable. The friendly advisors from the Home Energy Team will explain the offer and be on hand to help you through the process.

This offer uses funding from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and is being managed by a local energy charity, the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), and Domestic and General Insulation Ltd.

So don't keep shivering til the summer – contact a friendly advisor at CSE's Home Energy Team today to find out if you're eligible and register your interest. Don't miss out on the grant available to you.

Call: 0800 082 2234

Email: home.energy@cse.org.uk

More information at: www.cse.org.uk/homeenergyupgrade

**These are estimated figures based on a gas-heated, 3-bed semi. For larger homes, or those heated by electricity or oil, the savings will be significantly higher.*

Background information

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is a national charity that helps people to change the way they think and act on energy. The charity's Home Energy Team provides free, impartial, local advice about grants for insulation, lowering fuel bills and making your home warmer.

www.cse.org.uk

www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome

Domestic and General Insulation Ltd is working with CSE to deliver part of the scheme.

www.dgi.org.uk

Details about ECO (The Energy Company Obligation):

The Carbon Saving Communities obligation (CSCo) is the part of ECO that targets households in specified areas across the UK. The CSCo focuses on low income households and areas, ensuring that these properties receive energy efficiency measures. If you live in one of these areas, you are likely to be eligible for schemes offering insulation improvements such as solid wall, loft and cavity wall insulation.

The Affordable Warmth ECO is designed to provide support to low income and vulnerable households who are least able to heat their homes to an adequate standard. Any measure which improves the thermal performance of a property and reduces the cost of a customer's fuel bills could be eligible for affordable warmth ECO support. Energy suppliers are expected to deliver primarily new heating systems and basic insulation measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation, under the affordable warmth obligation.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) is a third strand of ECO focussed on providing insulation to properties that are hard to treat, such as older properties with solid walls. It now also includes funding for simpler measures like cavity wall insulation and loft insulation for all householders.

The Home Energy Upgrade uses funding from all three of these streams.

For more information on the Government's Green Deal and ECO please see www.gov.uk/decc