



INSULATION & DRAUGHT EXCLUSION

Heating is the biggest use of energy in the home and most heat loss is through the walls and roof so if you own your home, insulate these first. Even if you don't own your home you can fit simple draught-proofing measures, such as sealing the gaps in doors, windows, letter boxes and loft hatches, to keep warm air. You can add thermal linings to curtains or make your own draught excluders and fit reflective foil behind radiators. But when insulation is increased, make sure that there is enough ventilation in the loft and rooms where moisture is produced.

To see what can be done when owners of ordinary homes refurbish to the highest standards of energy efficiency, visit a local SuperHome. See www.superhomes.org.uk

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Use your heating controls efficiently. 18°C is OK for most people unless elderly or infirm
- Use the off switch – even on your low energy items!
- Save energy when cooking by turning the heat off just before it's ready and let latent heat complete the cooking
- Use a washing line rather than a tumble dryer
- Try an energy monitor to see what is using most power



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

If your boiler is old, you can save by replacing it with a modern condensing boiler. When buying appliances, try to get the most efficient model you can afford. Look for the Energy Saving Trust Recommended label or check out www.sust-it.net. But avoid replacing appliances when it's not necessary because around half their carbon footprint is due to their manufacture.

A modern, efficient, clean-burning wood stove is a good way of saving money, but how green it is in practice depends on the sustainability of the wood used.

The Green Deal was a government scheme to help people install energy saving measures by paying back the cost of the improvements over time through their electricity bill. It has recently been cancelled but what will replace it is not yet known. http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN THE HOME

Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels generate electricity which can be used or fed into the grid. Solar hot water systems use the sun to heat water passing through small tubes on the roof. Other renewable energy systems include air- and ground-source heat pumps, where heat is transferred from the environment into the home. These systems used to receive a subsidy but the government is reducing or removing these, so check for up to date information before going ahead.

<https://www.gov.uk/feed-in-tariffs>

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/renewable-heat-incentive-rhi>



GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Good Energy www.goodenergy.co.uk 0845 456 1640 – also sell gas

Ecotricity www.ecotricity.co.uk 08000 302 302 – also sell 'green' gas (switch to them and they'll donate £60 to the Art House Southampton, see : www.thearthousesouthampton.co.uk)

Green Energy www.greenenergy.uk.com 0800 783 8851

LOCO2 Energy www.loco2energy.com 0845 0743601

Ovo Energy www.ovoenergy.com 0800 599 440

Ebico (only 24% 'green' electricity, but with no standing charge a good option for low users, and its tariffs don't penalise those paying quarterly or by pre-pay meters)

www.ebico.org.uk/ 0800 458 7689



USEFUL CONTACTS

DECC Energy Saving Advice Service tel 0300 123 1234.

The Energy Saving Trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Free, impartial advice and information on energy saving

CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) provide advice on renewable energy and green building www.cat.org.uk 01654 705950

Transition Southampton's energy group: energy@transitionsouthampton.org

The Environment Centre (tEC): www.environmentcentre.com

Sustainability know-how for homes, communities and businesses. General enquiries 02380 336172 Home Energy Efficiency Advice 0800 804 8601