

Making your home more energy-efficient

Reduce your environmental impact and running costs, while also potentially increasing your property value. Energy-efficiency is a key factor to consider when buying a new home or looking for ways to improve your existing one.

A greener future starts at home

To combat climate change, we need to change how we use energy – and our homes are a great place to start.

The importance of home energy efficiency

Homes use a significant amount of global energy and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. By making them more energy-efficient, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and protect the environment.

How to improve home energy efficiency

There are several ways to improve home energy efficiency:

Insulating your home: This reduces heat loss, keeping your home warm in the winter and cool in summer. It's especially important for older homes, which often lack adequate insulation. Insulate your entire property to prevent heat from escaping.

- **Loft insulation** is a highly effective way to prevent heat loss and lower energy bills.
- **Floor insulation** can be beneficial, particularly in homes with suspended floors.
- **Wall insulation** creates a thermal barrier, improving comfort and energy efficiency.
- **Windows and external doors** are common culprits of heat loss. Upgrading to double or triple glazing, and draught-proofing external doors can significantly improve energy efficiency.

Heating your home: Heating and hot water can account for around half of your annual energy bill. Upgrading to a modern boiler, particularly a condensing boiler, can greatly increase the efficiency of your heating your home and lower energy costs.

Switch to renewable energy: Consider using renewable energy sources like solar panels, heat pumps and biomass stoves – instead of traditional heating methods. These newer, more efficient systems can also lower costs and reduce your environmental impact.

Simple changes that can make a difference

Even small changes can help. Replace traditional light bulbs with energy-efficient LEDs, and add a cylinder jacket to your hot water tank to reduce energy consumption.

A smart investment

By making informed decisions about the right improvements to make – from insulation and appliances, right through to renewable energy sources – you can create a comfortable, eco-friendly home that saves you money.

Ready to get started?

Numerous resources can help you improve your home's energy efficiency.

- **Local resources:** Check with your local authorities for information on energy efficiency certifications and financial support programmes.
- **Energy experts:** Consult with professionals who can advise on the most effective ways to improve your property's energy performance.

Please note that this bulletin was not written in conjunction with any third-party, and that all information provided in this bulletin has been sourced from energysavingstrust.org or research conducted by the department of Energy and Climate Change.



Financial support

Making your home more energy-efficient can be a sound investment, but the upfront costs can also be a hurdle. Before diving into renovations, explore the financing options available to make your dreams a reality.

- **Loan options:** You can consider various loan options to cover energy efficiency upgrades, including equity release (increasing your mortgage to access funds), personal loans or asset backed loans, secured against your investments.
- **Government incentives:** Check for government grants, rebates or tax credits that can offset the cost of energy-efficient upgrades. These programmes vary by location, so research what's available in your area.

Relationship between EPC and property value

Research published by the department of Energy and Climate Change from a large-scale empirical study suggests that there is a positive relationship between energy rating and dwelling price per square metre. By making informed decisions to increase the EPC rating of your home, you could potentially increase its value.

Understanding EPCs: Your UK home energy report

EPCs (Energy Performance Certificates) are ratings specific to the UK housing market. They are mandatory for selling or renting a home and the A-G rating shows your home's energy efficiency and potential for savings.

Even if you're not planning to move, EPCs offer valuable insights for any homeowner:

- Estimated energy bills for heating, hot water and lighting.
- Breakdown of your home's energy use (heating, insulation, etc).
- Recommendations for improvements and potential cost savings.

An EPC helps homeowners save money on bills (a good EPC rating can also increase a property's value) and informs potential renters about a property's energy use. Landlords must also have a valid EPC (of 'E' or above) before renting out a property.

EPCs are valid for 10 years and can be obtained from accredited assessors ([found here](#)).

Please note Crown Dependency legislation may vary.

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