

Keeping warm

Cavity wall insulation, solid wall insulation, loft insulation and top-up loft insulation can be installed **FREE** of charge for the over 70s and those on certain benefits. Grant aid may also be available for these residents to update their boilers.

The District Council and the Herts and Essex Energy Partnership are offering loft or cavity wall insulation to **all residents for £99** and top-up of existing levels for **£99**.

loft or cavity wall insulation
£99
subject to availability



For more information visit www.heepgrant.org or ring 0800 980 6026

Beat The Killer Cold

Thousands of pensioners die of cold each year because they can't afford to heat their homes.

In addition to the Government's Winter Fuel Payment Scheme, Three Rivers District Council can help pensioners on low incomes who are finding it difficult to pay their heating bills. The scheme relies on donations from local businesses and residents, which the District Council will match.

Can you help?

We are in urgent need of donations from residents and businesses to help fund this scheme. For every pound you donate to Beat the Killer Cold, Three Rivers District Council will match it with another pound. Make your donation in person at Three Rivers House, by cheque to Beat the Killer Cold or by phone on 01923 727250.

For more information contact us in confidence on 01923 727250 minicom 01923 727303 or email enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk.

Is your home leaking heat?

Three Rivers District Council can offer you the chance to have your home photographed by a thermal imaging camera. The new camera is designed to highlight the areas where your home is losing heat; enabling you to target these areas and stop heat loss, thus saving you money.

A Council Officer will photograph your home and provide you with a CD of the images. Appointments cost £20 (including the CD) and spaces are limited. To find out more or to book an appointment, ring the District Council on 01923 776611 or email thermal-imaging@ourclimateischanging.com



Want to keep your home cosy and save money on your bills this winter? Read on...

HOUSE WARMING ENERGY SAVING TIPS



www.ourclimateischanging.com

For more information on saving energy go to www.ourclimateischanging.com or telephone the **Energy Saving Trust** on **0800 512 012**.

The costs and savings listed are estimates only and are dependent on size and type of house, energy use and energy tariffs.

Draught-proofing

Curtains and blinds can stop heat escaping from windows. Make curtains more effective by using thicker or quilted material with an insulating filling and close curtains at dusk to stop heat loss. Tuck them behind radiators or cut them shorter if necessary. Draught-proof doors, letter boxes, unused fire places and any other cracks that are not necessary for ventilation.

COST: Varies.

SAVING: around £20 a year.

Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs)

TRVs allow you to control the levels of heat in individual rooms.

COST: £56 **SAVING:** around £10 a year.

Reflective radiator panels

By installing reflective panels behind radiators fitted to external walls, you could stop 8 to 15 per cent of heat from escaping through the bricks and mortar.

COST: £35 to £40 **SAVING:** around £10 a year.

Turning down your thermostat

Set your thermostat to 21°C. Rather than increasing the temperature, try to prevent all draughts using the methods above. Set your heating to come on twenty minutes before you get up in the morning and to go off fifteen minutes before you leave the house.

COST: £0. New digital thermostats cost around £180.

SAVING: £40 a year per °C. A new thermostat will pay for itself in around four years.

Low energy light bulbs (CFLs)

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use 80 per cent less electricity to produce the same light as a normal bulb, which cuts harmful greenhouse gases by over 50 per cent. CFLs can last for six years: on average up to 4,000 hours longer than standard light bulbs.

COST: From £0.50 **SAVING:** £7 to £45 a year.

Low energy light bulbs (LEDs)

Light emitting diode lightbulbs (LEDs) use 95 per cent less electricity than standard lightbulbs and on average last 50,000 hours longer.

COST: From around £18

SAVING: £10 to £55 a year

Loft

Fitting loft insulation is easy and pays for itself in two years. The thicker your loft insulation the more money you will save. The current recommended depth of loft insulation is at least 10 inches (27 cm).

COST: £180 to £500, however see next page for details of discount schemes.

SAVING: around £110 a year; top up to 27cm to save an additional £30.

TOP TIP

To maximise on savings, you should read your electricity and gas meters regularly to prevent over-paying utility companies. It is important to get to know your average energy consumption so you can spot when something goes wrong.

For advice on reading your meters contact the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.

Water-tank and pipes

Insulating your hot water tank and pipes is an easy and cheap DIY job and can stop heat from escaping. If your hot water tank has under 3 inches (7.5cm) of insulation, replace it with an inexpensive 3.2 inches (8cm) jacket for extra savings.

COST: a 5mm boiler jacket costs around £10 and pipe lagging material costs around £10.

SAVING: boiler jackets can save you around £20 a year and pipe lagging can save you around £10 a year

Solid Walls

Older homes (built prior to 1930) were built with solid walls. These can also be insulated, by adding a layer to the outside or the inside of the walls.

COST: £1900-£3000, however see next page for details of discount schemes.

SAVING: Solid wall insulation could save you £300 a year.

Cavity Walls

Up to 35 per cent of heat is lost through your home's walls. Cavity wall insulation can stop over half of that heat escaping, which will save you money on your bills.

COST: Roughly £500, however see next page for details of discount schemes.

SAVING: Cavity wall insulation typically saves £115 a year on fuel bills and 610kg of CO₂.

Boiler

Heating your home is the main use of energy and old, inefficient boilers can waste a lot of your money. Boilers that are over 12 years old are likely to be losing 35 pence out of every pound spent on fuel. It can actually be cheaper to replace your old boiler. You can compare the efficiency of boilers, both old and new, by visiting the SEDBUK boiler efficiency database at www.sedbuk.com

COST: £1,500+. **SAVING:** you could save up to £110 a year.

Floors

Heat can be lost through the floor as well as through the roof and walls. You can save money on your heating bills by insulating under the floor and sealing the gaps between floorboards using a regular tube sealant. Alternatively, cover your floorboards with a rug or carpet.

COST: £10+, more if you choose to lay a carpet.

SAVING: varies depending on the size of your home, heating systems, energy supplier and the method you choose.

Door

Homes lose up to 20 per cent of heat through gaps around doors, windows and floors. Wherever you feel cold air coming in, warm air is going out. Screw a draught excluding brush onto the bottom of external doors and the letterbox to save money on bills.

COST: roughly £12. **SAVING:** around £5 a year.

Solid Wall

Cavity Wall