



Making where I live into a Low Carbon Home

1 Simple things to cut costs – and carbon

Draught-proofing

If you feel a cold draft, that means that heat is leaking out somewhere else, and that costs money! Stuffing up the holes is progressive: start big and work down to the small ones.



Check around doors and windows in particular. Older 'gappy' doors can have a barrier fitted into the spaces quite cheaply.

Go and check: Hardware/DIY centre

For windows the same applies but there is always the expensive option of double - or even triple - glazing. If you are close to traffic it has the extra advantage of being a sound insulator. Modern double glazing is amazingly efficient at keeping the heat in. The gap is filled with argon (not air) which is a better insulator, and reflective surfaces ensure warm radiation is bounced back into the house. Double glazing DIY kits are available too.

Go and talk to: a local, established double glazier

Insulation

If you go out into the cold, wear a warm overcoat. In just the same way the house needs a warm jacket as well in cold weather. Savings in heating bills – and carbon – can be huge.

Probably the first thing to look at is the loft because warm air rises and a lot can escape this way. Tight rolls of glass fibre expand hugely when unrolled, and a thickness of 12 inches, 30 cm of is not too much. You will soon notice the difference! You can DIY, but wear a good dust mask.



The walls, having a big area, lose lots of heat. Insulation is not cheap, but will save money (and carbon emissions) 'forever'. Older houses have solid walls so insulation sheets inside or outside can be fitted. Newer houses have wall cavities which can be filled by injecting insulation into them. And don't forget the floor.

For everything about insulation, get the leaflet 'Green our Herts'

download: tinyurl.com/HACCinsulate (Inspection copy on stand)

Financial help may well be available, so also

check out: www.eastherts.gov.uk/housing/home-insulation-grants

Your electricity supplier

Many people are moving to a 'Green Tariff'. But beware of false promises! Very few actually source their electricity from wind, solar and hydro, averaged over the year. The

comparison site Uswitch has awarded its Gold Standard only to British Gas for one of its tariffs and to Good Energy for all of theirs.

Good Energy Green Accreditation



All of Good Energy's tariffs achieved Gold Standard Green Accreditation under Uswitch's newly launched accreditation scheme in 2021. SVT Electricity, Good to Fix Electricity, SVT Gas and Good to Fix Gas are accredited as Gold level Green thanks to the supplier's commitment to sourcing and supplying renewable energy.

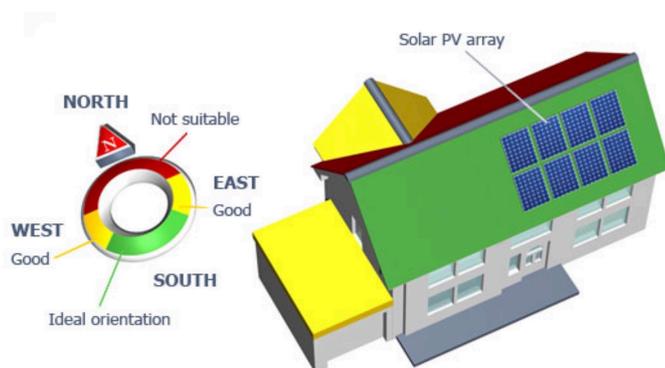
2 Two more ambitious options

1. Live in your own power station! – solar roof panels

Installed by a reputable supplier, they will last several decades, with 25 years guaranteed. Our E-facing array halved our electricity consumption and is running little diminished thirteen years later (including the inverter which turns Direct Current from the panels into 230 volt AC mains).

A caution: select a company certified by Microgeneration Certification Scheme and which has been around for 10+ years.

Any direction but north works well; the ideal is due S at an elevation of 35°.



2. Get rid of the gas boiler altogether – Air Source Heat Pumps

A warning here: serious money is involved, BUT as gas central heating is being phased out, good Govt. grants are available to help, at least until March 2022.

First the magical bit. Heat pumps heat the house not directly, but by pumping in heat from the outside air. One kilowatt of electricity pumps ~3kW of heat, so running costs are favourable, even if it's cold.

Case study: total cost of £12,180 including some larger radiators (needed) was defrayed by grants totalling £9200, paid over 7 years. Under current rules, £5000 is paid 'up front' and then the instalments.



3 Sources of information

General, for heating, draughts, solar :

Govt. Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme:

Microgeneration certification ;

MCS-approved companies near Hertford (first figure is distance in miles) :

Solar Photovoltaic

- 2.6 chelsfieldsolar.co.uk Ware
- 6.3 coolpowerelectrical.com Harlow
- 7.6 everyonesenergy.co.uk Harlow
- 7.6 oakrays.co.uk/renewables Enfield
- 8.1 betterplanet.co.uk Potters Bar
- 8.2 ysolar.co.uk Potters Bar

For morre help, contact: dickwarn@icloud.com

energysavingtrust.org.uk

tinyurl.com/HACCrhi

mcscertified.com/find-an-installer

Air Source Heat Pumps

- 5.3 aosheatpumps.co.uk Waltham Cross
- 7.6 oakrays.co.uk/renewables Enfield
- 8.1 betterplanet.co.uk Potters Bar
- 10.4 solinvictus.co.uk St Albans
- 10.6 onecompanyheating.co.uk Buntingford



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