Value Optimised Retrofit

RETROFIT ADVICE

How you can save energy in your home

What advice we'll provide

- General domestic energy efficiency advice
- Behavioral issues, including use of ventilation, heating and hot water systems, lights and appliances and their controls;
- Health and safety risks related to fuel poverty, damp and mould, cold and hypothermia; and the need to maintain buildings properly
- Reducing energy costs by reviewing and (if appropriate) changing energy tariff or supplier
- Retrofit technologies, including building fabric measures, building services improvements, LZC and "renewable" energy systems, typical capital costs and fuel cost savings and sources of funding
- Retrofit considerations, including the PAS 2035 retrofit process, any applicable quality assurance regime and how to complain about poor service
- Data considerations, including the need for data about the performance of the home and how that data might be used in monitoring and evaluation

What you can do

Turn thermostats down. The Energy Saving Trust suggests that turning room temperature by 1°C can cut heating bills by up to 10% and typically saves around £60 per year

Always turn off the lights when leaving a room

Closing doors to partially heated rooms will also save unwanted heat migration from warmer rooms

Is domestic water too hot? Cylinder thermostats and combi settings should be set at 60°C (140°F). If possible take showers rather than baths. If there are no showers can one be fitted?

Do not let hot taps run when washing, better to partially fill the basin

Instantaneous electric showers use a lot of energy, use showers from stored hot water sources heated by other fuels if possible and limit shower times

Only boil as much water as needed (and cover the cooker elements if using an electric kettle)

Use energy saving light bulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save around £55 over the lifetime of the bulb

Don't leave appliances on standby & do not to leave battery powered devices on charge unnecessarily

If TRVs are fitted use these to keep some rooms cooler for all or part of the day, typically bedrooms. But try to maintain some heating in all rooms to avoid condensation risks

Fit daylight and movement sensors on external lights

Close curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and apply DIY draught-proofing

Dishwashers use less hot water than manual dish washing but are electrically heated. A cheaper fuel heating more hot water may be more economical

Use low powered lamps if lights have to be on for long periods

Consider lower level local lighting for activities that need good light rather than bright overhead lights, e.g. reading, writing, computer use

Cover pans and fit on the correct size cooker ring

If possible, fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher: full loads uses less energy than two half loads