



4 Billion pound government funding now available for **vulnerable households** 

Consumer Rights

Press Release





# Consumer Rights

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Email: eco@consumer-rights.org | Website: www.consumer-rights.org



A new online portal by Consumer Rights allows anyone in the UK to check if they qualify for government-funded upgrades. It's simple to use and takes less than 2 minutes with a simple step-by-step process.

Due to the number of complaints about scams and cold callers approaching vulnerable homes, we have built this tool to allow people to check if they qualify using a trustworthy source. It allows use by carers, friends, or relatives on behalf of the vulnerable so they don't miss out on funding. We are happy to work with a caregiver on an applicant's behalf where required.

#### Check if you qualify - Apply for funding now at www.consumer-rights.org

Some of these measures may include;

- 1. Internal & external & cavity insulation
- 2. Loft insulation
- 3. Boilers
- 4. Storage heaters
- 5. Solar PV
- 6. Window upgrades & replacement
- 7. Underfloor insulations
- 8. First-time central heating

A full list can be found here on the 'Ofgem' website

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## Who pays for this?

Where a home qualifies for funding, installs are free of charge for homeowners, tenants or landlords; installers still get paid. Upgrades are funded through the Government ECO scheme. ECO installs must be undertaken by officially mandated installers who are vetted by Trustmark. Once the installation is complete, it will be assessed and verified. Installers are paid 'only' when this has been signed off by a government approved coordinator. You can learn more about this if you search for the PAS2030 Standards.

This whole process helps to meet government carbon emission targets which you can read more about here;

link: https://www.gov.uk/energy-company-obligation

All of our installations are completed by Trustmark approved contractors only.

# **Process Overview - Government Regulated**



#### Stage 1 Assessment

All jobs require a retrofit assessment to collect data about the property and its heat efficiency.
Assessments are undertaken by a 'Domestic Energy Assessor' who has passed their advanced retrofit qualifications.



### Stage 2 Coordination

Here is where the plan for installation will be created. A design will be proposed and discussed with the property owner about requirements under PAS. The likely measures will be Wall insulation with the appropriate ventilation strategy, loft insulation where it is absent, and efficient heating upgrades.



#### Stage 3 Install

A complete installation will be according to the coordinator's exact design parameters. This ensures that the coordinator can sign off installations before submitting the file. Every stage of the installation is photographed and recorded.



#### **Notable points;**

- 1. All installs are undertaken by Trustmark approved installers
- 2. All installs are guaranteed, and warranties will be sent to the property owner
- 3. Final decisions are made by the landlord and applicants are not under any obligation to have these upgrades completed

Note: Our representatives will never cold call or ask for any payment information. You should NEVER share this information with anyone you do not know. If you are concerned in any way, please email eco@consumer-rights.org clearly stating your concern and contact details, and a senior member of our team will call you back.



The current energy crisis is unprecedented. October 2022 saw 4.5 million UK households in fuel poverty; Today, this is predicted to rise to 8.9 million. (src. National Energy Action)

Consumer rights are committed to reducing fuel poverty and redressing the imbalance by increasing awareness of government-funded grants that enable everyone to improve their home's heating capacity and cut expenditure. All homes can access these grants, regardless of whether they own or rent residences if they meet the Ofgem qualifying criteria.

Consumer Rights will help determine if someone is eligible for assistance in securing funding to help those who need it get through the current energy crisis. At Consumer Rights, we take pride in assisting vulnerable households to improve and sustain warmth in their homes and reduce energy costs.



For those who qualify for government funding, we can lead them through the entire process and liaise with government-approved assessors, installations teams, and funders to help reduce energy costs, ensuring applicants don't need to worry.

There is no financial cost for the customer or landlord. **Upgrades are 100% funded.** At Consumer Rights, we believe everyone is entitled to live in a safe and warm environment. Sadly this is not the case for millions of people across the UK. Vulnerable people nationwide are at risk during cold winters and are struggling to keep their homes warm. We can help! Consumer Rights are offering those who fit into the "low income" and "vulnerable" category the opportunity to upgrade their home at no cost and entirely funded by the Government scheme. By completing our online form, anyone can find out what improvements could be funded for the home. We will then arrange a site visit from a government-approved assessor to confirm the help available.

The process is quick and easy. Visit www.consumer-rights.org where you can apply for funding. The process details how your current EPC rating can be brought to the highest available standards. This web portal provides all pertinent information in one location, ensuring that the procedure is simple, straightforward and efficient for the consumer and that they have a clear grasp of what is accessible after completing the process.

The Consumer Rights web portal allows anyone in the UK to check what EPC rating their home is currently rated at; if it is below the average rate of D or below, applicants may be entitled to free home upgrades.

An EPC helps people to consider energy efficiency and future energy costs of a home and provides a clear indicator of its potential to improve over its current rating.

For a landlord or homeowner, the EPC could add more value to housing stock as well as help those vulnerable, such as pensioners and low income, ensure they will have a warm home this winter and for the winters ahead.

It is important to note that this process can be completed on behalf of vulnerable adults by their relatives, friends or carers. We are sure that, like us, you will want to do their part in helping others stay safe and warm this winter.

Stay warm, stay safe. Consumer Rights



#### Household Energy Efficiency detailed release: Great Britain Data

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/970064/Detailed Release - HEE stats 18 Mar 2021 FINAL.pdf

- Estimated 7.7 million uninsulated solid wall properties by December 2020
- The ECO obligation had installed around 1,431,900 measures up to December 2020

Between January 2013 and December 2020, energy efficiency measures were installed in:

- 2,201,215 properties under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO);
- 13,830 properties using a GD Finance Plan;
- 35,347 properties using the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF) closed 2016;
- 15,564 properties using GD Communities funding closed 2016;
- 14,743 properties following the redemption of Cashback vouchers closed 2014
- During 2020, around 324,200 measures were installed through ECO an increase of 47 percent compared with 2019. Despite the impact of COVID-19 in Q2 2020, delivery rebounded strongly in the second half of the year.



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