**Making your empty home energy efficient**

**Information about energy efficiency**

# About this leaflet

Are you interested in making your empty home more energy efficient?

Whether your home has been empty for a few months or a few years, there may be things you could to improve your home’s energy efficiency.

# How energy efficient is my home?

A home’s energy efficiency is assessed by carrying out an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The EPC rates the home’s energy efficiency on a scale of A- G, with A being the best and G being the worst.

Each EPC contains information about a property’s energy use and typical energy costs. It also suggests ways to improve a property’s energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.

You must have an EPC when you are selling or renting your property and the EPC must be ordered before the property can be marketed for sale or rent.

# How can I make my home more energy efficient?

Every home is different and what works for one property, may not work for another. We recommend researching the positives and negatives of each measure before installation to ensure that it is the right choice for your property. Below are examples of some of the measures that could be installed in your home to improve your energy efficiency.

**Insulation-** Including cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, internal wall insulation, external wall insulation and floor insulation

**Energy Efficient Glazing-** Including double or triple glazing windows and doors

**Draught Proofing-** Blocking any gaps that let cold air in and warm air out

**Low Energy Lighting-** Replacing existing light bulbs with LED lighting

**Heat Pumps-** Including ground source heat pump and air source heat pumps

**Solar Panels-** Also known as photovoltaics (PV)

# Why is energy efficiency important?

There are many benefits to making your home more energy efficient. Not only can it reduce your carbon footprint, it can also significantly reduce your energy bills and increase the value of your property.

**How much money can I save?**

The Energy Saving Trust suggests the following:

* Loft insulation could save a detached house up to £950 per year
* Double glazing could save a household up to £140 a year
* Draught proofing could save a household up to £50 a year
* Solar panels could save a household up to £500 a year

For more information, please visit their website: [Energy advice for your home - Energy Saving Trust](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/)

**If you are planning to rent out your empty home**

The Scottish Government has proposed legislation to require a minimum energy efficiency standard by 2028 for the private rented sector. By making your home more energy efficient, you are ensuring that your home can continue to be rented in the future.

You can find more information about this on the [Scottish Government](https://www.gov.scot/policies/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-in-homes/) website.

# More Information on Energy Efficiency

There are many organisations across Scotland that can offer advice and further information on improving your home’s energy efficiency.

**Home Energy Scotland**

Home Energy Scotland offers free impartial advice on saving energy, renewable energy, cutting water waste and more. Home Energy Scotland to help you make informed choices about how to make your home more energy efficient and cost effective.

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership has partnered with Home Energy Scotland to set up our own referral portal.

If you would like to speak with Home Energy Scotland about your empty home, please contact the Empty Homes Advisers by email at [emptyhomes@shelter.org.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@shelter.org.uk) or by phone on **0344 515 1941** and we will make a referral for you.

**Energy Saving Trust**

Energy Saving Trust is a great source of information, with advice guides on different energy efficiency measures, explaining how they work and how much money they could save you. If you would like more information about the different options available to you, the Energy Saving Trust website has the information that you need.

You can visit there website here: [Energy advice for your home - Energy Saving Trust](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/)

**Scarf**

Scarf is a social enterprise that delivers energy advice over the phone and through home visits in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.scarf.org.uk/>

# Area Specific Advice

Some councils in Scotland have their own energy advice teams that can support you with improving the energy efficiency of your home or work closely with organisations that can offer you this support.

Click on your council below to find out more.

[**Aberdeen City Council**](https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/housing/home-energy-efficiency/home-energy-savings)

[Clackmannanshire Council](https://www.clacks.gov.uk/housing/heatingandinsulation/)

[**Dumfries and Galloway Council**](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/20785/Leaflet-energy-efficiency/pdf/0675-17_energy_advice.pdf?m=1601570289350)

[Dundee City Council](https://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/service-area/neighbourhood-services/housing-and-construction/energy-advice)

[East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210551/helping_you_stay_in_your_home/11871/fuel_billing_advice_-_energy_efficiency)

[East Renfrewshire Council](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/home-energy)

[Perth and Kinross Council](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21907/Struggling-to-pay-your-energy-bills)

[Renfrewshire Council](https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/13713/Energy-advice)

[Shetland Council](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/tenant-information/household-advice)

[West Dunbartonshire Council](https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/housing/maintenance-repairs/energy-advice/)

# Contact Us

You contact the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership to discuss any of the above. Our Empty Homes Advisers can give you more information on how to make your home more energy efficient.

Email: emptyhomes@shelter.org.uk

Telephone: 0344 515 1941