



The benefits of energy efficiency – a fact sheet.

Whether you are installing a new boiler, a hot water tank or a full central heating system, the new equipment will usually be much more energy efficient than the old kit. We can suggest other changes or home improvements that will help you as a customer to get the full benefit of the new system, and save money on your fuel bills.

Fact point – comfort and cost savings

By helping you to choose energy efficient equipment or other home improvements, We will be helping you to save money on your regular fuel bills, and making your homes more comfortable.

Fact point – more business for you

Helping you to understand energy efficiency or to apply for grants for energy saving improvements is a 'service'. It's all part of building up a good working relationship with you as a customer.

Fact point – a positive investment

If You are to gain the full benefit of a new system other improvements may be needed:

- Improve insulation and draught proofng.
- Upgrade controls so that can match the heating pattern of your lifestyle. (More advanced controls, might also be appropriate.)
- Consider a high-performance hot water tank for larger households.
- Reduce the potential for condensation and damage to decorations by improving ventilation – install extract fans in the kitchen or bathroom.

And if all these features are in place, you may be able to choose a boiler with a lower capacity.

Why is energy efficiency an issue?

Most of the energy we use in our homes comes from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas). For example, natural gas is used for cooking and heating. Most of the electricity we use for lighting and running appliances is generated in power stations that burn fossil fuels.

Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other gases into the Earth's atmosphere. These gases form a protective layer that prevents heat from escaping into space. Without this 'greenhouse effect' the Earth would be too cold to support life. But we now release so much CO₂ that the atmosphere is becoming too warm, which is affecting the Earth's weather systems – a process known as climate change.



This factsheet has been produced with the cooperation of the Heating and Hotwater Information Council (HHIC). Its aim is to promote the market for heating and hot water products and systems and to give the domestic central heating industry one united voice. Its members are made up of manufacturers of central heating equipment, including boilers, radiators, water heaters, controls and pumps, water treatment specialists, installers and merchants.



energy saving trust®



Does the property include these features, and could they be improved?

Look out for...	Tick
Insulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps the heat in and reduces draughts. If present, insulation in lofts, cavity walls and floors could be introduced or improved to meet or exceed current building regulations. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Windows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single glazing could be replaced by double or triple glazing. Low-emissivity (low-e) glass lets the sun's warmth in, but prevents heat from escaping. Trickle vents can be used to deliver the right amount of fresh air and enhance security. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heating and hot water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEDBUK A-rated condensing boilers are up to 15 per cent more efficient than conventional types. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Controls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern controls fine-tune heating and hot water systems to meet occupants' needs. Look for boiler controls/programmer, room thermostats, thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs), and hot water controls. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-energy lamps save up to £10 a year each, and last 12 times longer than conventional ones. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appliances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-rated appliances are the most efficient (look for the energy saving recommended logo on fridges/freezers, dishwashers and washing machines). 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such as solar water heating or other renewable energy measures. 	<input type="checkbox"/>

Energy use in homes – the facts at your fingertips

- Home energy use is responsible for more than a quarter of the total UK CO₂ emissions.
- When used at home, one unit of electricity* is typically responsible for the release of over twice as much CO₂ as one unit of gas.
- Cutting energy use – especially electricity – saves money and helps to protect the Earth's limited resources of fossil fuels.
- From 2007** all homes that are put on the market must have an Energy Performance Certificate that rates the property in terms of energy efficiency and environmental impact. The certificate will use an A to G scale like the one currently displayed on household appliances.

* Excluding electricity generated from renewable sources.

** England and Wales only. Alternative arrangements may exist in Scotland and Northern Ireland.



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