ThamesWey

Action Surrey

SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Our guide to saving energy in your home

Saving energy: Why should I?

Looking for reasons why you should keep reading? Here are three great ones to start you off.....

Help to improve our environment

Energy use in our homes accounts for almost 30% of the UK's carbon emmissions. Lowering this will help to stop our climate changing and reduce flooding, species extinction, and crop failure.

Enhance your health and wellbeing

Having a well insulated, energy efficient home makes you less vulnerable to cold related illnesses such as lung disease, eczema or diabetes.

Save money

For many, this is the bottom line. By reducing your energy use your disposable income could go up by hundreds of pounds every year.

Photo credit: tintography

Action Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Your starting point:

Walk around your property and consider the following questions to find out how you are using energy at home.

Then, use this booklet to find out how you can start using less.

Your (bad?) behaviour:

- How many of your appliances are left on standby? .....
- How long do you spend in the shower? .....

Pages 4 - 5

Making sense of your bills:

- When was the last time you switched energy tariff? .....
- How do you pay? .....

Pages 6 - 7

Your house:

- Have you got solid walls or cavity walls? .....
- Have they ever been insulated? .....
- Have you insulated your loft/roof? .....
- Do you have draughts coming from gaps around doors or windows? .....

Page 8

Your heating:

- How old is your boiler? .....
- What temperature do you set your thermostat? .....
- Do you use a timer? .....

Page 9

Lighting:

- What type of light bulbs do you have? .....
(CFLs, LEDs, or standard bulbs?)

Page 10

Action Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Slash your energy bills...for FREE!!

Before spending your money, think about how you are behaving at home. Here are eight tips to get you started:

Using a bowl to wash up rather than running a tap can save £25 per year.

Only filling the kettle with the water you need could save up to £7 per year.

Use your washing machine one cycle less per week to save £5 on electric and £8 on water per year.

Action Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Turn all your appliances off standby mode to save around £30 per year.

Turn your thermostat down by 1°C and save an average of £75-£90 per year.

Learning to use your heating controls properly could save you up to £150 per year.

Drying clothes outside instead of in a tumble drier would save an average of £37 per year

Spending one minute less in the shower daily will save £25 on energy and water bills per year.

Making sense of your energy bills

Here are a few tips to make sure you aren't paying more than you need to for your energy:

Change the way you pay:

Direct Debit is the cheapest way to pay, so if you pay quarterly consider switching. If you can be billed online, this is even cheaper!

Warm Homes Discount:

If you are receiving Pension Credit or certain means-tested benefits you may be able to get £140 per year off your bill. Check that your supplier offers this scheme.

Take meter readings:

This will ensure that you don't overpay for the energy you use, or build up a debt to your supplier without realising.

Priority Services Register:

If you have any kind of disability or special requirements, you can get extra assistance to manage your energy bills. Contact your supplier to ask about this.

If you can't pay your bill:

Don't stick your head in the sand! Contact your supplier as soon as you can to negotiate a payment plan. Also, seek advice from local agencies such as Citizens Advice.

Action Surrey

SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Tariff ↔ switching

The average household that hasn't changed energy tariff for two years or more saves over £200 per year on their bills by switching....

....and it's child's play!

Action Surrey is making it even easier for households to switch. Simply visit ActionSurrey.org and click on the **'switching to save'** link to find a list of Ofgem accredited energy comparison websites to enable you to find the best deal available. If you need any help with this, call us!

All the information you need to get a better tariff can be found on your energy bills:

- the name of your supplier and current tariff
- the amount of gas and electricity (in kWh) that you've used in the last 12 months
- Current payment method: direct debit, cheque, online or pre-payment meter.

Go green.

There is now a big range of 100% renewable energy tariffs from suppliers such as Ecotricity or Ovo Energy.

These are often competitively priced, and they stop you paying for energy from dirty coal and gas power stations.

Improving your home

Insulation

Loft insulation

Saves around **£140** per year.

Grants are often available to help with the cost.

25% of our heat is lost through the roof.

Double glazing

Saves up to **£160** per year.

Costs around £900-1000 per window.

10% of our heat is lost through the windows.

Cavity wall insulation

Cavity walls are common in houses built after 1930.

Saves around **£160** per year.

Grants are often available to help with the cost.

35% of our heat is lost through uninsulated cavity walls.

Solid wall insulation

Saves around **£260** per year.

Costs can be £8,000 - £22,000 but grants are often available.

Up to 66% of a home's heat can be lost through solid walls.

Draught proofing

Saves **£25 - £50** per year.

It can be installed DIY to windows, doors, floorboards or loft hatches.

15% of our heat can be lost through draughts.

Floor insulation

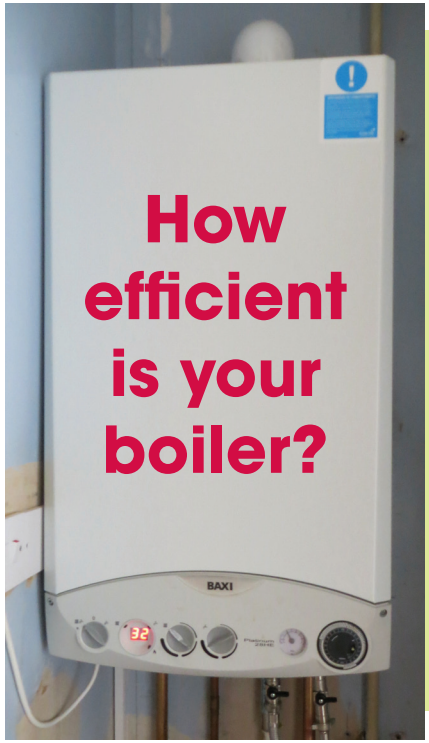
Saves around **£55** per year.

Typically costs £950 - £2,200 to install.

15% of our heat can be lost through the floor.

*all figures are taken from the Energy Saving Trust, 2015

Heating



If you haven't replaced your boiler in the last 5-10 years, you could be spending too much on your heating.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, replacing a G-rated boiler with an A-rated boiler and full set of heating controls could save you around £340 and 1,500kg of CO_2 every year.

Boilers account for about 55% of what you spend in a year on energy bills, so an efficient boiler makes a big difference.

Stuck with electric heating?

Night storage heaters can be fiddly and ineffective. If you can't figure out the controls, there are plenty of guides online, such as at www.cse.org.uk. However, if you fancy an upgrade, renewable alternatives are available (see page 11 for more information).

To get a free quote for any of these improvements, call

Actio2n Surrey on 0800 783 2503

Actio2n Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Which bulbs?

What are 'energy efficient' light bulbs?

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) can produce the same light levels as traditional bulbs but use much less energy.

Why should I use them?

On average, 13% of home energy use comes from lighting and appliances. Changing traditional bulbs for energy efficient bulbs can reduce your lighting costs 80% - 90%.

Did you know?

Switching bulbs off when you leave rooms is always better than leaving them on, no matter how soon you are coming back!

What about LEDs?

Light emitting diodes have recently become widely available. These are usually twice as efficient as standard CFL bulbs. Most LED light bulbs are suitable for conventional light fittings. Supermarkets and other retailers now tend to offer a good LED range, with more available online.

Potential Savings:

Replacing a traditional bulb with a low energy bulb saves £50-£100 over its lifetime.

Costs:

CFL: approx. £4 per bulb
LED: approx £5-£10 per bulb

LED and CFL bulbs are now made to fit all kinds of light fittings.

Action Surrey
SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

The future is renewable...

If you have money to invest it is possible to generate heat and electricity in your own home. In the long run this will save you money and reduce your environmental impact.

Solar Photovoltaics (+ battery storage)

Generate electricity from the sun. Batteries now exist to store energy that you generate on your roof and use it when you like. This has the potential to provide you with very cheap power, while the technology is improving all the time.

Solar hot water

As well as electricity, you can also heat your water on your rooftop. In the summer this technology can supply 100% of your hot water. It still works in winter too, although to a lesser extent. It also has the advantage of lower upfront costs compared to photovoltaics.

Heat pumps

An electrical pump that gathers heat from either the air or the ground. It is usually used with underfloor heating which means no radiators and a nice even spread of heat. They are a great option for people in already well insulated homes, not connected to the gas grid.

Biomass

Heating your home with wood is carbon neutral and can be very cheap if you have access to a good local supply. Systems come in all shapes and sizes from single room stoves to whole house fully automated boilers. You also have the option of using logs, or pellets.

Financial incentives

Currently, there are two government schemes that will pay you for the energy you produce. The Renewable Heat Incentive for heat, and the Feed In Tariff for electricity. To find out more about these call Action Surrey on 0800 783 2503.

Photo credit: cheapfullcoverage-autoinsurance.com

Action Surrey

SURREY'S LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

Action Surrey is a county wide impartial energy advice centre set up to help homeowners, community buildings, schools and businesses save money on their energy bills, keep warm and reduce their environmental impact.

By calling us or visiting our website, anyone in Surrey can access our network of trusted local installers who offer a range of energy saving improvements including:

- insulation
- boilers and heating systems
- renewable tech
- window replacement
- + more.

We have the latest information on all the grants and financial support available to help you with the costs of making any of these improvements, and we are always happy to provide advice on any energy related issue.

0800 783 2503

www.actionsurrey.org

@ActionSurrey **info@actionsurrey.org**

2nd Floor, Gloucester Chamber
Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6GA

ThamesWey

Action Surrey is a Partnership scheme managed by Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited (a company owned by Woking Borough Council). The registered office of Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited is: The St Botolph Building, 138 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7AR. Company No. 03835131. VAT No. 917 9263 93.

Supported by:

Elmbridge Borough Council · Epsom & Ewell Borough Council · Guildford Borough · Mole Valley District Council · Reigate & Banstead Borough Council · Spelthorne Borough Council · Surrey County Council · Surrey Heath Borough Council · Tandridge District Council · Waverley Borough Council · Woking Borough Council