



Green Homes Grant Scheme: FAQs

1) What is the Green Homes Grant (GHG)?

The GHG is a government grant that can be used to cover the cost of energy improvement measures to your property.

2) How much money can I claim?

The voucher covers the cost by two thirds of the energy efficiency improvement measure, up to a maximum voucher of £5,000. If you are on low-income then you may be eligible for a voucher covering the full cost of the energy efficiency improvements, up to a maximum of £10,000.

3) Who is eligible for the scheme?

To be eligible you must either own a property or be a landlord (private or social). The property must be situated in England. The property is not eligible if it is a new build and has had no previous occupant. Landlords aren't eligible for the low-income voucher. Additional information is found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906544/ghg-additional-information.pdf.

4) Is there a deadline for accessing the voucher?

Yes. You can access the voucher from the end of September 2020. Vouchers must be redeemed, and the improvements must be completed by the 31st March 2021.

5) What measures will the grant pay for?

A full breakdown of all measures (primary and secondary) can be found on the Simple Energy Advice website: <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant>.

6) Can I mix and match energy improvement measures?

No. Vouchers must be used for the installation of a minimum of one primary measure. Primary measures start with insulation. If your home is already suitably insulated, then you can use it for a low carbon heat primary measure. If you have used the voucher for at least one primary measure, you can also use the voucher to help pay for a secondary measure. You can also use the voucher to top up already pre-existing primary measures in your home to the recommended level.

7) Can the grant be used in conjunction with the Energy Company Obligation (ECO)?

Yes. The grant can be used in conjunction with the ECO, but only on separate energy efficiency measures. The ECO and GHG cannot be used together on the same improvement measure.

8) Can the grant be used in conjunction with the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (DRHI)?

Yes. You can apply for the GHG first and then when applying for the DRHI accreditation you notify Ofgem. The grant money will then be deducted from your DRHI payments (These payments last for 7 years, based on the amount of renewable heat generated).

9) How much money can I save through the scheme?

Annual savings are dependent on the measure you install. Loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation have the potential to save you between £150 and £225 per year. Drought proofing measures could see potential savings of between £20 and £30 per year. The biggest potential savings could come from low carbon heat, with air source heat pumps having potential annual savings of close to £700.

10) How does improving the energy efficiency of my house reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Improving the energy efficiency of your house helps to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released when heating it. CO₂ is released through the burning of oil, gas or solid fuels in order to heat your homes, of which in 2015, 88% of households heated their homes through greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuel boilers.

In 2014, the average UK household emitted 8.1 tonnes CO₂ annually, of which roughly 29% came directly from heating. This contributed roughly 12% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2014, with the main greenhouse gas being CO₂. For context, the average UK household emitted roughly 2.3 tonnes CO₂ from heating alone. Thus, with 26.7 million UK households in 2014, household heating releasing roughly 62.7 million tonnes (Mt) of CO₂. Improving the energy efficiency of your home, therefore, means that less heating is required and thus, less CO₂ is emitted.

Improving energy efficiency of your home is only one step you can take to reduce your household emissions. See the following pdf for an overview of what your household can do to reduce emissions: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/5CB-Infographic-FINAL-.pdf>.

11) How much Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) can the Green Homes Grant reduce?

The amount of CO₂ saved through the installation of energy efficiency measures varies depending on the measure implemented. Measures such as air source heat pumps could save up to 2,600 kg CO₂ per year. Saving from insulation measure vary, but savings from insulation can range from roughly 185 kg CO₂ per year to 930 kg CO₂ per year. An overview of rough savings can be found on the energy saving trust website: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-insulation/green-homes-grant-scheme>.

12) How do I apply?

You can apply for the voucher from the end of September 2020. We recommend using the Simple Energy Advice website to check your eligibility first. You can then identify applicable home improvements, and their estimated cost. The site will also provide you a list of accredited providers.

You must choose your measures and obtain a quote through the Simple Energy Advice survey and accredited providers prior to applying for the voucher.

You must only enter a commitment with providers once you have received confirmation that your green homes grant voucher has been accepted.