

## Energy efficiency and renewable energy grants & subsidies

So you'd like to reduce your home's carbon footprint but you lack the cash to do it? Most energy efficiency measures pay for themselves in very little time. For example cavity and loft insulation can reduce fuel bills by up to £150 a year and costs only around £250 to install.

There are a number of grants and subsidies available for installing energy efficiency measures (especially insulation) & renewable energy options. The first port of call should be the **Energy Saving Trust (EST)**. You can ring the EST local advice centre on 0800 512 012.

The EST website has a useful search tool for grants and offers:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Easy-ways-to-stop-wasting-energy/Energy-saving-grants-and-offers/Search-for-grants-and-offers>

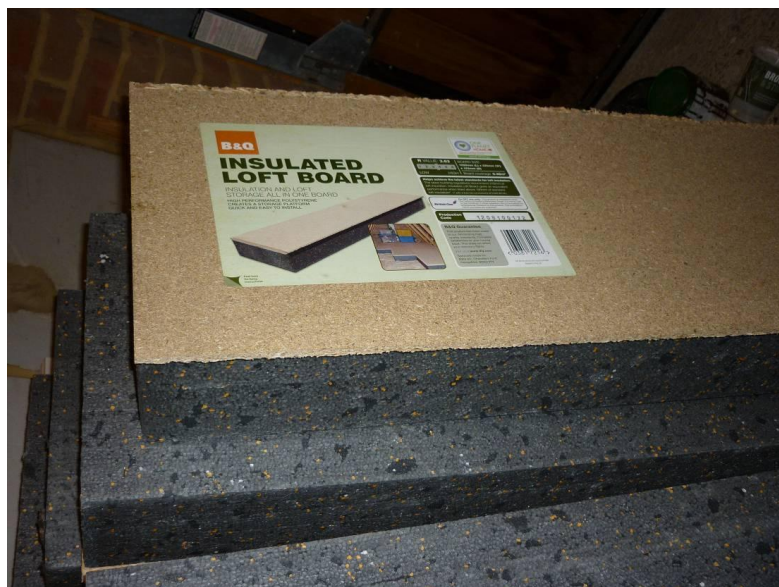
## Warmfront

For people on benefits, the Government funds the **Warmfront** scheme which provides up to £3,500 to households to improve their heating and energy efficiency.

<http://www.warmfront.co.uk/> or 0800 316 2805

**Energy suppliers** have to fund energy efficiency measures under the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) legislation – they will be spending £2.5 billion over the next three years. 40% of the funding goes to people on benefits and those over 70 but there are various grants and subsidies available to all households. The offers depend on the individual energy suppliers (the EST tool lists them) but they change frequently.

For example, EON currently (October 2010) subsidises loft insulation material at Homebase, while British Gas subsidises a similar offer at B&Q. This includes these great new loftboards (see picture) which allow you to insulate your loft while simultaneously creating storage space. They cost £5.98 per board.





The energy suppliers also offer professionally installed loft and cavity wall insulation - they are generally available to all householders, but are often cheaper for customers of individual companies. Just ring your energy company and ask them what they have available.

### **Waverley Borough Council - Warmth for 1000**

Grants of up to 100% (depending on income and individual circumstances) are available for wall & loft insulation until March 2011, as well as wood-fuel boilers in households not connected to the gas grid. To find out whether you are eligible for a grant call on **0800 980 0902**.

### **Rented accommodation**

If you live in private rented accommodation and don't qualify for a Warmfront grant, you might be able to persuade your landlord to install energy efficiency measures. Landlords can claim up to £1500 against tax every year as the Landlords' Energy Saving Allowance (LESA). The allowance is for actual money spent on cavity & loft insulation, solid wall insulation, draught proofing and hot water system insulation, floor insulation.

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/LettingYourHome/DG\\_175186](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/LettingYourHome/DG_175186)

### **Renewables**

Once you've improved the energy efficiency of your home, you may also want to think about renewable energy options. Feed-in-tariffs for renewable electricity options were introduced in April 2010. The scheme guarantees a minimum payment for all electricity generated by the system, as well as a separate payment for the electricity exported to grid.

The tariffs cover solar electricity (PV) (roof mounted or stand alone), wind turbines (building mounted or free standing), hydroelectricity, anaerobic digestion and micro combined heat and power. For more information see:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Sell-your-own-energy/Feed-in-Tariff-scheme>

From 2011, a similar scheme (the Renewable Heat Incentive is expected to become available for renewable heat (i.e. generated by a biomass boiler or heat pump).

*N.B. Information accurate as of 31 October 2010 but is subject to change.*