

Thursley Climate and Sustainability Action

Eco-friendly Living – it's Eco-logical



This article is about the UK Government's New Green Homes Grant which launches at the end of **September**. The grants will cover at least two-thirds of the costs, up to **£5,000** per household for renovation projects to make your home more **energy-efficient**. For example, if you wanted to install insulation costing £4,000, you would pay £1,320 and the government would give you a voucher for the other £2,680. Households with the lowest income in England can receive a voucher of up to **£10,000**, covering the full cost of renovations. If you're thinking of doing something, this is definitely the time to get started! There are two categories of renovations: **primary** and **secondary** measures.

You can apply for one or more primary home renovation projects under the scheme. You cannot claim for work that has already been carried out. You may, however, use the grant to top up your existing installations, such as adding loft insulation to meet the latest specifications. The following energy-saving projects are covered:

- Insulation of solid walls, cavity walls, under floors, lofts, flat roofs, room in roof, insulating a park home
- Air source heat pumps
- Ground source heat pumps
- Solar thermal
- Biomass boilers

Secondary renovations are only possible if at least one primary measure is carried out. Also, you only qualify for secondary measures if you are **upgrading** to these measures—for example, if you already

have double glazed windows you cannot qualify for new double glazed windows. The following energy-saving projects are covered:

- Upgrading to **double glazing**
- Upgrading to **secondary glazing**
- Upgrading to **triple glazing**
- Upgrading to draft-proof **doors** (when replacing doors that have been installed prior to 2002)
- Upgrading to draft-proof **windows**
- Heating controls
- Hot water tank/appliance tank thermostats/smart meters for heating.

The costs of the secondary measures cannot exceed the costs of the primary measures.

To apply for a grant, homeowners will need to complete an online application form, which will be available through the government's Simple Energy Advice service when the scheme launches in September 2020. You'll also be able to apply by post or phone if you can't access the internet. First, you'll need to choose from the list of 'primary' measures (insulation and low-carbon heating), get a quote from an accredited trader and have it approved before you get the voucher. You must choose from a list of registered tradespeople in your area to do the work who will be TrustMark approved or MCS registered.

If you want more information about the **New Green Homes Grant**, please don't hesitate to contact:

jdswift.thursleyipc@btinternet.com.