

## Government schemes to help you keep warm

There are a number of local and national schemes you may be eligible for that could help you:

- The Durham County Council Warm Homes Campaign
- The Warm Home Discount
- The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Scheme
- The Green Homes Grant
- The Smart Export Guarantee and the Renewable Heat Incentive
- Winter Fuel Payments, Warm Home Discount and Cold Weather Payments.



### ❖ The Warm Homes Campaign

- This is a Durham County Council initiative that aims to provide a one stop shop to help you access whatever help you are entitled to, whether through government or private sector schemes. This is an ideal first place to look for help.
- You can access the Warm Homes Campaign website here: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3135/Warm-Homes-Campaign> or call the Warm Homes Team on 03000 268 000.

### ❖ Warm Home Discount

- The Warm Home Discount scheme can provide a £140 discount off your energy bills if you meet certain pension credit or low income eligibility qualifications. See here for more details: <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>
- Alternatively, contact Charis Grants Ltd. on 0330 555 9424, who can provide additional advice.

### ❖ The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Scheme

- ECO is a set of grant schemes. It is paid for by the energy supply companies and requires energy suppliers to help householders become more energy efficient.

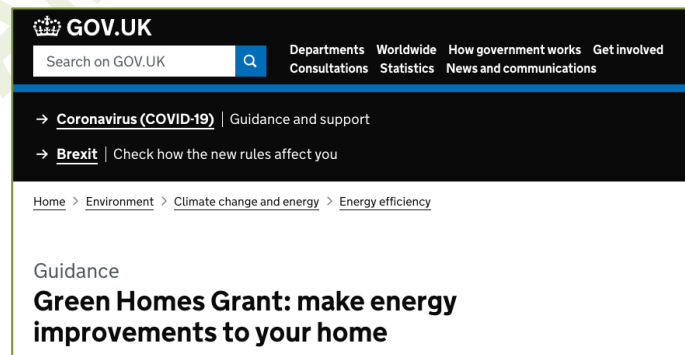
- It's particularly focussed on helping low income households and those living in harder to treat properties. These could include old houses, blocks of flats or any brick-built home without a cavity, or only a very small cavity.
- The current ECO scheme, known as ECO3, running from December 2018 until March 2022, requires participating energy suppliers to promote the installation of measures that lead to financial savings on energy bills through the **Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation**. The overall HHCRO target under ECO3 is over £8 billion.
- If you qualify for the Warm Homes Discount (see above) then you are also eligible for the ECO Scheme. You may also be eligible for help under the ECO scheme if you are on certain benefits which can be seen here:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/eco/support-improving-your-home>

- The ECO scheme is available to owner occupiers as well as those in rented properties, so long as you have the permission of your landlord.
- The Warm Homes Campaign (see above) can provide further advice on how to access the ECO scheme.

## ❖ Green Homes Grant

- The Green Homes Grant provides a voucher of up to £5,000 (£10,000 for certain low-income households) to cover up to two thirds of the cost of certain energy efficiency measures. The scheme is available to homeowners and landlords.
- The vouchers must be spent on a range of 'Primary' measures (e.g. insulation and low carbon heating) and, depending on how much these cost, the voucher will also fund additional 'Secondary' measures (e.g. glazing, heating controls and hot water tanks).
- Details of the scheme and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>



## ❖ Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

- The smart export guarantee (SEG) is an obligation set by the government for licensed electricity suppliers to offer a tariff and make payment to small-scale low-carbon generators for electricity exported to the National Grid, providing certain criteria are met. It provides a guaranteed price for domestic renewable energy generating systems. The technologies include: solar photovoltaic (solar PV), wind, micro combined heat and power (CHP). Details here:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/smart-export-guarantee-seg/about-smart-export-guarantee-seg>

- The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (Domestic RHI) is a government financial incentive to promote the use of renewable heat generated by biomass boilers, solar water heating and certain heat pumps. People who join the scheme and stick to its rules receive quarterly payments for seven years for the amount of renewable heat produced. This government website tells you more:

<https://www.gov.uk/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>

## ❖ Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments

- If you were born on or before 5 October 1954 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.
- If you think you may be eligible but do not receive this, you can make a claim here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim>
- Cold Weather Payments provide £25 for each period of consecutive 7 day periods where the temperature is below freezing between 1 November and 31 March. If you are on certain benefits you will qualify – see here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>
- This should be paid automatically so you don't have to make a claim.

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