

Barningham Lighting Initiative Project

In 2020, we did an energy survey of the village which concluded that electricity costs are high and that measures could be taken to reduce energy use by adopting energy efficiency measures. In this year, 2022, we have seen unprecedented increases in energy costs, with the potential to cause hardship, thus making the imperative for reducing energy use greater than ever.



Replacement of inefficient lightbulbs is an easy and cost-effective way to reduce electricity use and cut a property's carbon footprint. However, with a multitude of different lighting types on offer, it can be daunting to understand what type of replacement bulbs to buy and for some, the difficulty in removing and replacing bulbs is a barrier as well. As the village is currently running close to the network supply capacity (causing supply problems at the local bakery), any reduction in electricity use will be beneficial.

❖ Help to cut electricity bills

Thanks to a grant from Durham County Council, we are able to offer free LED light bulbs to all Barningham residents. We can even do a survey of your household lighting, identify your most costly lights and replace them for you!

Lighting accounts for 10-20% of average household electricity demand according to the Energy Savings Trust. Although this sounds like a small amount, with rapidly rising energy costs and risk of power outages in the coming winter, it's a good time to replace inefficient bulbs. LED bulbs are the most cost-effective type, with lower running costs and significantly longer life. They are also easy to recycle as they do not contain toxic chemicals.

A survey of a typical three-bedroom Barningham house found potential savings of £130 per year, surprising the owner who had already replaced a lot of bulbs with LEDs. The main culprits were halogen bulbs in spot lights and task lighting – lights that look small, operate on low voltage but have relatively high wattage, which is what needs reducing if you want to save money.

To assist you in reducing your lighting costs, Barningham Net Zero are offering FREE lighting audits and replacement of the most commonly used types of bulbs (see further details overleaf). If you prefer to do-it-yourself, we can provide your household with a number of free LED bulbs. Simply fill in our DIY Lightbulb Replacement form to get your free bulbs (subject to availability). You can also give us your waste bulbs for safe disposal if you wish.

