

# [Energy efficiency: what you need to know](#)

Improving energy efficiency, by reducing the amount of energy that households and businesses need, forms a crucial part of our British Energy Security Strategy.

We want to continue making UK homes more comfortable and cheaper to run. Every therm of gas saved grows our energy security and brings jobs to the UK.

We have already saved households on the lowest incomes around £300 a year on bills through energy efficiency measures – and we are investing over £6 billion on decarbonising the nation's homes and buildings.

## **What support does the British Energy Security Strategy offer to help consumers with the cost of energy or lowering bills?**

The British Energy Security Strategy is part of an overall movement to greater energy security, building on the commitments set out in the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan, the Energy White Paper, the Heat and Buildings Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy.

We have announced various measures worth billions of pounds to support consumers to cut their energy consumption, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, make their homes warmer and more energy efficient and help them to reduce their bills.

This includes making available £9 billion to protect against the impact of rising global energy prices through a £200 discount on energy bills this autumn and a £150 non-repayable reduction in Council Tax bills, while giving up to £300 in Winter Fuel Payments to recipients of the State Pension and contributing £140 to the energy bills of 2.2 million low-income households through the Warm Home Discount.

## **Why is energy efficiency important?**

Improving the energy efficiency of UK buildings is the quickest way we can support families and businesses, to respond to rising energy prices.

Over 90% of our homes are heated by fossil fuels, accounting for a third of UK total gas use. The price spikes in the gas market mean households are particularly exposed to these changes and facing energy bills upwards of £2,000.

Improving the efficiency of our homes could reduce our heating bills by around 20% and reduce our dependency on foreign gas.

Energy efficiency measures include double glazing, cavity wall, insulation to efficient light bulbs.

## **What is the government doing to improve energy efficiency?**

We have gone further than any government in setting out an ambitious strategy by:

- publishing the landmark Heat and Buildings Strategy with an accompanying £3.9 billion of support.
- this includes nearly £1.8 billion targeted at low-income households through the Home Upgrade Grant and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. This builds on more than £1.2 billion we have already invested this Parliament to support low-income households to install energy efficiency measures. We are also investing more than £1.4 billion to upgrade public sector buildings. This brings capital spending on buildings decarbonisation over the lifetime of Parliament to £6.6 billion
- expanding the Energy Company Obligation to £1 billion per year from 2022-2026, helping 133,000 low-income households annually to improve their energy efficiency
- combined, all this funding will improve up to 500,000 homes, saving households hundreds of pounds per year on their energy bills and reduce our reliance on gas
- setting a 2035 date by which we intend to phase out the sale of new and replacement gas boilers
- introducing a package of measures to increase deployment of heat pumps to 600,000 installations per year by 2028, and expanding heat networks through the Green Heat Networks Fund and designating heat network zones.

## **What has the government achieved so far?**

We have already saved households on the lowest incomes around £300 a year on bills through energy efficiency measures – and we are investing over £6 billion on decarbonising the nation's homes and buildings.

The number of homes with an Energy Efficiency Rating of C or above is 46%, up from 13% in 2010, and rapidly rising thanks to government commitments.

The UK has a strong track record in making homes more energy efficient, with 40% in England now at EPC B and C or better and 84% of new builds in the top energy efficiency bands A or B.

By 2025, around 700k homes will be upgraded, and by 2050 all our buildings will be energy efficient with low carbon heating.

## **How is the government helping to cut the cost for**

## consumers?

We will cut the cost for consumers who want to make improvements by:

- zero-rating VAT for the next five years on the installation of energy saving materials, including insulation and low carbon heating, saving between £1000-£2000 on the cost of an air source heat pump
- launching the £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme this month. Thanks to government support, heat pumps are now priced much more competitively compared to gas boilers. We want as many people as possible who want one this year to be able to have one installed, so will continue to keep uptake of the scheme under review
- 'rebalancing' the costs placed on energy bills away from electricity to incentivise electrification across the economy and accelerate consumers and industry's shift away from volatile global commodity markets over the decade. This will also ensure heat pumps are comparatively cheap to run over time. We will publish our proposals on how to do so in 2022, considering overall system impacts and limiting the impact on bills, particularly for low-income consumers

## What is the government doing to support people already in, or about to get pushed into, fuel poverty?

The Heat and Buildings Strategy sets out how we are prioritising the most vulnerable in society, ensuring that those on low income and/or at greater risk of fuel poverty are able to access energy efficiency measures and not be left behind.

- we're giving up to £300 in Winter Fuel Payments to recipients of the State Pension and contributing £150 to the energy bills of 2.2 million low-income households through the Warm Home Discount
- last summer, BEIS consulted on proposals which would expand the scheme from around £350 million to £475 million per year (in 2020 prices), reaching 3 million households from winter 2022/2023 onwards. The additional funding and proposed reforms would mean around 780,000 more households would receive rebates of £150 from winter 2022/2023 until 2025/2026
- through the Cold Weather Payment scheme we also provide an extra £25 a week for poorer households when the temperature is consistently below zero
- the most vulnerable can get additional help with essential costs through our £500 million Household Support Fund
- the Energy Company Obligation is now worth £1 billion per annum. ECO has been in place since January 2013 and has delivered around 3.4 million measures in around 2.4 million homes. We have committed to a 4-year, £4 billion extension and expansion of the scheme to accelerate our efforts to improve homes to meet fuel poverty targets

## How are you supporting property owners improve their properties?

We are catalysing a world-leading competitive low-cost green finance market to help property owners improve their properties stock. For example:

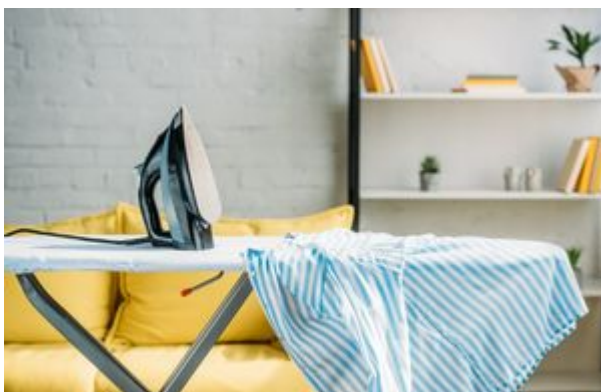
- we are working with mortgage lenders to support homeowners to improve the energy performance of their properties and will publish our response to the consultation on Improving Home Energy Performance through Lenders in due course
- the policy proposals in the consultation could help improve the comfort of 2.8 million households and lead to bill savings of £196 per property by 2030
- our £1.8 million Green Home Finance Innovation Fund, which completed in March 2022, was a key early step in supporting the lending community to design, develop and pilot green finance products for homeowners
- as announced in the Net Zero Strategy, the Innovation Fund will be followed by a £10 million Green Home Finance Accelerator programme, focused on supporting the development of innovative green finance products and services, enabling homeowners to decarbonise their homes and improve thermal comfort
- finally, we are also working with the new UK Infrastructure Bank to explore whether they can play a wider role in scaling up green home finance in the future

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## [TRA opens new investigation into subsidised ironing boards](#)

Press release

The Trade Remedies Authority has opened a new anti-subsidy investigation into imports of ironing boards from Turkey.



[The Trade Remedies Authority \(TRA\)](#) has today (Thursday 7 April) opened a [new anti-subsidy investigation](#) into imports of ironing boards from Turkey.

This investigation is in response to an application from a UK manufacturer to investigate whether ironing boards imported from Turkish Free Zones are subsidised and causing injury to UK industry. The TRA will conduct an Economic Interest Test (EIT) as part of its investigation to assess whether introducing new trade remedy measures to address the injury, would be in the UK's economic interest.

Information from interested parties will be used for the TRA to establish whether imports of ironing boards from Turkish Free Zones benefit from subsidies, whether these imports are causing injury to UK industry and whether it would be in the UK's interests for countervailing measures to be put in place to mitigate any injury.

The TRA exists to defend UK economic interests against unfairly traded imports into the UK. This new investigation will examine whether Turkish subsidies are unfairly impacting British manufacturing of ironing boards and the broader economy.

The period of investigation is 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, while the injury period is 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2021.

View further information on how to contribute to the investigation and on the TRA's current case load, including its investigation into aluminium extrusions and transition reviews into steel safeguard measures, iron and steel Wire Rods and heavy steel plate.

Background information:

- UK industries concerned about imports have been able to submit applications for a new trade remedy measure since January 2021. These applications are considered by the TRA to see if there are grounds for an investigation.
- Countervailing remedies are one of three trade policy tools to counter imports which are causing or threatening injury to domestic industry, the other two being anti-dumping and safeguard remedies. Countervailing remedies address imported goods which are being subsidised by foreign governments.
- Ironing boards made in the UK are mostly sold to the domestic market. The UK imports more ironing boards than it exports. Steel prices and anti-dumping remedies can impact fluctuations in imports and exports of ironing boards.
- Turkish Free Zones are designated areas of enterprise that are subject to special regulatory treatment like tax breaks and other government support. They are deemed to be outside of the country's customs territory.
- Some alleged benefits for companies based in Free Zones are: opportunity to benefit from tax advantages, opportunity to transfer profits,

facilitation of foreign trade, trade facility free from customs duty procedure.

- This is the second new case (not a transition review) that the TRA has opened and follows our first new investigation case into potential dumping of Aluminium Extrusions that opened in June 2021 and is still under investigation.
- The Trade Remedies Authority is the UK body that investigates whether new trade remedy measures are needed to counter unfair import practices and unforeseen surges of imports.
- The TRA is an arm's length body of the Department of International Trade (DIT) launched on 1 June 2021. Before its launch, it operated as the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) of DIT.
- Trade remedy investigations were carried out by the EU Commission on the UK's behalf until the UK left the EU. Forty-four EU trade remedy measures of interest to UK producers were carried across into UK law when the UK left the EU and the TRA is currently reviewing each one to assess whether it is suitable for UK needs.

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## [PM meeting with President Andrzej Duda of Poland: 7 April 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with President Andrzej Duda of Poland this afternoon.



The Prime Minister welcomed President Andrzej Duda to Downing Street this afternoon to discuss how the UK and Poland could accelerate defensive support to Ukraine.

The two leaders shared their horror at the massacre by Russia forces in

Bucha.

Both leaders agreed that the West needed to accelerate its support to Ukraine in the coming days and go further and faster with the equipment it was supplying.

The Prime Minister thanked the Polish leader for Poland's kindness and generosity to Ukrainian refugees, and told President Duda that the UK would be tripling its humanitarian support to Poland, providing £30 million to help ensure vital supplies reached those fleeing Ukraine.

The Prime Minister also updated the Polish President on the UK's plan to wean itself off Russian oil and gas and welcomed Poland's ambitions to do the same.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's commitment to a new security and defence partnership with Poland and said he looked forward to launching it formally in the coming months, building on the two countries' already strong friendship.

The leaders agreed to stay in close touch.

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## [Consultation launched on replacing the outdated Vagrancy Act](#)

- The government is determined to end rough sleeping and is repealing the antiquated Vagrancy Act
- Consultation launched to inform replacement legislation – ensuring the police can protect the public and communities

The government is set to repeal the Vagrancy Act as part of plans to end rough sleeping for good.

The government has driven a 43% drop in rough sleeping since 2019, which is currently at an 8 year low.

We will bring forward a bold new strategy that builds on progress to date and sets out how we will end rough sleeping for good and support vulnerable people off the streets, alongside wider work to continue to protect communities from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Earlier this year the government pledged to repeal the Act – in place since 1824 – which makes it an offence to sleep rough or beg in England and Wales.

Begging is harmful to those involved and can have a detrimental impact on wider communities.

The [consultation](#), launched today, seeks views on proposals to respond effectively to begging, potential penalties for harmful begging and how to encourage vulnerable people to engage with rehabilitative support.

This will ensure the police and other agencies can respond effectively and help communities feel safe while ensuring rehabilitation and support is at the heart of our approach.

Rough Sleeping and Housing Minister Eddie Hughes MP said:

No-one should be criminalised simply for having nowhere to live, and it is right that we repeal the outdated Vagrancy Act.

We must balance our role in providing essential support for vulnerable people with ensuring that we do not weaken the ability of police to protect communities.

The Vagrancy Act 1824 is an Act of Parliament that makes it an offence to sleep rough or beg in England and Wales.

In February 2022 an amendment was made to the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing (PCSC) Bill which will enable full repeal of the Vagrancy Act. In order to ensure that there is no gap in legislation, and to ensure that the police have the tools they need, this repeal will come into force when replacement legislation is in place.

The [consultation](#) will last for 4 weeks from 7 April 2022 to 5 May 2022.

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## [DVLA contact centre opening hours: Easter 2022](#)

News story

DVLA's contact centre opening times over Easter 2022.





<b>Date</b>	<b>Opening hours</b>
<b>Thursday 14 April</b>	8am to 7pm
<b>Good Friday 15 April</b>	closed
<b>Saturday 16 April</b>	8am to 2pm
<b>Easter Sunday 17 April</b>	closed
<b>Easter Monday 18 April</b>	closed
<b>Tuesday 19 April</b>	8am to 7pm

Customers will be able to use our [online services](#) throughout the Easter period.

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