

# THE GREEN HOMES GRANT

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

*Homeowners and landlords will be able to pay for vouchers to improve the energy efficiency of their homes as of September, as part of the Green Homes Grant scheme.*

***Please note that the Simple Energy Advice (SEA) service has no connection to the Sustainable Energy Association and simply shares the same acronym.***

### **What is the Green Homes Grant scheme?**

The Green Homes Grant scheme was introduced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak in July 2020 as part of plans to improve the energy efficiency of UK homes. The initiative will provide eligible homeowners and landlords with vouchers to support two-thirds of the cost of home improvements, up to £5,000. Low income households in receipt of certain benefits will receive vouchers to cover the full cost, up to £10,000.

### **When will the Green Homes Grant vouchers be available?**

The Green Homes Grant scheme vouchers will be issued from the end of September and must be redeemed by the time the scheme closes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **Who is eligible for the vouchers?**

Homeowners in England will be able to access the Green Homes Grant Scheme. This includes park homeowners, long-leaseholders, shared ownership and private or social landlords. New build properties that have not previously been occupied are not eligible.

#### **Low-income households**

Low-income households in receipt of certain benefits are eligible for Green Homes Grant scheme vouchers covering the full cost of improvements, up to £10,000. Qualifying benefits include but are not limited to Income Support, Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), and Universal Credit.

The full list of eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

### **What does the Green Homes Grant cover?**

#### **Primary Measures**

The Green Homes Grant scheme vouchers must be used to install at least one of the following insulation or low carbon heating measures. They cannot be used to replace a measure already installed but can be used as a 'top up' to bring it up to the recommended level.

These are considered 'primary' measures.

Insulation measures include solid wall, cavity, underfloor, loft, flat roof, or room in roof insulation. *Low carbon heating measures include air or ground source heat pumps, solar thermal and biomass boilers.*

## Secondary Measures

Provided at least one of the above primary measures is installed, the vouchers can also be used for further improvements. The cost of these additional measures must not exceed the primary measures listed above.

These are considered 'secondary' measures.

*Draught proofing, double or triple glazing (when replacing single glazing), secondary glazing (in addition to single glazing), upgrading to external energy efficient doors, heating controls, hot water thermostats and insulation.*

*Subsidy can also be claimed as part of the installation. The table below provides more information on the items that can be paid for using the voucher, and those that will not be covered, based on governmental advice, correct as of 15 September.*

Covered by the voucher	Not covered by the voucher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Retrofit coordinator and advisor services</li> <li>✓ Architectural detailed design drawings</li> <li>✓ Planning permission application fees</li> <li>✓ Listed building consent application fees</li> <li>✓ Damp specialist and structural engineer costs</li> <li>✓ Modelling to evaluate moisture risk</li> <li>✓ All materials and labour (plus VAT)</li> <li>✓ Scaffolding and waste removal</li> <li>✓ Necessary structural improvements e.g. repairs to brickwork or floor joists</li> <li>✓ Repairing and improving controlled ventilation</li> <li>✓ Air tightness tests to check for adequate ventilation and excessive infiltration</li> <li>✓ Resolving and eliminating excessive infiltration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Training costs for contractors</li> <li>✗ Design services or decoration not linked to a retrofit</li> <li>✗ Asbestos removal</li> <li>✗ Additional buildings insurance premiums</li> <li>✗ Changes to homes not linked to energy efficiency improvements, e.g. new openings, boiler replacement, underpinning etc</li> <li>✗ Furniture storage or removal</li> <li>✗ New windows (unless replacing single glazing)</li> <li>✗ Energy Performance Certificates not linked to a retrofit</li> <li>✗ Alternative accommodation costs during disruption</li> <li>✗ Insulation to any of the following: New extensions</li> <li>✗ Extension without building regulations</li> <li>✗ Extension without planning permission</li> <li>✗ Extension without fixed heating</li> <li>✗ Outbuildings</li> <li>✗ Conservatories with no fixed heating</li> </ul>

## How does the application process work?

Eligibility for the Green Homes Grant scheme can be checked on the [Simple Energy Advice \(SEA\) Website](#).

Here, homeowners will be able to answer a series of questions to determine potential eligibility. Should this be the case, they will be prompted to provide their address and further details of their property to inform individual advice on the types of measures that may be appropriate.

This information can then be used to develop a personalised plan for the homeowner. This will provide details on each measure and a list of accredited local installers to provide quotes for the work desired. When the scheme goes live at the end of September, these quotes can be submitted as part of the application process. Work should not be agreed before the homeowner has received confirmation that their application has been successful.

**More detail on the application process is expected in due course.**

## **Ensuring high quality improvements**

Only accredited tradespeople can carry out work under the Green Homes Grant scheme to ensure consumer protection and high standards. This means that installers must be registered with TrustMark and with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) if installing low carbon heating measures.

The [Simple Energy Advice \(SEA\)](#) website will direct households to a list of registered tradespeople in their area to choose from.

## **What else do I need to know?**

A Local Authority Delivery Scheme has also been launched as part of the Green Homes Grant. This part of the scheme will deliver £500 million to fuel-poor, low income households in England, targeting properties with low Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings (band E, F, and G). Eligible measures to help improve these homes include any measures that are compatible with the existing Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).

Local Authorities are invited to bid for a share of the first £200 million of funding for local schemes. Successful projects will be confirmed by the end of September and work must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

*A further £300 million will be made available through Local Energy Hubs in England later, which will focus on the procurement of services to upgrade eligible homes.*