



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk



Warm Healthy Homes



**Easy
Read**

Warm Healthy Homes Fund

What do you think?



How to use this survey on a computer



You can complete this survey on your computer.



You can follow the green button on the website to complete the survey.



You will be able to type in the boxes on the online survey.



If you need help, please email: HEB@communities-ni.gov.uk

Easy Read

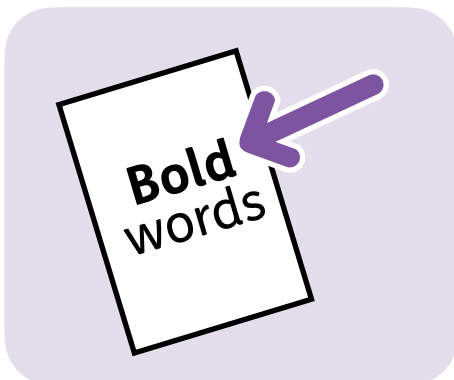


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

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About this booklet



This booklet is from the **Department for Communities.**

We are part of the government in Northern Ireland.



This booklet will tell you about our **Warm Healthy Homes Fund.**

The **Warm Healthy Homes Fund** is our plan to make homes warmer and people healthier.



Please read this booklet and answer the questions to tell us what you think about our ideas for the fund.



We will use your answers to help us decide how the fund should work.

Warm and healthy homes

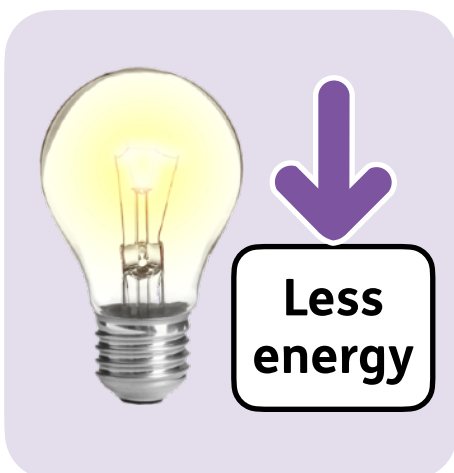


Many people do not have enough money to pay for **energy** in their homes.

Energy is things like gas and electricity.



This can make it harder for people to stay warm and healthy.



The Warm Healthy Homes Fund will help make homes more **energy efficient**.

Energy efficient means you need less energy to do things like heat your home.

We want to:



- Make changes to people's homes to make them more energy efficient.



- Use less **fossil fuels** to make energy.

Fossil fuels are things like oil, coal and gas.



- Make less **carbon pollution**.

Carbon Pollution is when chemicals from fossil fuels harm the air around us.

Who is the fund for?

The Warm and Healthy Homes Fund is for people in Northern Ireland who:



- Have a low **household income**.

Your **household income** is how much money everyone in your home has to live on.

AND



- Own their home or rent their home from a **private landlord**.

A **private landlord** is a person or business that rents out homes to other people.

About this survey



Please send us your answers to this survey by 11.59pm on 19th August 2026.



You do not have to answer all of the questions if you do not want to.



We will follow the law about keeping your information safe and private.



You can learn more about how we will use your information here:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/dfc-privacy-notice>

Deciding who can apply



We think that the following people should be able to apply.

You can apply for the fund if you get:



- The personal allowance part of **Universal Credit**.

Universal Credit is money from the government to help you pay for the things you need to live.



- **Pension Credit**.

Pension Credit is money the government can give you if you get a pension and have a low income.

National Minimum Wage



You can apply for the fund if your household income is below the **National Living Wage**.

The **National Living Wage** is the lowest amount of money per hour that the government says workers should be paid.

When we work out your household income, we will:

Benefits



- Not include certain disability and health **benefits**.

Benefits is money from the government to help pay for things you need to live.



- Not include **winter fuel payments**.

Winter fuel payments is money from the government to help you heat your home in winter.



If you have over £6,000 in savings, we will include some of this money when we work out your household income.



There will be different rules for people under and over 60 years old.



If you are under 60 and have saved £6,000 or more, we count some of your savings as extra money each week.

For every £250 you have above £6,000, we add £1 to your weekly income.



If you are 60 or older and have saved £6,000 or more, we count some of your savings as extra money each week.

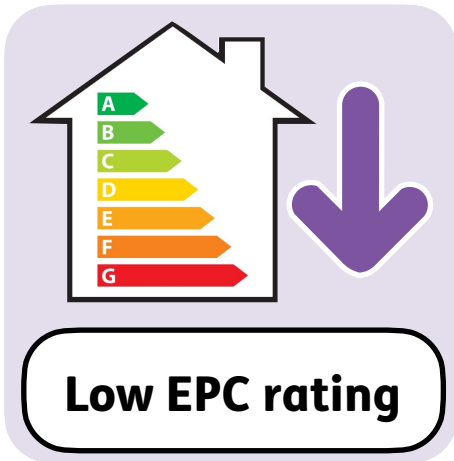
For every £500 you have above £6,000, we add £1 to your weekly income.



If lots of people apply to the fund, we may not be able to help everyone.



This means we need to decide which people we should help first.



We think that we should help people who live in homes with a **low EPC rating** first.

An **EPC rating** is a score that says how energy efficient your home is.



A **low EPC rating** means that you need to spend more money on energy to heat your home.



We will need to check your home to work out your EPC rating.



If your home has a score of E, F or G, this will count as a low rating.



Before we start working on your home, we will visit your home to look into what changes we need to make.

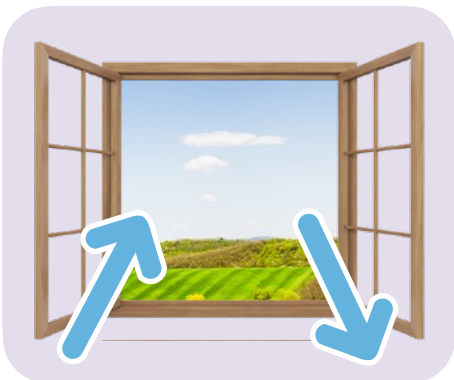


After we have done all the checks, we will follow the steps below in order.

Step 1: Insulation and ventilation



Insulation is adding materials to your home to help keep it warm.



Ventilation is when air can flow in and out of your home.



We will add insulation and ventilation to every home that needs it.

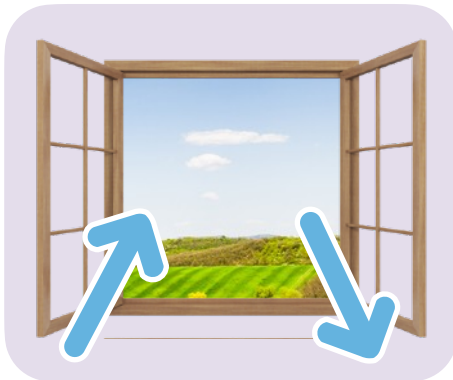
We may add insulation and ventilation by:



- Adding insulation to your loft and walls.



- **Draught proofing** - this is fixing cracks and gaps to stop them from letting in cold air.



- Making sure that your rooms have enough ventilation.



- Putting in new windows.

Step 2: Heating systems



Heating systems are systems that help keep your home warm, like central heating.

We will only put a new heating system in your house if:



- Your home does not have a heating system.



- Your home's heating system is broken and cannot be fixed.



If you need a new heating system, we will offer to add an **air source heat pump** to your home.



An **air source heat pump** is a kind of heating system that moves heat from the air outside into your home.



If we cannot add an air source heat pump, we will offer you a different heating system instead.



We may also add other equipment, like new radiators and heating controls if your home needs them.



We will also offer **solar panels** and batteries to homeowners.

Solar panels are big panels that go on your roof and use the sun to make energy.

Private landlords and tenants



Remember, **private landlords** are people or businesses who rent out homes to other people.



Private tenants are people who pay a private landlord rent to live in a home.



We think that private landlords should be able to get free insulation and ventilation in homes that they rent out **if the tenants are able to apply for the fund.**



This means that private tenants would be able to apply for the fund.



We are thinking of providing replacement windows if they are needed, and solar panels to these rented homes.

How much will we spend on each home?



We will spend up to £35,000 on most of the homes we work on.



We will spend up to £45,000 on **hard-to-treat homes**.



Hard-to-treat homes are homes that are harder to work on or need extra help, like solid wall properties.



Some people may also need to make small repairs before we can do any work on their home.



We will give these people up to £500 to help them do this.

How the fund will work

You will be able to apply for the Warm Healthy Homes Fund by:



- Phone.



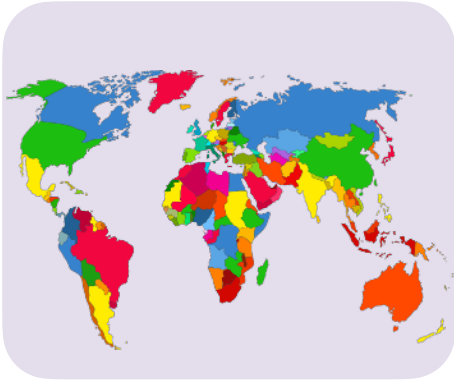
- Email.



- Online form.



Local charities and groups may also be able to help you apply for the fund.



We can give you information in different languages.



We can also give you information in different ways, like Large Print and Easy Read.



We think that people should only be allowed to apply for the fund once.

Working well and staying safe

We will:



- Make sure that all of the work on your home is done well and in a safe way.



- Only give you a list of workers who have the right skills to do the work.



- Make sure that the workers follow the rules when they work on your home.

We will also:



- Check the work on your home after it is finished.



- Give you a clear way to make a **complaint** if you need.

A **complaint** is when you tell us you are not happy with the work we have done.



- Give you support if something goes wrong with the work on your home.

After the work is finished



After the work is finished, we will give you information on how to use your new systems.



After 6 to 12 weeks, we will call you to see how you are doing.



You will be able to get extra help if you need it.

How to tell us what you think

You can tell us what you think about our ideas by:



- Online form:

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-warm-healthy-homes-fund



- Email:

HEB@communities-ni.gov.uk



- Post:

Home Energy Branch
Department for Communities
4th Floor, Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7EG

If you tell us what you think by email or post, please:



- Say if you are speaking for yourself or for an organisation, but **please do not tell us your name or contact details.**

**Warm Healthy
Homes Fund
Consultation**

- Write the words **Warm Healthy Homes Fund Consultation** at the top of your letter or email.



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

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