



## Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is important because not only does it help the environment, but it can also save you money on your household bills.

### How can you save money and energy?

- Use energy efficient light bulbs – these bulbs can last up to 12 times longer than a standard light bulb. Energy efficient light bulbs use a fraction of the energy used by normal bulbs and can save you almost £100 per bulb over their lifetime.
- Buy a washing machine, tumble dryer, fridge, freezer, cooker, microwave oven, or dishwasher with an 'A' energy rating on the energy efficiency label. An 'A' rated fridge compared to a 'G' rating can save you up to £45 per year.
- Set the hot water cylinder or combination boiler at 60 degrees. This is the optimal temperature for bathing and washing.
- A typical UK household could save £37 each year on their electricity bills if they switched off household appliances rather than leaving them on standby. Some appliances still use up to 25% of normal power in standby mode.
- Ensuring that your hot water cylinder has an insulation jacket correctly fitted could save you £20 per year. If you need a cylinder jacket, please let us know and we can arrange to have one fitted.
- Turn your thermostat down by one degree. This could save as much as 10% from your heating bill. The ideal temperature is between 19 and 21 degrees centigrade.

- If your property has a loft with no insulation or insulation that is less than 200mm in depth, please contact us as loft insulation can provide a saving of up to 30% on your energy bills.
- If your property has a cavity wall that has not been insulated, please contact us as cavity wall insulation can provide up to 25% saving on your energy bills.

Please contact your Housing Officer if you would like to know more about any of these suggestions.

### More energy savings ideas

- Put full loads into your washing machine or use the half-load or economy setting, if possible. Set the water temperature as low as possible.
- Defrost your freezer regularly and don't leave the door open any longer than necessary.
- On average, we fill the kettle with at least twice the amount of water we need. Taking care when you fill the kettle can save you, on average, £29 a year.
- Use the right sized pans when cooking and putting the lids on saves gas or electricity.

- Buy your gas and electricity from one supplier. This could save you up to 30% on your household bills, remember to always shop around to get the best deal.
- An ordinary shower uses only two-fifths of the water needed for a bath. Use water butts to collect rain water from guttering. This can then be used for watering the garden or washing cars.
- Have dripping taps fixed quickly, by calling us when they start to drip. One dripping tap can fill a bath in one day, so you will literally be pouring money down the drain.

### Further Information

If you would like more information on energy efficiency, contact us, or any of the organisations below:

**British Gas Advice Line (for hard of hearing)**  
0845 955 5502

**Scottish Power Benefit Health Check**  
0800 072 9009

**Winter Fuel Payment Helpline**  
0845 915 1515

**Keep Shropshire Warm**  
01743 277 123

You can also apply to your energy supplier for fuel poverty reductions to your bills if you are having difficulty paying your energy bills.

If you would like this information in large print, braille, on audio cassette, in a language other than English or as an easy read document please contact landlord services on: 0345 678 9005 or email: [council.landlordservices@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:council.landlordservices@shropshire.gov.uk)