

Energy efficiency in the home



a greener West Berkshire

See your home's energy efficiency rating and available grants [here](#)

Switch off lights

Switching off a light for just a few seconds will save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again, regardless of the type of light. This will save you around £20 a year on bills.



Turn down thermostat by 1°C

This can save around £55 a year on bills and reduce your carbon footprint by 300kg, plus you won't really feel a difference!

Quick changes



Switch to eco-friendly lightbulbs

LED or energy-saving bulbs can last 10 times longer than standard bulbs and can save the average household £35 a year on bills



Turn appliances off standby

You could save £55 a year by switching off appliances at the plug or ensuring they are shut down fully.



Turn off the tap

Running the tap wastes more than 3 litres of water a minute, so turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face. Use cold water if you don't need hot.

Use your appliances efficiently

You can save around £42 a year from your energy bill just by using your kitchen appliances more carefully. Make sure that dishwashers and washing machines are full before you use them, and use the most efficient settings.

Choose energy-efficient white goods

Look out for A (or A+ or A++) energy ratings so appliances are efficient and cheaper to run (note energy ratings have recently changed)



Easy Home Improvements



Get a smart meter

Smart meters can help householders save energy by increasing awareness of energy use, helping to cut waste. They can also improve energy bill accuracy.

Go tech-savvy with a smart thermostat

They allow you to control your heating remotely via a mobile app meaning you have greater control over your heating, reducing waste.



Water efficient shower head

If your shower is heated by your boiler or hot water tank, a water efficient shower head could help you save money by using less water. A four person household could save £55 a year on gas for water heating, as well as £45 a year on water bills

Insulation and draught-proofing

Insulating your home can prevent much of your heat loss, meaning you use less energy heating your home. Cavity wall and loft insulation are the most effective, with around 25% of heat being lost through roofs. Draught-proofing around windows and doors could save you around £45 a year [Read more here](#)



Solar panels

If solar panels are suitable for your home, you can generate clean energy and sell excess back into the grid. [Read more here](#)

Long Term Improvements

Upgrade your boiler

Boilers are responsible for 55-60% of our annual energy bills. If you have an old inefficient boiler, switching to a modern A-rated boiler could save you up to £570 a year whilst reducing your CO₂ emissions. To go even greener, look into renewable heat sources. [Read more here](#)



Heat Pumps

A heat pump captures heat from outside your home and moves it inside. You can get different types of heat pumps, and they are considered a greener alternative to gas boilers. [Read more here](#)

Upgrade your windows

Energy efficient glazing includes both double and triple glazing. Along with reducing energy consumption, they can improve sound-proofing, reduce draughts, and reduce condensation. [Read more here](#)



West Berkshire
C O U N C I L