

The *real* Green Deal... please stand up

Is grant support for home insulation soon to be replaced by loans? The government's latest proposals certainly imply this.

The Green Deal proposes to spread the cost of new home insulation across future energy bills associated with a property. It is hoped that this will remove any obvious barrier to getting the work done. A guiding principle is that insulation installed must save the householder more money than the extra charge on their bills.

However, we don't yet know how much loan interest repayments will add to the cost. Currently cavity wall and loft insulation cost under £100 each in some areas thanks to Council grants. The Energy Saving Trust estimates households can save £115 each year with cavity wall insulation. This is a remarkable return on investment.

Get insulation installed in 2011 and you'll benefit from a grant. Beyond March 2012, when energy supplier grants are up for review, this is much less certain. So, for householders with savings, no intention of moving home and no desire to pay interest on a loan, today's best offers arguably represent the *real* green deal.

Taking advantage of grant offers is easy. You can compare insulation deals at cocoonyourhome.co.uk or on 0800 8048 777, or check with the Council.

Cocoon is an independent comparison service operated by United Sustainable Energy Agency, a not-for-profit organisation.



Cavity wall insulation offers rapid payback

Photo courtesy of cocoonyourhome.co.uk

Notes for editors:

1. The government currently anticipates the Green Deal coming into play in Autumn 2012. More information is available on the Department of Energy & Climate website.

<http://tiny.cc/9wf7m>

2. Councils in Chiltern, Cherwell, Milton Keynes, Southampton, South Bucks, Watford, West Oxon and Vale of White Horse are all providing grants to support low price insulation. Wycombe will launch a £99 insulation offer in June 2011.
3. Discounted loft and cavity wall insulation is available to all local residents who own their homes or rent privately. If you receive income or disability related benefits, you may be able to get it done free.
4. This article was produced by United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA).
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5. USEA (usea.org.uk) works in partnership with local authorities throughout Bucks, Berks, Beds, Herts, Oxon, Hants and the Isle of Wight. We operate an Energy Saving Trust advice centre and offer an insulation installer comparison service called Cocoon (cocoonyourhome.co.uk).
6. The information contained within this article is correct to the best of our knowledge, but is subject to change. USEA cannot in any way be held legally responsible for any advice given or any work carried out as a result of this information.