

Here for Hart Bulletin

Cost of Living Crisis – Help & Support Available



Here for Hart Directory

Keeping local community partners up to date with the latest activity from the Here for Hart programme and shining a light on community initiatives and services. This issue contains the ways Hart residents can get advice and support with energy bills and the rise in the cost of living.

Here for Hart is a programme coordinated by Hart District Council. You can contact us at hereforhart@hart.gov.uk



Here for Hart Directory

The Communities Team at Hart District Council, in partnership with Hart Voluntary Action have launched our Here for Hart Directory. It is an online directory of services available to Hart residents, groups, clubs, and community services.

There are 21 different categories, including Care & Support, Community Venues, Disabilities & Health Conditions, Employment, Housing Support, Social & Leisure Activities, Money Matters and Transport & Mobility.

Please take a look at: hereforhartdirectory.org.uk



Inside this issue:

Community Foodbanks / Pantries / Hubs	2
Community Hubs – Local Information	4
Financial Help with Energy Bills – Local Advice & Support	6
Cost of Living Crisis – Local Help & Support	7
Financial Help - Grants & Funding	9
Energy Efficient Homes – Help Available	12
Quick Tips to Save Energy in your Home	14
Quick Tips for a Warmer Home	15
Disclaimer	15



Community Foodbanks / Pantries and Hubs



Hart Foodbank: Has a number of pick-up points across the district where clients can collect food parcels. There are also volunteers who will deliver to the client, if with prior agreement. Please note that direct referral is not possible for the Foodbank - [Hart-Foodbank](#)

Hart Community Pantry: People can self-refer to the Pantry. The focus remains on people on low income or benefits - [Hart Community Pantry - Yateley Industries | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Our local Community Pantry at [Yateley Industries](#) provides support to members who are experiencing fuel poverty. Community Pantries provide access to affordable food and basics. People can register as a member and pay £5 per shop to receive at least £15 worth of fresh, frozen, and general foods, plus other basics. Contact details are Telephone 01252 872337 or Email info@yateleyindustries.net

Community Bus: There is a service offered by the Hartley Wintney Community Bus for Hartley Wintney residents only, to get people to the above outlets and this is currently free to access. [Hartley Wintney Community Bus: Here for Hart Directory](#)

New Mobile Community Larder: Hart Foodbank together with Fareshare have set up a Mobile Community Larder in Darby Green. The community larder is run by volunteers for the benefit of their local community.

They can be located at: St Barnabas Church, Brinns Lane, Darby Green, GU17 0BT
EVERY Thursday: Between 1pm – 2.30pm.

For more information visit [FareShare Larder : Here for Hart Directory](#) and for a membership form please email FSSouthernCentral@fareshare.org.uk

A **second** new mobile food Fareshare pantry will be opening soon at Fleet Baptist Church to help serve more local people in crisis.

Other local food provisions in neighbouring districts are:

Community Grub Hub CIC:

Located at: 2a Windsor Way, Aldershot GU11 1JG and open every Tuesday 10am to 4pm.

For more information, please follow the project's [Facebook page](#) or email grubhub@rvs.org.uk

The Community Cupboard at the Vine Centre, Aldershot:

Tel: 01252 400196 Opening hours: Monday – Wednesday 10am – 3pm.

FREE for anyone in the community - www.thevinecentre.org.uk email: info@thevinecentre.org.uk

Church of the Good Shepherd:

The Church of the Good Shepherd is open Friday mornings at 10am – 12noon for anyone to collect a bag of free food essential items. Church of the Good Shepherd, Sand Hill, Farnborough, GU14 8ER - Phone: 07845 175 158 or Email: community@goodshepherdchurch.org.uk

The Larder Foodbank:

They can deliver food parcels to families and individuals in need on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. To receive a food parcel, you must be referred by a professional. This can be: Your Key Worker/Social Worker, your children's school, your GP surgery, Housing Association, Citizen's Advice, Rushmoor Borough Council, Christians Against Poverty (CAP). Please call the Larder Phone (07501 202546) and leave a message with your details.

The Hygiene Bank:

If you are an individual needing help, community partners use the goods received from The Hygiene Bank to support the people they work with. To get products from us, you must fit our eligibility criteria. They will endeavour to support you and signpost you to a partner organisation in your network that can help [The Hygiene Bank - get-products](#)



Fleet Phoenix: The Fleet Phoenix food store offers food & hygiene parcels to those families most in need. They are non-judgmental in their support and offer parcels of store cupboard food to help keep the bills down. If you need help or would like to make a professional referral, please email: info@fleetphoenix.co.uk or call: 01252 812308 for more information.

The **Address is:** The Point Youth Centre, Harlington Way, Fleet, GU51 4BP

Food donations and household items can be made at any of the 3 Sainsbury's in Fleet (Fleet Road, Aldershot Road and Sandy Lane) where they have collection baskets.

Links and apps for useful discounts, offers and reduced food options:

[get the Too Good To Go app](#) to find reduced price food near you.

The Help for Households campaign has a list of supermarket offers that you might find helpful [discounts and offers from supermarkets, clothing and shoe shops and utility companies](#)
These offers are being added regularly.

Community Hubs - Local Information



Warm Spaces / Banks

Warm banks and safe places where the heating is on, and people can go to get warm in the winter if they cannot afford to heat their homes. **Fleet Library** offers a lovely space and various groups at the library to welcome those who need help and would like to meet new people. These are:

1. **Coat Exchange** - Where people can donate coats and/or take a coat if required. It is not compulsory to exchange a coat and you don't have to take a coat if you donate one and you don't have to donate a coat to take one.
2. **Games Morning** - This will run at Fleet Library every Friday morning from 10am – 12noon starting Friday 7th October. Games supplied but feel free to bring your own.
3. **Singalong** – this is held every Monday at 2.15pm – 3.15pm. Singing brings great health to both mind and body especially when you are singing golden oldies, musical classics, and modern favourites. This isn't a choir, and all abilities and vocal ranges are welcome.
4. **Craft and Chatter** – this is running until 7th December 2022 on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10am – 12noon. Bring your own project and join likeminded crafters to share ideas, advice and friendship.
5. **Warm Welcome** – Fleet Library will be starting a new initiative to encourage people to feel 'warm and welcome' this winter and are registering as a space via [Warm Welcome | Equipping thousands of warm spaces across the UK](#) in the next few weeks.
6. **Sasha's Project** are looking at running a '**special day**' aimed at helping young people and their families with mental health and wellbeing. This event will take place at the library soon. Details to follow.

Yateley Library are offering the following social groups:

1. '**Friendly Friday**' – this is a social drop in for everyone and a chance to meet others for a friendly chat, game or some colouring. Runs every Friday 1pm - 3pm, starting Friday 14th October.
2. **Craft and Chatter** - every Monday 10am – 12noon.

All Libraries across Hampshire are starting up:

1. **Food Vouchers** – Until 31st October ALL libraries can issue £15 food vouchers which can be used in supermarkets.
2. '**Chat About**' – from November, regular sessions in libraries will offer a drop-in centre for people to come to a warm space. Food and drink can be brought along.
3. **Warm Bags** – Local libraries have been allocated warm bags to distribute to the local community. Each pack will contain the following items:
 - Thermal gloves hat, scarf and socks
 - Lidded, insulated cup
 - Fleece or gilet
 - Hot water bottle

Warm Places - new in Hartley Wintney/Heckfield

1. Wednesday mornings at the Methodist Hall (at the rear of Hartley Wintney Methodist Church, 61 High Street, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8NY) from 10.00 – 12.00. A team of volunteers will be pleased to welcome you and make you feel at home, while you enjoy hot drinks and cakes. If you wish to make a small donation to charity, you may but this is not essential.
 2. Thursday afternoons from 2.00pm-4.00pm, at the True Living Centre, next to Rosie's tea Shop, (Holdshott Farm, Reading Road, Heckfield, G27 0JZ). Rosie and Paula are starting a Friendship Group. This will be a place where all are welcome, come have a cup of tea /coffee, share time together. Please contact: Paula 07388 329916 or Rosie 07969 897537
-

Financial Help with Energy Bills

Local Advice & Support



Citizens Advice Energy Advice Programme

Citizens Advice Hart are providing advice and support for energy related issues. They can offer targeted advice about whether you can get help towards the cost of heating and lighting your home if you are on a low income or claiming benefits. The aim of this programme is to offer additional target advice and support covering all types of energy issues to ensure that clients are living in warm efficient homes on a tariff they can afford. They can also assist you to access support funds where eligible. Citizens Advice Hart are providing advice and support for [energy related issues](#). To book a referral please submit your details via the [contact form](#) making sure you mention energy advice: [Contact - Citizens Advice Hart](#)

Citizens Advice are still running **The Energy Voucher Scheme**. This scheme has been extended. To apply, please get in touch with CAB for energy vouchers and any other funding advice and email <mailto:help@citizensadvicehart.org.uk> or call the Advice Line on 0808 278 7864.

Citizens Advice Hart Online Information

There are answers to lots of questions about your energy supply here: [Energy supply Advice](#). There is advice about topics such as what to do if you are struggling to pay your energy bills or what you can do if you've been told your energy supply will be disconnected. You may not realise that you can get help towards the cost of heating and lighting your home especially if you are on a low income or claiming benefits. You may have approached us for a different issue altogether such as benefits & tax credits, financial services or housing for example.

Step Change – Debt Charity

Provide free, confidential, and expert debt advice and money guidance. They recommend the best solution or service for the individual's circumstances and support them while they deal with their money worries for as long as they need help. [StepChange - Free Expert Debt Advice](#)
CAP UK is a local Debt Help Charity: [CAP UK](#)

Local Welfare Provision Hardship Grant: This is a financial assistance scheme administered by Hart District Council to help people who are in a crisis or emergency situation and where low-level financial assistance would prevent this situation from escalating. Eligibility criteria apply and more information can be found in our [Covid-19 information hub | Hart District Council](#)

Fleet Lions Fuel and Utilities Project: Fleet Lions are supporting families experiencing fuel poverty <https://www.fleetlions.org.uk/index.html>

Please email fuel@fleetlions.org.uk if you are in debt to your energy suppliers or water utility.

Minor Works Grants: if you are eligible, you may be able to apply for a minor works grant for repairs or improvements to your home, including energy efficiency works. For more information click here: [Minor Works Grants \(hart.gov.uk\)](#).

Alternatively, email Hart District Council Private Housing Sector team on housing@hart.gov.uk or phone 01252 774420

Cost of Living Crisis

Local Help & Support



SUPPORT FOR HART COMMUNITIES

1. Support with Gas, Electric & Water Bills

If fuel and utility bills take up a high proportion of a household's weekly income, you may be eligible for support and should contact [Citizens Advice Hart](#)

Local Citizens Advice across Hampshire have been provided with funding to offer households with direct financial support to pay gas, water and/or electricity bills, potentially including arrears. The value of any individual funding award will be dependent upon individual circumstances assessed by Citizens Advice.

2. Community Grants

Helping community and voluntary organisations provide local support

[Community organisations](#), who know their communities best and are in the ideal position to provide support, [can apply for Community grants](#) to support initiatives that help people in need with food and fuel.

3. Food Vouchers

Food Voucher Scheme for vulnerable households and pensioners

The Council launched a **Food Voucher Scheme** for vulnerable households and pensioners in the District. The food vouchers are a one-off voucher that can be used in supermarkets to help with the rising cost of living, freeing up money for other bills. The vouchers will be issued directly to the following eligible recipients from beginning of September:

- **Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit** £65
- **Local Council Tax Support** £30
- Working age recipients will receive a letter with a QR code to claim the voucher online
- Pension age recipients will receive a physical voucher. The nearest supermarket has been pre-selected, prior to issue, based on postcode.

Distribution and enquiries about the allocated vouchers have been contracted out to Wonde Ltd

Email: support@evouchers.com

Help Centre: help.evouchers.com

Further information will be communicated by Hart District Council.

Please email hardship@hart.gov.uk

4. Support with Housing costs

There is also help available for housing costs in exceptional circumstances, where support cannot be met by existing schemes. This is available Hart District Council. Please contact housing@hart.gov.uk

The fund cannot be used for ongoing support for rent or mortgage payments. Eligibility for discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must be considered first, and consideration given to whether there is a statutory risk of homelessness and therefore a duty of support is owed through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).

5. Holiday Activities Food Programme (HAF)

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Supporting community-based organisations in providing healthy and enriching activities and healthy meals for children aged 5 – 16 years.

[HAF - Connect4communities](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) is providing funding to local authorities to coordinate a programme that provides healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children during the 2022 Easter, Summer and Christmas Holidays. Hampshire County Council and the Isle of Wight Council are delivering this through the connect4communities programme.

The HAF scheme is in place for 2022 – 2025.

6. Hitting the Cold Spots: Fuel/Energy Advice

Hampshire County Council offer Hitting the Cold Spots: Fuel/Energy advice which is a service commissioned for Hampshire residents. It is delivered by The Environment Centre and focuses on keeping your home warm and your family healthy which is expensive and sometimes difficult. Hitting the Cold Spots Advisors can help you with keeping warm at home and reducing your energy bills. This phone advice line is open to all Hampshire residents. Some services have eligibility criteria and the advisors will be able to talk through the best possible solution for each caller. Service includes:

- assistance to switch your energy provider or tariff
- signposting and referrals to other organisations, such as: benefits and debt advice and safe and well visits
- eligibility check for the Warm Home Discount
- home visits from our Advisors offering advice and practical support
- support with temporary heating measures if you are without heating
- help to access funding, where available, for boiler repairs and replacements

Further details can be found on the [Here for Hart Directory of Services](#):

[Hitting The Cold Spots: Fuel/Energy Advice](#)

Telephone 0800 804 8601, 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Call 023 8033 6172 for landline rates. May not be free from mobiles.

7. Hardship Grant

The Local Welfare Provision Hardship Grant is a financial assistance scheme to help people who are in a crisis or emergency situation and where low level financial assistance would help prevent the crisis or emergency from escalating. If you are facing other hardship issues, Hart District Council have help and support available. Please email hardship@hart.gov.uk

Financial Help – Grants & Funding

Park (mobile) Homes Warm Home Discount: if you are living as a permanent Park Home resident you may be eligible for a Warm Home Discount of £140. To check your eligibility, visit their website: [Park Homes Warm Home Discount \(parkhomeswhd.com\)](https://www.parkhomeswhd.com)

Winter Fuel Payment: Winter Fuel Payment is usually automatically paid if the person gets the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit). If the person qualifies but does not get paid automatically, they will need to make a claim. For more information click here: [Winter Fuel Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment) or phone the winter fuel payment centre on 03459 15 15 15

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956 you could get between £250 and £600 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a [‘Winter Fuel Payment’](#).

[The amount you’ll get](#) includes your ‘pensioner cost of living payment’. This is between £150 and £300. You’ll only get this extra amount in winter 2022 to 2023. This is in addition to any [Cost of Living Payment](#) you get with your benefit or tax credits.

You qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if the following applies:

- you were born on or before 25 September 1956
- you lived in the UK for at least one day during the week of 19 to 25 September 2022 - this is called the ‘qualifying week’
- you have a genuine and sufficient link to the UK - this can include having lived or worked in the UK, and having family in the UK

You may still be able to get [Cold Weather Payment](#) or [the Warm Home Discount Scheme](#), even if you do not qualify for Winter Fuel Payment.

Warm Home Discount Scheme: You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021 to 2022 under the [Warm Home Discount Scheme](#).

The money is not paid to you – it is a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between October and March. You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out.

The discount will not affect your [Cold Weather Payment](#) or [Winter Fuel Payment](#).

There are 2 ways to qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme:

- you get the [Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit](#) - known as the ‘core group’
- [you’re on a low income](#) and meet your energy supplier’s criteria for the scheme - known as the ‘broader group’

Cold Weather Payment: You may get [Cold Weather Payments](#) if you’re getting:

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Support for Mortgage Interest

Cost of Living Payment: You may be able to get a payment to help with the [cost of living](#) if you are getting certain benefits or tax credits. You do not need to apply, if you are eligible, you will be paid automatically. These payments are not taxable and will not affect the benefits or tax credits individuals/families get.

How can I get £400 off my energy bills in October?

The UK Government is offering households in Great Britain a £400 discount on their electricity bills, as part of a package of support to help people deal with rising energy costs.

The grant is known as the [Energy Bills Support Scheme](#) and it will not need to be repaid. Please follow the link to find out everything you need to know about how it will work. Every household with a domestic connection to the electricity grid in England, Scotland and Wales is eligible for the £400 discount.

How will I get my discount?

You don't need to apply for the discount. It will be paid out by electricity suppliers to consumers over six months, with the first payments starting in October 2022.

In October and November, households will get a discount of £66 per month on their energy bills, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023.

The [Energy Saving Trust](#) has a wealth of information on ways to save energy at home as well as information on [How-can-i-get-400-off-my-electricity-bills-from-october](#)

In addition to the [£400 Energy Bill Support Scheme](#), the government have introduced The Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) which will cap energy bills for the next 2 years. This guarantee will start on 1st October, when Ofgem's new price per unit price cap is due to come into effect and will apply to households in Great Britain.

[Government announcement about Energy Price Guarantee](#)

More information can be found in [Government announces energy price guarantee](#) on GOV.UK and for further information about the full support available, please visit the [Help for Households](#) on GOV.UK.

'Help for Households' campaign and toolkit:

We know people are worried about the cost of living rises, so for **Help for Households** information from the government, please follow the link [Cost of Living Support](#) to available help with cost of living, including new one-off payments as well as existing benefits and schemes.

The government has produced a ['cost of living support factSheet'](#) full of useful information.

A toolkit has also been produced, which includes social media assets, logos, newsletter copy, leaflets and FAQs, which can be download for free.

<https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/communicating-help-for-households-and-cost-of-living-payments/>

Job Centre Information

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) continues assisting customers in the job centres. There are still plenty of jobs in the labour market at present and on a wider prospective the information factsheets and posters in terms of the cost of living crisis are available on the government website -

[Government-support-for-the-cost-of-living-factsheet](#)

Bus Fare Price Cap: Millions across England will save money through a new £2 cap on single bus journeys from January to March 2023, backed by up to £60 million to ensure affordable transport across the country. The Transport Secretary has announced the government will provide up to £60 million from January to March next year, to help bus operators to cap single adult fares at £2 per journey. The move will help passengers with travel costs for work, education, shopping and medical treatments over the winter months while they are facing pressures from the rising cost of living - [£2 bus fare cap across England to save passengers money - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-pounds-bus-fare-cap-across-england-to-save-passengers-money)

Connect to Support Hampshire

The Connect to Support Hampshire is an online resource for adults in Hampshire. Its aim is to help you stay independent and to manage your own care. You can find local groups, activities, and services within your community as well as care providers and other paid services that may help you. It is full of information to help you stay independent for longer by providing you with resources to stay safe and connected with your local community. There are services that can help if you or someone you know - [money matters on Connect to Support Hampshire](#)

- Are worried about money or how you will pay the bills
- Are experiencing debt
- Are unsure whether you are entitled to benefits or how to apply
- Would like some support with managing your money
- Are struggling to afford the basics such as food

There is some great information on cost of living and money worries - [Finance Support](#)

Disability of Living Payment

From September 2022 around six million disabled people in the UK will start to receive their one-off £150 Disability Cost of Living payment. The payment will help disabled people with the rising cost of living, acknowledging the higher disability-related costs they often face, such as care and mobility needs - [£150 Disability Cost of Living Payments begin this month](#)

Money Helper Website

Provided by HM Government and the Money and Pensions Service this site offers a wide range of free financial advice and useful tools, including support with, dealing with debt, energy bill increases, budget planning etc. Those in financial difficulty can access money and debt guidance for free - [Free and impartial help with money, backed by the government | MoneyHelper](#)

[The Money Navigator Tool](#) from Money Helper UK can provide guidance based upon individual circumstances and help find support in their area.

There is information on:

- What issues individuals need to deal with first
 - Ways of staying on top of bills
 - How to find extra support
 - Where to get extra help
-

Water Usage: Some residents will use a water meter. There are free products available from Southeast water which help save water and therefore save money – [South East Water Products \(savewatersavemoney.co.uk\)](https://www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk) Water saving tips can also be found at [household water saving tips](#) Citizens Advice has guidance about [how to speak to your water supplier if you're having problems paying your water bill](#). It includes information about special schemes set up by water companies to help you pay your water bill.

Energy Efficient Homes – Help Available

Help to keep your home warm

It's important that you contact your energy provider as soon as you start finding it difficult to pay your bills.

You can:

- [Support energy price rises - £150 council tax rebate](#) to help with energy costs
- Contact [British Gas Energy Trust](#) for grants and support even if you're not a British Gas customer
- [Get a grant from the Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#) to install low carbon heating
- Contact Citizens Advice to [find out more about grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills](#)

There is help with heating costs on the government's website which includes:

- [Warm Home Discount Scheme](#)
- [National Concessionary Fuel Scheme](#)
- [Winter Fuel Payment](#)
- [Cold Weather Payment](#)

You can also:

- [Get energy advice from Ofgem](#)
- Citizens Advice offer [advice about paying your bills and reducing how much energy you use](#)
- [Find ways to save energy in your home](#) from the government website
- [Get a smart meter](#) information from Smart Energy GB
- Money Saving Expert for [advice about cutting the cost of your energy and water bills](#)
- Energy UK - [find out what the energy companies are doing to help](#)

Long-Term Issues

Energy Efficiency – ways to improve insulating our homes and making households more resilient.

- [Energy at Home](#) – a web resource by the Energy Trust which outlines affordable ways for households to cut their energy bills.
- [Home energy grants](#) – a search tool by Simple Energy Advice which allows users to see local energy grants they may be eligible for.
- Find out about home insulation funding available in your area. Save up to 50% on Energy Bills - [british insulation discount offer incentive](#)

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) supports the decarbonisation of heat in buildings. It provides upfront capital grants to support the installation of heat pumps and biomass boilers in homes and non-domestic building in England and Wales.

Acting on behalf of property owners, installers can apply for:

- £5000 off the cost and installation of an air source heat pump
- £5000 off the cost and installation of a biomass boiler
- £6000 off the cost and installation of a ground source heat pump, including water source heat pumps

£450 million of grant funding is available over three years from 2022 to 2025.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/boiler-upgrade-scheme-bus>

Loft Insulation Grants

Heat from your house will rise resulting in about quarter of the heat generated being lost through the roof of an uninsulated home. Insulating the roof space of your home is the simplest, most cost-effective way of saving energy and reducing your heating bills.

Insulation should be applied to the loft area to a depth of at least 270mm, both between the joists and above as the joists themselves create a “heat bridge” and transfer heat to the air above.

With modern insulating techniques and materials, it is still possible to use the space for storage or as a habitable space with the use of insulated floor panels.

The Energy Saving Trust estimates that an annual saving of £250 is achieved on an average detached house in the UK.

<https://www.government-grants.co.uk/home-insulation-grants/loft-insulation/>

Sustainable Warmth Fund (SWF)

The Sustainable Warmth Fund is available to Hart Residents who have a household income of less than £30,000 and live in a property with an energy efficiency rating E, F or G. The average grant provided is £10,000 for energy efficiency upgrades such as improving insulation, boiler upgrades, solar panels etc. Applications are on a first come, first served basis and work could be completed in time to start saving money this winter.

The scheme is fully funded and our partners, City Energy, will help you from start to finish of the process, from registration, organising a survey of your house and the work needed, at no extra cost to you.

To apply: <https://www.hampshire-applications.co.uk/> Or call: 02921 680951
(You can check your EPC rating here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate>)

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. The scheme began in April 2013, and over time it has been amended. The ECO4 scheme came into force on 27th July 2022 and will cover a four year period until 31 March 2026. For more details

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/energy-company-obligation-eco>

Or contact the ECO Team by emailing eco@ofgem.gov.uk

Quick Tips to Save Energy in your Home

1. **Press** - switch off electrical appliances at the plug/wall, rather than leaving them on standby. To make this easier you can also use a standby saver or smart plug.
2. **Pull** - pull out chargers while not in use.
3. **Draft-proofing** - your home will lose heat through draughts around doors, windows, floors and chimneys. There are some DIY fixes that can help reduce this loss if professional fixes are out of budget: [A helpful guide to draught-proofing - Energy Saving Trust](#)
4. **Turn off lights** - turning off lights when you're not in a room will save you money. Using LED bulbs or energy efficient ones could save you even more.
5. **Save on Laundry** - washing at 30-degrees, using an 'eco-cycle' if you have one, filling your machine and only washing clothes when they really need it will all save you money.
6. **Avoid tumble drying** - if you can dry clothes outside or on a heated clothes rack that will help reduce your electricity bills.
7. **Shorter showers** - having 4-minute showers could save a typical household £65 a year on energy bills. Swapping baths for showers will also help you save. Install a water efficient showerhead.
8. **Don't over fill your kettle** – only boil what you need to save wasting electricity.
9. **Match** – use the right sized hob for your pan when cooking.
10. **Reduce your water use** – fixing aerators to your taps will reduce the amount of water coming out by adding air. Aerators are cheap gadgets that are easy to install. Turning taps off when brushing your teeth is also an easy way to save, as is fixing any dripping taps. savewatersavemoney.co.uk
11. **Fill your dishwasher** – do not run a half-empty dishwasher as this will use more water and electricity.
12. **Alternative Cooking Solutions** – instead of cooking your food in an oven, try cheaper alternative methods such as: slow cookers, air fryers and microwaves.
13. **Using an oven** – if you need to cook using your oven, ensure it is used to full capacity and when finished, leave the door open for the airflow to heat your home.
14. **Increase insulation** – make sure your hot water cylinder is insulated. Loose jackets will reduce energy loss immediately. Check your insulation is topped up in your roof.

From www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Quick Tips for a Warmer Home

1. Draw your curtains and close your blinds to minimise heat loss through windows and keep the heat in more effectively.
2. Tuck long curtains behind radiators so that heat is not trapped.
3. Keep radiators and heaters clear so heat can circulate – do not put furniture in front of them or dry washing on them.
4. If there are rooms in your house you do not use, turn off radiators in them and close the doors. Keep your home at a stable, comfortable temperature.
5. Use your heating controls, such as thermostats and timers, to heat your home without wasting energy.
6. **Wear** – put on extra layers when it's cold indoors.

From www.ageuk.org.uk

HEAT THE HUMAN BEFORE THE HOME

Thank you to everyone who contributed information for this issue of the Here for Hart Bulletin. If you have found this bulletin useful or if you have a suggestion to make it better or an idea for content for the next issue, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at hereforhart@hart.gov.uk.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this information, Hart District Council will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of using the Bulletin and of any inaccuracy or error within these pages.

