

1 - An introduction to home improvement grants

Fancy a new heating system?
Would you love some insulation
to make your home cosier? We
hear you, this stuff can be
expensive!

There are grant schemes
available to help fund this kind
of work. Through this series of
information sheets we want to
help you understand:

- What these schemes can offer, but also their limits.
- Which grant schemes might be appropriate for your home and your priorities.
- How grant funded works might mix with things you fund yourself, or money you borrow.
- What good work looks like.

We hope we can support you to make decisions about whether these scheme are right for you, and what to look for and ask about.

We are here to help you make decisions. But we don't:

- Recommend particular grant schemes.
- Directly refer people to grant schemes.
- Provide one-to-one advice or support in relation to grant schemes.

This sheet describes the main schemes available and where you can go for more information and support.

Applying for grants?

See our other sheets on:

- 2 - An introduction to retrofit standards
- 3 - Surveys and assessments
- 4 - Getting into the detail (design)
- 5 - Before work starts
- 6 - When work is finished
- 7 - Mixing grants with other funding

The main grant schemes (as of Autumn 2026)

Be aware, funding schemes change often. To check what's available at any given time, you can visit: tinyurl.com/gov-household-energy



Boiler Upgrade Scheme

In most cases this provides up to £7,500 to home owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps.

How to apply: through a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certified heating installer: www.mcscertified.com



GMCA are also delivering the Local Grant in certain post code areas. You cannot check whether you are eligible for this part of the scheme. Their Resident Engagement Officers will get in touch if you live in one of these areas.

How to apply for the Local Grant: in Greater Manchester you can check if you're eligible via the Retrofit Portal: gmca.retrofitportal.org.uk/getfunding

Warm Homes: Local Grant

The Warm Homes Local Grant is open to owner occupiers and private tenants. Whether you are eligible in Greater Manchester depends on:

- your home's energy efficiency rating (D or below)
- if you live in an area classed as lower income
- if you receive means tested benefits, or your household income (before tax etc) is less than £36,000 a year
- if your private landlord is a supporter of the Greater Manchester Good Landlord Charter.

The improvements you can get depends on an assessment of your home. It might include insulation, a heat pump or solar panels.

The main grant schemes (as of Autumn 2026)

Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund

Contributes towards insulation and heating improvements in social rent homes. Councils or housing associations apply for this funding, not individual households.

Future funding: the Warm Homes Plan

Further funding is expected to be available through the Warm Homes Plan. Details will be added once available.

ECO (Energy Company Obligation)

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) ends in December 2026. In many places (including Greater Manchester) companies have stopped taking applications, as they have used up the money available. ECO funded insulation and heating improvements to home owners and those that rent. Households had to be in receipt of certain benefits or meet low income and health criteria. Homes also needed to have a lower energy efficiency rating.

Things to look out for

In some areas your local council will act as your first port of call, directing you to the schemes that you are eligible for, and passing on your contact details.

Be aware that in many cases it's not the council who will be doing the work on your home.

You may also see “government backed” in adverts. This usually means the company is making use of funding from the schemes above, not that the government (local or national) endorses their work.

What to check when applying for grant schemes

If you'd like to apply for a grant scheme for energy improvements there are a few things we recommend checking first. You may also find this useful if your landlord/housing association is proposing work.



If the grant scheme is linked to your council or landlord, ask them directly "Who are the installers and companies delivering this scheme?"

Councils and housing providers may use a few different companies. Some installers claim to be linked to the council but aren't. Knowing who is not connected to a scheme can help you identify bogus callers.



Will I need to give you proof I'm eligible? If so, what?

Some schemes may ask you to provide proof of eligibility (e.g. letters or documents).



How will you communicate with me? Will different companies contact me?

Let them know if you prefer phone, emails, letter etc.



What timescales are the installers and companies working to?



When can I expect to be contacted and by who?



Will I need to make a contribution to the cost?

This may not be known until after someone has visited your home and completed a survey. Some schemes will have an idea of a % contribution at the beginning.

Check the other sheets in this series for help on the stages that follow.