ENERGiSE
Carbon Co-op

2 - An introduction to retrofit standards

If you'd like to apply for a grant scheme for energy improvements you might hear about retrofit standards. This sheet is a basic introduction to the standards used on most national grant schemes.

Why do we need retrofit standards?

If you've lived through building works you'll know it's not always a smooth process. Energy works are just another type of home improvement.

Retrofit standards aim to make sure that works to your home are carried out in a sensible, well-planned way.

It's important to stress that standards and accreditations are no guarantee that you'll get good quality.

This is why we encourage you to learn more about the different stages you'll pass through on your way to a cosier, more affordable home.

A good first step is feeling more confident about what to look for, and what to ask.

Applying for grants?

See our other sheets on:
1 - An introduction to home improvement grants
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

PAS2035

PAS2035 is a British Standard for retrofit (works that improve the energy efficiency of homes).

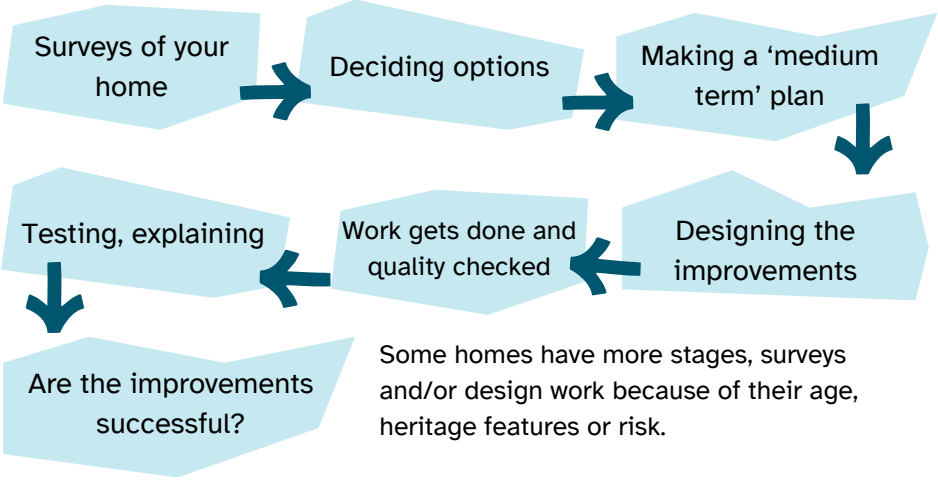
It was first launched in 2019, and updated in 2023. It's a **process standard** - this means it describes how retrofit should be designed and delivered.

Schemes funded by public money (e.g. the Government, or energy suppliers) are required to follow PAS2035.

PAS2035 aims to encourage retrofit that:

- Is technically robust (the improvements made are well thought through and done well).
- Identifies risks and tries to avoid them.
- Thinks about the house as a whole - how all the parts of it connect, including people!
- Makes a positive change for the people that live there (and the landlord, if there is one).

The PAS2035 stages



Some homes have more stages, surveys and/or design work because of their age, heritage features or risk.

PAS2030

PAS2030 is an **installation standard.** It describes how different energy improvements should be fitted. It's not product specific, but covers general principles, methods and processes that builders and other trades should follow.

It covers all the different types of insulation, draught proofing, windows, doors, ventilation and non-renewable heating systems.

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TrustMark

When retrofit standards PAS2035 and PAS2030 were developed, TrustMark were given the task of becoming the Government backed Quality Mark for the sector. Using a TrustMark registered business is often a requirement of publicly funded grant schemes.

TrustMark act as a central oversight body, and they license many of the professional schemes that individual builders and companies are accredited with.

TrustMark also act as a Data Warehouse. This means that there will be a central record of the work completed on your home if it is grant funded.

However, if you have issues with the work done on your home your first port of call must always be the builder or company that did the work. This is covered more in sheet 6 of this series (titled 'when work is finished').

www.trustmark.org.uk

MCS

MCS stands for the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). It covers the **design and fitting of renewable heating systems** (like heat pumps), and systems that generate electricity (like solar panels).

MCS maintain standards and certify products, installers and their installations.

www.mcscertified.com

Considering grant schemes?

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Things to be aware of

While standards are often a requirement of grant funding, it can be challenging for small builders to get the right accreditation due to cost and time. This doesn't mean they can't deliver good quality work.

Using accredited installers is also no guarantee of quality. However, the bodies behind certification (like TrustMark and MCS) do offer some 'back-up' should your installer fail to sort any issues.

It's also important to think about customer service, reputation and how much you trust the service or builder. You may decide this is more important than the grant on offer.