

Essex Climate Action Commission



Powering positive change

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme



A Government grant has been awarded to Essex County Council and seven of the county's city, district and borough councils to install insulation and energy efficient heating in Essex homes. The £813,000 funding comes from the £200m Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, established by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The funding is designed to support local authorities to help homeowners and landlords install energy saving measures, such as loft

insulation, in homes across Essex and will see even more people in Essex who are unable to heat their homes properly get help to keep their homes warm this winter.

To be eligible for up to £10,000 grant, homes to be improved should be currently rated as Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) E, F or G and the household income below £30,000.

Aran Insulation has recently been appointed as the contractor to deliver the measures which include installing energy efficient heating and all types of insulation. Residents can check their eligibility for the funding and, if applicable, apply for the grant by emailing Aran Insulation at info@arangroup.co.uk or calling 0800 587 7795.

Essex Energy Switch



In December Essex County Council launched this year's Essex [Energy Switch](#) campaign. The Essex Energy Switch is a collective switching scheme which aims to help as many residents switch energy providers to secure a better deal on their gas and electricity bills.

The scheme brings together large groups of Essex residents who want to switch energy providers into one 'auction'. The major energy providers then 'bid' in the auction by offering the best possible price to the collective. The provider offering the best price wins the auction, and everyone who signed up is given the opportunity to switch to the new tariff.

This year scheme will offer 100% renewable electricity tariffs, so it's never been easier for Essex residents to go green.

Over the past seven years Essex County Council has helped 17,500 residents save over a total of £4.1 m. Essex residents have until 9th February to [register online](#) for the scheme.

Warm Homes Essex



Essex County Council is working in partnership with the Citizens Advice service in Essex, to deliver a project that supports fuel poor households to improve their financial and

physical circumstances.

The initiative sees a team of specialist energy advisers operating across the county, working with their clients to provide advice services for people struggling with their energy bills, managing debt with energy suppliers and obtaining grants to improve energy efficiency.

Residents and professionals can contact the Citizens Advice Warm Homes team on 0300 3033 789 or visit www.warmhomesessex.org.uk.

Government's Energy White Paper

On December 14, Government published its [white paper](#) on energy: Powering our Net Zero Future. The paper lays out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The energy white paper builds on Government's ten point plan for an environmentally-friendly industrial revolution.

The paper looks at how we might transform the transformation of our energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth as we deliver net-zero emissions by 2050.



Love Essex



Love Essex is set for a busy start to 2021. Late January will see the introduction of a series of short educational films which will inform viewers on how to compost at home, and why it is important to do so. The launch of these films follows on from October's 'Introduction to Home Composting' webinar.

The Love Essex team will be building on the success of the home composting webinar with another event on 28th January which will focus on the impact that plastic is having on the planet, and practical ways of reducing plastic household waste.

Additionally, the team plan to use their January communications to place a spotlight on the importance of recycling, as they aim to keep Essex residents motivated to recycle by busting myths around kerbside recycling being disposed of in landfill.

Finally, this month's competition has been designed to support residents making the decision to reduce their plastic waste in the new year. The team has compiled 10 plastic-free starter kits and residents are invited to sign the Essex plastic pledge online to be in with a chance of winning. More info about the pledge, as well as details on how to sign it, can be found at loveessex.org/plasticpledge. In January, the team will also launch a social media profile ring and invite plastic pledgers to celebrate their commitment to reducing plastic waste by adding the profile ring to their social media profile.

Electric Van Trial



Essex Highways recently carried out a two-week trial of the LEVC VN5 2.5T van, made by the company that produces modern black taxis. Built in the UK, the van is a plug-in hybrid and runs through an electric motor giving it a range of 60 electric miles. It also features a 'range extender' petrol engine, which extends its range to 300 electric miles with a full tank of

fuel. It can fully charge from zero in 30 minutes. The trial aimed to see how this technology could work in practice for day-to-day business use as Essex Highways explores alternative fuel options as part of the ongoing fleet replacement programme. A short [video](#) shows how it all works.

Community Engagement



On December 14, the Community Engagement workstream kicked off its series of seven meetings scheduled to take place over coming months. Commissioners looked at plans for communications about climate change and the work the Commission is doing to tackle it. Commissioners discussed the need to engage with residents, businesses, schools, colleges and universities and encourage them to be active environmental citizens, inviting a more inclusive approach.

There was a good discussion on the role of local town and parish councils and the practical realities of what is being achieved by them in relation to tackling climate change.

The Community Engagement workstream will next meet in the new year when they will review the stakeholder mapping for the Essex Climate Action Commission, which will be closely followed by a session which looks at the Essex is Green social media channels.

Our Commissioners



On 7 December, Essex Climate Action Commissioner and CEO of Gridserve, Todd Harper launched the first ever electric forecourt in Braintree. The forecourt enables 36 electric vehicles to be charged at any one time.

Cllr Simon Walsh attended the launch at the forecourt and wrote about his experience in a recent [blog](#).

