



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Announcement of the public launch of the Great British Insulation Scheme (GB Insulation Scheme) and launch of a new eligibility checker and referral service

I am writing to inform you that today (14 September 2023) we will announce the public launch of the GB Insulation Scheme. The scheme is worth £1 billion over three years and will help over 300,000 households insulate their homes and save money on their heating. We are also launching a new GOV.UK eligibility checker and referral service for both the Great British Insulation Scheme and the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) – allowing households to find out what support is available for them to install energy efficiency measures.

Upgrading our homes to be more energy efficient is the best long-term solution for reducing our energy costs, tackling fuel poverty, and keeping ourselves warm and healthy in winter. This is why at a time of high energy prices, the Great British Insulation Scheme is broadening who is eligible beyond the low-income and vulnerable households that ECO4 prioritises, to millions of others who do not currently benefit from government support to upgrade their homes and reduce their energy bills.

The scheme will support those with an EPC rating of D or below that are also in Council Tax bands A-D in England, A-E in Scotland and Wales, as well as those that are low-income and vulnerable. These households will be offered vital upgrades, such as roof, loft or cavity wall insulation via their energy supplier, which could cut their annual energy bill by an average of between £300 to £400.

Along with ECO4, the GB Insulation Scheme will continue one of the government's most successful schemes for improving domestic energy efficiency – the Energy Company Obligation. ECO obligates the larger energy suppliers to deliver bill savings for households by installing energy efficiency measures. Since 2013, it has installed around 3.6 million energy efficiency measures in 2.4 million homes, with around 9% of households in Great Britain having an ECO measure installed.

The GB Insulation Scheme was fully established in law on 25 July 2023 when the legislation came into force. Suppliers have been permitted to offer help through the scheme since 30 March 2023, when we published the response to the consultation.

Also from today, households will be able to see for themselves what support is available to make their homes more energy efficient, from a range of government schemes.

A new online checker tool for the GB Insulation Scheme will ask questions about how an applicant heats their home, whether their home has solid or cavity walls, and if they are receiving any benefits, to assess if they are eligible.

A tool has also been launched that covers the Home Upgrade Grant, meaning customers in off-the-gas-grid homes that have an EPC rating of D to G can find out what support is available, ranging from insulation and draft proofing to new windows and doors, as well as heat pumps and solar panels.

Customers using the online tools are then referred to either their energy supplier, for support from the ECO programme and GB Insulation Scheme, or their local council for the Home Upgrade Grant, to take the next step in making their home more energy efficient.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Callan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lord Callanan