

Schemes for Keeping Your Home Warm

Warm Home Discount Scheme

If you qualify for the discount you'll receive a letter in the autumn or winter telling you either:

You do not need to apply - you'll get the discount automatically;

To apply for your discount by January - the letter will tell you why, how and also the cut-off date for applications.

You'll receive your letter by 24 December at the latest. If you don't get a letter but believe you qualify you can contact the Warm Home Discount Team.

Warm Home Discount Team:

Telephone: 0345 603 9439

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm (call charges may apply).

Grants and Benefits

Winter Fuel Payment - The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual payment to help you pay for heating during the winter. Anyone born on or before 5 January 1953 can get it if you live in the UK or another eligible country. To find out more visit www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Cold Weather Payments - Cold Weather Payments are one-off payments to help you pay for extra heating costs when it's very cold. You'll get a payment each time the temperature drops below a specific temperature for a set period of time.

You'll only be eligible if you already get:

Pension Credit;

Income Support;

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;

Universal Credit.

To find out more visit www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/further-information

Grants to Help Pay off Your Energy Debts

If you are behind on your payments or are in debt to your energy supplier, you could be eligible to get a grant from a charitable trust to help you to pay it off. The following energy companies offer grants and schemes that are open to anyone. You don't have to be a customer with these companies to benefit from the schemes:

British Gas Energy Trust

EDF Energy Trust

E.on Energy Fund

The below companies also offer grants specifically for their customers only:

npower Energy Fund;

Scottish Power Hardship Fund;

Ovo Energy Fund;

SSE (Southern Electric) Priority Assistance Fund - check if you're eligible by calling 0800 072 8616.

A list of grants and schemes available from water and energy companies can be found by visiting The organisation Auriga website at www.aurigaservices.co.uk.

When you apply for a grant, detailed information about your financial situation will be requested. This could take a while to complete and getting help with your application could speed this up.

You can get help with your application from The charity Charis Grants
Alternatively, you can get help from a Citizens Advice advisor at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Extra Help from Your Supplier

If you are disabled, sick or a pensioner, extra help and support may be available from your energy provider through their Priority Services Register. Some things you may be able to get help with are:

Reading your meter;

Moving your energy meter - this would be free of charge;

Having your bills sent or copied to someone else, e.g. a carer or a family member.

National Concessionary Fuel Scheme

You could get free solid fuel or a cash allowance for fuel if you're an ex-employee of the National Coal Board (NCB) or British Coal Corporation (BCC).

To find out if you are eligible for free solid fuel contact the National Concessionary Fuel Office (NCFO). You may be eligible:

If you're an ex-employee of the National Coal Board (NCB) or British Coal Corporation (BCC);

If you are a Widow or widower of an ex-employee you may also qualify.

For further information or to apply please visit www.gov.uk/national-concessionary-fuel-scheme.

You can find further information about all of these schemes by visiting www.gov.uk