

Benefits of best practice: heating and insulation

Everyone gains with best practice

Home energy use is responsible for 27 per cent of UK carbon dioxide emissions which contribute to climate change. By following the Energy Saving Trust's best practice standards, new build and refurbished housing will be more energy efficient – reducing these emissions and saving energy, money and the environment.

Applying best practice standards to refurbishment and new build projects will give long lasting economic, environmental and social benefits to your organisation, your tenants and the wider community.

Working to best practice standards will:

- Help you meet the requirements of the building regulations cost-effectively.
- Reduce the likelihood of complaints – and the associated costs of dealing with them and carrying out repair work.
- Cut the capital cost of heating systems as improved building thermal performance will reduce heat demand.
- Minimise the capital cost of energy efficiency improvements by identifying opportunities within existing repair and improvement programmes.
- Reduce the potential for condensation and mould growth.
- Reduce the number of cases of cold and damp related illness amongst tenants.
- Enable tenants to maintain a comfortable and easily controlled household temperature at reasonable cost.
- Make hard-to-let properties more attractive to prospective tenants.
- Add value to your housing stock and improve its SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) profile.
- Help tackle fuel poverty and rent arrears by reducing tenants' fuel bills.
- Reduce emissions – helping to meet CO₂ reduction and climate change targets.
- Help to achieve Housing Corporation Scheme Development Standards and best value performance indicators.
- Enable your organisation to adopt an approved comprehensive benchmark for your development brief.

Annual heating costs for typical semi-detached houses

SAP	Semi-detached house with ...	Typical annual heating and hot water costs
48	Basic gas central heating	£421
54	Basic gas central heating, windows double glazed and draughtstripped	£373
98	Basic gas central heating, full insulation and double glazed windows	£152
101	Full insulation, double glazed windows; heating to CHeSS HR6 (2005)	£145

Further information

The Energy Saving Trust sets energy efficiency standards that go beyond building regulations for use in the design, construction and refurbishment of homes. These standards provide an integrated package of measures covering fabric, ventilation, heating, lighting and hot water systems for all aspects of new build and renovation. Free resources including best practice guides, training seminars, technical advice and online tools, are available to help meet these standards. The following publications may also be of interest:

- Central Heating System Specifications (CHeSS) – Year 2005 (CE51)
- Energy Efficient Refurbishment of Existing Housing (CE83/GPG155)
- Energy Efficiency in New Housing (CE12 for England, Wales and Scotland, CE24 for Northern Ireland)

To obtain these publications or for more information, call 0845 120 7799, email bestpractice@est.org.uk or visit www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings

Energy Saving Trust, 21 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP Tel: 0845 120 7799 Fax: 0845 120 7789
bestpractice@est.org.uk www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings

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