
ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN WEST SOMERSET

An information pack for householders

*Compiled by members of Forum 21
and Transition Minehead and Alcombe
2010*





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Introduction

1. Getting started

- some facts and figures
- buildings in West Somerset
- effective ways to make them energy efficient
- getting started: the process
- sources of advice and information

2. Planning requirements and building regulations

3. Making our homes more energy efficient

- how we use energy in our homes
- insulation – types of materials, efficiency, U values, costs
- preventing heat loss, ventilation, vapour barriers
- heating systems, controls, programmers, relative costs of fuels, thermal store
- household appliances

4. Micro renewables

- types of microrenewables
- costs: initial and running costs

5. Materials, suppliers and costs

- insulation, heating, renewables
- how to decide which is best
- websites and manufacturers
- local builders
- DIY

6. Paying for it

- grants
- low cost loans: Wessex Reinvestment Trust
- Feed in Tariff

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Introduction

The need for the information in this pack has been obvious for some time. It has been collected from many different sources, put together in one place to be easily used for reference. It comes in a looseleaf format so that appropriate sheets can be given to individual householders.

It will be useful for the Forum 21 volunteers who carry out the energy efficiency campaign in West Somerset; and for the members of the public we meet in the course of that campaign. The materials are intended to help householders decide what is the best way of making their homes more energy efficient, and how to set about it. Information is given on the cost and relative efficiency of products, including renewables, and local builders and fitters; and grants available to help.

For the past few years Forum 21 has received grants from WSC to carry out the energy campaign, aimed to reduce fuel poverty by increasing home insulation. As an environmental group, the Forum is also concerned about climate change and reducing carbon emissions. It is accepted that fully insulating all our existing homes could save 45% of our energy consumption.

Nothing in these materials constitutes a recommendation. We have gathered together as much information as we can to help people make their own decisions about what is best for them. All the people, for instance, on the list of builders have been mentioned to us or are known to us as having done work of this kind; but no checks have been made.

This pack will no longer be useful unless we can keep it up to date. We ask anyone who comes across it to provide us with any new, changed or additional information that should be included, together with suggestions for improvement.

Particular thanks to Martin Evans, Tim Greenland and Hester Watson, from the Forum 21 energy team and Transition Minehead and Alcombe energy group who have worked on the pack text.

Thanks too to the planning departments of WSC and ENPA for their comments.

But this pack would not have been possible without the work of the Forum 21 energy team who have researched the issues they have encountered when carrying out energy surveys around West Somerset.

We are grateful to them all.

The individuals who have written the pack have knowledge and experience of this work, and would be happy to talk to you about issues that arise.

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