



Press Release

30 September 2013

Lower energy bills and a warmer home for Kent residents

Residents across Kent are being urged to take advantage of free home energy improvements for a warmer home and lower energy bills.

Free loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and new boilers are just a few of the improvements on offer through Kent Warm Homes – a Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership scheme which is a consortium of Kent County Council, local district and borough councils and housing associations – working with Enterprise and npower.

More than 200 Dartford residents who meet the necessary criteria to be eligible have already signed up for the 'Warm Homes' scheme, and works have already begun. Wards in Dover, Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway and Swale are next on the list, and other districts in Kent can expect to benefit sometime between October 2013 and March 2014.

Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council MD, Chair of the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership, said: "With winter on the way, we are very excited to announce the start of our Warm Homes scheme to help homes across Kent retain their warmth and prevent money being wasted through heating bills.

"The Kent and Medway Partnership is here to help make sure Kent residents are aware of the great opportunities available to them, and we want people to contact us to see if they are eligible for the free home energy improvements. Although we are starting small - only in the Dartford, Gravesham, Swale and Medway districts - we will be rolling out to the rest

of the county shortly, and will be able to tell residents when we will be arriving in their area."

David Brazier, KCC Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, said: "Energy bills are inevitable for any homeowner and can be particularly burdensome during the harsh winter months. This scheme is all about helping homeowners in Kent to stop their homes from leaking money. I'd urge any interested homeowners to get in touch with us and find out if they or perhaps a relative, friend or neighbour are eligible and how they can save themselves money in the long term."

It is predicted that by March 2014, more than 1,400 homes across Kent and Medway will have benefitted from the 'Warm Homes' scheme, and over the next four years, more than 5,000 homes.

Homeowners can check whether they are eligible for the scheme and sign up at www.kent.gov.uk/warmhomes, or by calling 0800 521 660 quoting "Warm Homes".

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Notes to the editor:

About 'Warm Homes'

The 'Warm Homes' project is funded by the Energy Company Obligation: As set out by government, energy companies have a legal obligation (the Energy Company Obligation - ECO) to promote measures which improve domestic energy efficiency, reduce emissions and reduce the cost to households of heating their homes. The Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership (KMGDP) tendered the opportunity for energy companies to make inroads into their obligations through the 'Warm Homes' project and Enterprise was successful in its bid.

The Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership

The Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership is an executive level group providing overall direction to the establishment of a Green Deal for Kent and Medway. Membership includes: Kent County Council, Medway Council, Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dartford Borough Council, Dover District Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Shepway District Council, Swale Borough Council, Thanet District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent and Medway NHS, South East Water, Southern Water, Affinity Water SE, AmicusHorizon, East Kent Housing, Golding Homes, MHS homes, MOAT, Town & County Housing Group, West Kent Housing Association, National Landlords Association, ACRE, Federation of Small Businesses and Business Support Kent CIC. For more information, see: <https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures/how-the-green-deal-works>.

The partnership is supported by the COOPENERGY project, funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, which aims to increase efficiency and reduce duplication through improved partnership working. For more information visit www.coopenergy.eu

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