ENERGY ADVICE FOR PARK HOME RESIDENTS

Residents living in uninsulated park homes (usually manufactured before 2016) will feel the cold in the winter time as the thin walls and ceiling means that heat escapes easily and bills can be high as the heating gets turned up to compensate.

Park homes are mostly off the gas grid and run off LPG, oil or electric which means they can be very costly to keep warm.

Park home mid installation.

Photos provided by Nu-wey, depicting one of their external wall insulation projects.

WHY SHOULD I INSULATE?

Insulating your home will stop the heat escaping, meaning you stay warmer and more comfortable. You will also stay cooler in the summer as insulation will stop your home getting overly hot too. A well insulated home helps keep your home at a more constant temperature which prevents condensation and dampness. As well as the improved comfort, insulating your home will also help with noise reduction. External wall insulation can help refresh the look of your home as it will get a new outside and a fresh coat of paint.

EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION

External wall insulation offers a really effective way to save energy and keep warm in your park home. Insulated panels are fixed to the outside of your home then a layer of render is applied.

In some instances, you will need to have your windows taken out and refitted to the new outside layer of your home. If this is the case then it would be a good time to think of replacing your windows with double or triple glazing which will increase the energy efficiency, help with draughts and will keep your home cosy.

External wall insulation needs to be done by a specialist park home insulation installer to make sure it meets safety standards and performs well.

You may also need to get planning permission for the installation.

ENERGISE SUSSEX COAST

British Gas Energy Trust

Park home with external wall insulation

UNDERFLOOR INSULATION

The gap between the floor and the underside of the park home can mean that your floor is cold and draughts whistle up under foot. Installing a breathable foil underfloor insulation will stop the draughts and cold. You can also get spray insulation but that limits access to wires and pipes so may not be the best option.

It needs to be installed by a professional to ensure that moisture isn't locked in and you don't inadvertently cause condensation and damp.

SOLAR PV

Making your own electricity on your roof can bring the bills down and save money in the long term. Solar panels are only suitable for homes that have their own meter and where you pay an energy company directly. You will also need to use a specialist park home installer to ensure the panels are suitable for the roof.

Solar panels have a high upfront cost but if you're in a sunny spot and face South then they are a long term investment as after they've paid themselves back, you will benefit from free electricity for years to come.

As there isn't currently any government subsidy, solar panels are suitable for households which are in during the day and will use most of the electricity they produce themselves. You will receive some money for the electricity you sell back to the grid but the best savings to be made are when you use the electricity yourself.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Before you start, check with the park owners that any work you want to do is allowed under your agreement. We also recommend that you appoint a surveyor to make sure your home is suitable for the work and that there are no major issues that need to be addressed.
- Remember you may need to obtain planning for these works.
- Make sure that your installer is an 'PAS 2030:2019 accredited installer'. This will ensure that your installation is done to the industry standard.

GRANT FUNDING

There is some grant funding available for insulating the walls, floors and for solar PV. The funding is available for people receiving means tested benefits such as pension credits or disability benefits via the local authority. Funding is a constantly changing landscape, with new funds opening up or ending all the time.

Please contact our energy advice service to find out more about what's available in East Sussex.

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