



CASE STUDY

Bath homeowner uses government funding to install energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating to reduce the bills and future proof his home

Client situation

When Dan moved into his mum's home in 2022 after she passed away, he soon became aware how cold most of the house was in autumn and winter. His mother had lived in the semi-detached property since the mid-1990s and in 2012 she had a flat roof extension built on the ground floor to replace a conservatory.

Fed up paying 'big money' to the large energy companies and keen to improve the energy efficiency of the property, Dan paid £60 for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) assessment. The house received an F rating, with the report highlighting the lack of insulation in part of the extension and low-performing cavity wall insulation in the main property.

Determined to improve the EPC rating and reduce the heating and energy bills Dan started researching online through the GOV.UK website. He found a link to Bath & North East Somerset Council's Energy At Home website and information about the Bright Green Homes scheme, offering funding specifically for low-income homes without gas heating.

He said: "I was aware that various funds were available to make energy efficiency improvements to homes and once I'd had the EPC done and had the evidence in front of me, I was determined to do something. The online form to apply for Bright Green Home funding took five minutes to fill in and thankfully I was able to confirm my eligibility."

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The family wanted to look at renewable energy because we were fed up paying big money to the large energy companies.

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Programme of works

The project agreed to fund the installation of the following insulation and low carbon technologies:

- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Air Source Heat Pump
- Solar PV

The team first installed the heat pump, stripping out the old radiators and boiler and fitting new radiators, a cylinder and a condenser. The main unit was fitted outside the back of the house and the pump in the garage.

The cavity wall insulation took two days because first the team had to extract the old foam insulation, replacing it with bead insulation that has a longer life.

The solar panels were fitted in a day, although plans to fit panels on the rear roof had to be shelved because the roof on the

extension wasn't stable enough to support scaffolding. Additional panels were fitted to the front of the house instead.

Key outcomes

A follow up EPC assessment found the property to be rated C.

The measures have reduced the carbon footprint of the property and the estimated annual fuel saving will be around £2,300 per year.

Dan said: *"It's too early to tell what the savings will be as the radiators haven't come on yet. But without doubt we will save on the bills."*

We're excited about what savings it will bring. But that aside, it seemed like the sensible thing to do because the work will help to future proof the house and increase its value. In the meantime, we just have to familiarise ourselves with how it all works."

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Bright Green Homes scheme applicants must live in the B&NES area **and**:

- ✓ be the owner, landlord or private rented tenant of the property
- ✓ have electric or a non-gas fossil fuel heating source, such as oil or coal
- ✓ have a combined annual household income of £31,000 or less*
- ✓ have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G (or be willing to apply for one).

*In some B&NES postcodes, homeowners with incomes above £31,000 may also be eligible.

Find out more and register on the council's Energy at Home website: www.energyathome.org.uk