

# Decarbonising Homes for Better Health: Levelling Up via the Energy Transition

Chair: Mr Clive Betts MP, 23 March 2022 at 10:30 — 12:15

## Appendix 3 - Relevant government schemes and agendas

### Boiler Upgrade Scheme

A £5,000 or £6,000 one-off payment (dependent on appliance type) for installation of heat pumps in England and Wales (or £5,000 for biomass boilers where heat pumps cannot be installed in rural off-grid properties) with a total budget of £450 million over three years. The scheme will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, administered by Ofgem from April 2022. Installers must obtain information from homeowners and then can apply for a voucher, which they can then redeem following installation. New builds and social housing are not eligible for support. Installations must replace fossil fuel heating systems to be eligible. [More on the boiler upgrade scheme.](#)

### Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)

[Wave 1](#) and Wave 2

The fund will support registered providers of social housing to improve the energy performance of their social homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C, taking a 'fabric first' approach. Low carbon heat installations will be supported through Wave 1 of the SHDF 'where these are in alignment with the objectives of the scheme'. The fund follows on from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator where over 2,300 homes were improved to EPC Band C and at least 1,300 local jobs were supported<sup>1</sup>.

### Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

The [ECO](#) has been designed and implemented to help reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency, with a particular focus on alleviating fuel poverty. Medium and large energy suppliers are obliged under the scheme to install energy efficiency measures in people's homes, particularly for households which live in fuel poverty and/or receive one of several types of state benefits. The scheme is administered by Ofgem.

### Levelling Up White Paper

[The Levelling Up White Paper](#) was published in February 2022 and sets out how the DLUHC plans to tackle inequalities in the UK to make sure opportunities and prosperity are spread equally across the country.

### Adult Social Care White Paper

The white paper "[Putting People at the Heart of Care](#)" was published on 1 December and has an overarching focus on preventative healthcare. The paper recognises the relationship between housing and health and

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<sup>1</sup> Government notice, *Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Closed)*, 16 June 2021. Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-housing-decarbonisation-fund>

seeks to integrate housing into local health and care strategies and establish a minor repairs service for homes to enable people to stay healthy in their own homes for longer.

### **NHS Core 20 PLUS5**

This [new approach](#) from NHS England and NHS Improvement seeks to reduce health inequalities in terms of access, experience, outcomes for the 20% most deprived people in society (under IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) scores)), plus groups experiencing or at risk of poorer health outcomes, as determined by the Integrated Care System (ICS) e.g. those in poor housing or fuel poverty. The individuals who are to benefit from the scheme are likely to gain greater benefit from decarbonisation, in terms of health outcomes.

### **Green Homes Grant**

Now closed, the Green Homes Grant was a voucher scheme set up 'to make energy efficient improvements to your home' where the voucher issued would generally cover two thirds (66.6%) of the cost of the work. The improvements covered included insulation, low carbon heat, draught proofing, hot water tanks and heating controls. , [The scheme underperformed](#) and faced [significant criticism](#) from a range of sectors and audiences. However, this has provided many excellent learning opportunities for future schemes and grants to evolve from.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive**

Homeowners and landlords can apply for funding for:

- biomass boilers
- solar water heating
- certain heat pumps

Payments are made for seven years and are based on the amount of renewable heat made by your heating system. The scheme [closed 31 March 2022](#) and will be replaced by the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.