

Warm in Wealden

Worried about keeping your home warm this winter? Think you are paying too much for your energy? Want to be more energy efficient?

Are you getting all you're entitled to?

Make sure that you are getting the right benefits, tax credits and any other related support using an online benefits calculator such as Entitled To or Turn2us or ask for a telephone appointment for a benefit check

Help available from the Government

Energy Bill Discount

£400 off energy bills for all households in UK from October 2022

Cost of Living Payment

£650 per year for households on means tested benefits including Universal credit and Pension credit

Disability Cost of Living Payment

One off payment of £150 in September 2022

Pensioner cost of Living Payment

£300 one off automatic top up to Winter Fuel Payment

Winter Fuel Payments

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956 you could get between £250 and £600 to help you pay your heating bills

Cold weather Payments

£25 extra per week if you are in receipt of certain means tested benefits during the winter when the temperature reaches zero or below for more than 7 days www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk

Warm Home Discount

This is a £150 electricity bill rebate. You should receive this automatically if you get the Guarantee Element of Pension Credit. If you are in receipt of other benefits, call your supplier to check eligibility and how to apply. If you are a prepayment meter customer, you should receive a voucher that can be redeemed onto your credit meter. The number of Warm Home Discounts issued is capped so <u>apply now!</u>

WDC Sustainable Warmth Fund and Household Support Fund

<u>Discretionary Housing payments</u> and one-off payments to help towards food and fuel for vulnerable households are available.

To qualify for the **Sustainable Warmth Fund**, Households must have;

- A combined annual household income of less than £30,000 (gross)
- An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated D, E, F or G.

Call WDC on: 01323 443322 http://www.wealden.gov.uk/

Extra Help with Energy debts

If you receive certain means tested benefits, you may be entitled to help with energy efficiency measures such as insulation, white goods and even a new boiler (if your boiler is over 10 years old and not a condensing boiler). You might also be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay off any arrears, indeed some energy companies run their own trusts eg EDF, British Gas, Bulb Energy, E-ON. Charis Grants at www.charisgrants.com administers many of these schemes or visit: Grants and benefits to help-you-pay-your-energy-bills - Citizens.com Advice or www.turn2us.org.uk

Warm Home Check Service Warm Home Check Service

If you are a private tenant or homeowner over 65, or if anyone in your house is disabled, or you have a family with children and are on a low income, you may qualify for the Warm Home Check Service. The service provides:

- An assessment of your home and how to keep warm and well
- Small home repairs, such as improving insulation, repairing or replacing boilers, clearing gutters or chimneys
- Emergency temporary heating
- Advice on getting help with cutting the cost of heating.

The East Sussex County Council website has more information including handy hints and tips on keeping warm this winter Support to stay at home | East Sussex County Council

Priority Services Register

If you are: of pension age; have a disability, hearing or visual impairment or are chronically sick then you can sign up for the register via your energy company (if you have different suppliers for gas and electricity you will need to sign up via both).

Being on the register gives you a range of benefits such as: free advice; priority reconnection if your supply is interrupted along with alternative facilities for cooking and heating; gas safety checks; help to read your meter and protection from cold callers.

Managing your money

If you are in arrears with your energy bills or have other money worries, we can help you get back on track and ensure your arrangements going forward are affordable. Work out your budget - Citizens Advice

Tips for improving Energy Efficiency

There are many things you can do to make your house more energy efficient and cut your energy bills. You can visit www.eachhomecountsadvice.org.uk or www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk Or call National Energy Action Helpline on: 0800 304 7159

Switching

Thought about shopping around, but not sure where to start...then try our switching tool at Switch energy supplier - Citizens Advice or book an **appointment** and we can help you through the process.

Keep Warm Keep Well

For further help, contact us:

Call us on **0808 278 7811**

Email us at www.eastsussexcab.org.uk

Our offices are in Crowborough, Hailsham and Uckfield. See our website for details and opening times www.wealdencitizensadvice.org.uk

We can offer emergency help such as fuel vouchers.

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