
**Resources for improving home energy-efficiency**

*A resource pack created by Ecodyfi in the interests of improving the energy-efficiency of buildings*
*in the Dyfi Biosphere area - to lower emissions and enhance wellbeing.*

**Community Energy Wales Videos / Fideos Ynni Cymunedol Cymru:** 

[**Energy Efficiency Masterclass**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUPhCRR-GVXUcrm2g5ypBwoJ7kdtya0i9)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MehL5F5BV-E&list=PLUPhCRR-GVXUcrm2g5ypBwoJ7kdtya0i9>



*Videos include:*

1. Initial essentials – Not the easy fix!

2. Whole house approach

3. The 4 C's of moisture

4. PAS2035

5. Myths and pitfalls

6. Devil in the details

7. Understanding your building

8. Future demands of building

9. Embodied carbon in retrofit

10. Practical examples and a How to do it guide

11. Community involvement

A link to a **video from *Historic Environment Scotland* about Retrofit**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZKPiiLa9DE>

**Advice and Information:**

**CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology)** offer free advice on eco-renovation, energy choices, and many other relevant topics: <https://cat.org.uk/info-resources/free-information-service/> Residents of SY19 and SY20 postcodes get free entry to CAT. There are also eco-refurbishment short courses for much more detailed practical advice (for a fee).

**Cartrefi Clyd** – a directory of support towards home energy-efficiency in Wales: <https://www.cartreficlyd.cymru/>

**Energy Saving Trust** has guides on draught-proofing, insulation, energy suppliers, and more: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/>

**Big Energy Saving Network** – information and advice to help manage your energy bills: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/our-campaigns/all-our-current-campaigns/besw/> Freya is our local BESN contact: freya@ecodyfi.cymru

**Powys Energy Advice Service**: <https://www.powyscitizensadvice.org.uk/services/v/3-energy-efficiency/>

**Severn Wye Energy Agency’s ‘Energy Advocates’** help Powys residents make sure they are heating and powering their homes affordably. Use the form at <https://severnwye.org.uk/project/advocate-powys/> to ask them to call you.

**Home Energy Advice pilot for those on low incomes** in Gwynedd and Ceredigion: <https://www.warmwales.org.uk/home-energy-advice-pilot/>

**STBA (Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance) Whole House Approach**: guides us towards retrofit that considers the building’s inhabitants, structure, history, and context: <https://stbauk.org/whole-house-approach/>

**PAS 2035** provides specification for the energy retrofit of domestic buildings, and details best practice guidance for domestic retrofit projects: <https://www.trustmark.org.uk/ourservices/pas-2035>

The **Optimised Retrofit** project is making over 1,724 homes in Wales more energy-efficient, by providing them with a ‘Pathway to Zero’ and taking the first step on this pathway: <https://sero.group/optimised-retrofit/>

CITB ‘**Building Skills for Net Zero**’ research report - <https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/construction-industry-research-reports/search-our-construction-industry-research-reports/building-skills-for-net-zero/>

**Cosy Homes** - “a one-stop home retrofit service, making it simple to make energy efficiency improvements to homes in Oxfordshire” - <https://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org/>

**Retrofit Works** – a not-for-profit cooperative aiming to lower energy bills, create healthy homes and achieve Net Zero - <https://retrofitworks.co.uk>

**TheGreenAge** – practical advice on saving energy. Including clear summaries of different options available, and tutorial videos: <https://www.thegreenage.co.uk/>

**Funding**

The Green Homes Grant has ended and was only for England. The Green Deal has also ended, but that's still circulating on social media too.

The **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)** is a government energy efficiency scheme to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. ECO 4 is the current round of funding. It can be used for installing insulation or upgrading heating systems.

**ECO4 Flex** is worth investigating - especially if you're off the gas grid - note that EnergyGrants is a private sector installer, not an impartial provider of advice.
ECO4 Flex is managed by your local authority e.g. <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13370/Scheme-to-help-tackle-fuel-poverty-approved>.

In Powys the scheme is administered by <https://www.warmwales.org.uk/powys-energy-saving-scheme-2/>.

Gwynedd <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Housing/Energy-in-the-home/ECO.aspx>.

Ceredigion opens 21st November 2022 <https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/housing/financial-assistance/energy-efficiency-schemes/eco-flexibility-funding/>.

Powys residents can access **interest-free loans** up to £10,000 for home improvement through **Robert Owen Community Banking**: <https://www.rocbf.co.uk/home_loans_mid_wales/>

**Welsh Government’s NEST scheme** offers a range of free, impartial advice and, if you are eligible, a package of free home energy efficiency improvements such as a new boiler, central heating, insulation, solar panels or a heat pump. Their friendly advisors can offer free and impartial advice on:

* Saving energy and water
* Money management
* Making sure you’re on the best energy and water tariff
* Whether you are entitled to any benefits to boost your income

Call Freephone 0808 808 2244

<https://nest.gov.wales/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwldKmBhCCARIsAP-0rfxDLzCRioA7f8gQvpHo93bXgldxAv_s2z6B5o4jyb59K7P3tl2RGvgaAiIBEALw_wcB>

**Borrow a thermal camera**
Ecodyfi has two FLIR One infrared thermal cameras you can borrow for free. These attach to a smartphone and can show where heat escapes from your home. This is most effective when the weather is cold and you have heated your house.

See more information and the link to the booking calendar here: [www.ecodyfi.wales/climateaction](http://www.ecodyfi.wales/climateaction)
Contact andy@ecodyfi.cymru to arrange borrowing a thermal camera.



**Where to go for tradespeople:**

Trustmark [www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowners/find-a-tradesperson](http://www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowners/find-a-tradesperson)

Trade bodies <https://www.fmb.org.uk/>

Builders who do insulation work: <https://aecb.net/directory-members/>

Local word of mouth / Local social media recommendations e.g. <https://nextdoor.co.uk/> , ask around in your community to see which tradespeople others recommend

Local Housing Association

For installers of energy options such as heat pumps or solar PV: <https://mcscertified.com/find-an-installer/>

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*If you know of other links and resources people may find helpful, or have other comments about* [*www.ecodyfi.wales/climateaction*](http://www.ecodyfi.wales/climateaction) *please contact* *andy@ecodyfi.cymru**. August 2023*