

Green Home Grant Scheme

Homeowners and landlords in England are now able to apply for funding for certain home improvement measures. Those measures must be installed by certified installers. This article gives an overview of the scheme, and how to get involved in it.

The level of support

Government has committed to spend £2 billion in improving energy efficiency through the scheme in a period running from late September 2020 to the end of March 2021. The scheme applies in **England only**.

Applications for the grant are via the Simple Energy Advice (SEA) website where a homeowner or landlord can enter information about their property so that eligible measures are identified and access to a list of approved installers provided.

The grant is only applicable to new work being carried out and any installation of primary measures under previous government schemes **do not** count towards this scheme.

Only **one** grant can be claimed per household and there are two levels of funding:

All landlords, households not classed as low-income	Contribution of two-thirds of the value of the work up to a maximum grant of £5000
Households classed as low-income (where a member of the household receives a qualifying benefit)	Contribution of 100% of the value of the work up to a maximum grant of £10,000

The mechanism for payment is that the homeowner or landlord will apply for the grant and be issued with one or more vouchers. Quotes must be supplied for approval to the scheme administrator. Once approved the homeowner or landlord appoint the installer for each of the measures.

The installer will be paid the voucher value directly by the scheme administrator, with any balance to be paid by the homeowner or landlord.

Payments by the scheme administrator will be linked to the lodgement of installation details on the TrustMark Data Warehouse. Building Regulations compliance for any notifiable work will still need to be done, and MCS installations will also need to be registered on the MCS Installation Database.

Each installer involved for separate measures will be individually named on the appropriate voucher.

Home improvements covered

The scheme refers to primary and secondary measures, as follows:

Primary Measures	Secondary Measures
Insulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavity wall • Solid wall (internal or external) • Under-floor (solid floor or suspended floor) • Loft • Flat roof • Room in roof • Park home insulation Low Carbon Heating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air source heat pump • Ground source heat pump • Solar thermal • Biomass pellet boilers 	Windows and Doors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing single glazing (with double/triple) Secondary glazing (in addition to single) Energy efficient replacement doors (replacing single glazed or solid doors installed before 2000) Draught proofing Heating controls and insulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating controls Hot water tank thermostats Hot water tank insulation

If the cost of the primary measure **does not** reach the maximum grant, you can claim up to the same value on a secondary measure (up to the maximum limit of the grant). The claim for the secondary measure cannot exceed that claimed for the primary measure.

Examples:

- If you've claimed £2000 on primary measures you can claim up to, but no more than, £2000 on secondary measures. Even though this is less than the £5000 cap it is limited by the primary measure value.
- If you've claimed £4000 on primary measures you can claim up to £1000 on secondary measures, in this case reaching the £5000 voucher limit

Except for low-income households, the grant only covers a contribution of two-thirds of the value of the work up to a maximum grant of £5000 in which case to receive the total contribution the cost of the work will have to be at least £7500, with the homeowner or landlord contributing the difference.

Requirements to become an approved installer

All installers must be certified under **PAS2030** or **MCS** and must be **TrustMark** registered. Trustmark registration alone is not acceptable.

For PAS 2030 measures the version of the standard for installation could be either the 2017 or 2019 edition, as follows:

- A company certified to PAS 2030:2019 can choose to install to either standard for the duration of the scheme, except for Park Homes and work in protected buildings
- A company currently certified to PAS 2030:2017 must install to the 2017 standard
- A company who transitions to the 2019 standard will then have a choice between the two and they must transition at their next surveillance

- For a **new applicant**, it will be possible to issue time-limited certification to the 2017 standard until 31st March 2021 while working towards the 2019 standard up until that deadline. Time limited certification to PAS 2030:2017 will apply to ECO3 work as well as the Green Homes Grant.

Further details on the transition deadlines for the two standards are given on the [UKAS website](#).

A key factor in allowing work under the 2017 standard is that this does not need to be under the control of a Retrofit Coordinator.

For low carbon heating, certification must be in place as follows, as relevant to the work being undertaken:

- MCS 001-01, general requirements
- MCS 023, demonstrating equivalence to PAS 2030
- MIS 3001, for solar thermal installations
- MIS 3004, for biomass installations
- MIS 3005, for heat pump installations

For existing MCS contractors it is likely that the only requirement is to add MCS023 to the scope of certification.

TrustMark

All installers must be registered on the TrustMark scheme in order to be listed on the SEA website consumer search facility for the grant. **Only** companies that are PAS2030 certified and Trustmark will appear on this search.

Other Requirements

Companies must have a documented management system and associated procedures that satisfy at least the requirements of PAS2030:2017. They will be assessed against PAS2030:2019 and improvement actions will be raised against that edition of the standard. The company must then commit to be working towards PAS2030:2019. Provided the requirements of PAS2030:2017 have been met then certification against this earlier standard can be issued and the company will be eligible to carry out work in accordance with the Green Homes Scheme.

Any site audits conducted for Competent Person Schemes will be recognised as demonstrating installer competence for initial placement on the register.

In addition to this, an audit of the first installation carried out under Green Homes Grant will be necessary.

Installations carried out under the grant will have to be covered by financial protection approved by TrustMark.

Further information

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant>

<https://www.trustmark.org.uk/ghgs>