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Dear Colleague,

**RE: Green Homes Grant and economic stimulus schemes launch**

This week I was delighted to announce the launch of the Green Homes Grant scheme for applications.

With £1.5 billion available through vouchers, the scheme will see the Government fund up to two-thirds of the cost of home improvements up to £5,000. Those homeowners with low incomes are eligible for a grant covering the full cost of works up to £10,000. The scheme will improve the energy efficiency of over 600,000 homes across England, cut people's energy bills by up to £600 a year, and support tens of thousands of jobs in green construction.

The primary measures included range from under-floor, wall and roof insulation, to the installation of low-carbon heating like heat pumps. Households can also use their voucher for further secondary measures such as double or triple glazing when replacing single glazing. Businesses can sign up to take part in the scheme at <https://www.gov.uk/register-as-green-homes-grant-installer>.

As part of the wider package, a further £500 million has been assigned for local authorities to provide green home improvements for households with an income of under £30,000. An additional £1 billion has been committed to boost the energy efficiency of public buildings, including schools and hospitals through a Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. £50 million has also been made available for social housing through a UK-wide demonstrator project for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

In addition, we are also launching consultations to improve the energy performance standards of privately rented homes in England and Wales and improve the minimum energy performance standards of a range of products, and an EPC Action Plan.

Taken together, these measures will save millions of tonnes of CO2 and support approximately 120,000 jobs - a key part of our plan to build back greener from Covid-19. Our [toolkit](#) has all the information needed to promote the scheme and I encourage you, your constituents and local businesses, to participate to the fullest extent in the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

## Annex – Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme Further Details

### 1. Who is the scheme for?

- The voucher scheme is open to owner occupiers (freehold/leasehold), park homeowners and landlords who let privately or through the social rented sector in England. It is not open to non-domestic properties or to new build homes which have not yet been occupied.
- Homeowners can apply for a voucher that funds up to two thirds of the cost of hiring trades people to upgrade the energy performance of their homes - up to a maximum contribution of £5,000. Low income and vulnerable homeowners, including park homeowners and those on certain benefits, will be eligible for a voucher covering up to 100% of the cost, up to £10,000.
- The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery element will focus on owner occupiers, those in the private and social rented sector, with a household income of under £30,000. Local Authorities will set out detailed eligibility criteria in due course.

### 2. What are the specific benefits of the Green Homes Grant to the consumer?

- The Green Homes Grant scheme will deliver energy efficiency improvements to over 600,000 homes, supporting over 100,000 jobs if all vouchers are claimed. It could help save families up to £600 a year on their energy bills.
- It will make people's homes warmer and more environmentally friendly. It will deliver average savings of nearly £300, and significantly more per year for those living off the gas grid in the low-income and vulnerable households' scheme.

### 3. What can the voucher be spent on?

- Vouchers will contribute towards the cost of specific home insulation and/or low carbon heating measures. Homeowners and social and private landlords will be required to install at least one of the following, using a voucher which they will receive before works commence:

#### *Primary Measures*

1. **Solid wall, under-floor, cavity wall, loft, flat roof, room in roof or park home insulation;** or
  2. Where the home is suitably insulated, **air source or ground source heat pump, solar thermal, biomass boiler or hybrid installation.**
- A voucher may be used to help meet the costs of installing top-up insulation (for instance top-up loft insulation) but may not be used to cover the costs of removing and replacing existing insulation.
  - In addition, households can use their voucher for further energy saving measures. These include one or more of the following:

#### *Secondary Measures*

1. **Draught proofing:** draught-proofing your home (for example around windows and doors) can block up unwanted gaps that let cold air in and warm air out.

2. **Windows and doors:** Double/triple glazing (where replacing single glazing), secondary glazing (in addition to single glazing), upgrading to energy efficient replacement doors (where replacing single glazed or solid doors installed prior to 2002).
3. **Hot water tank thermostats and insulation**
4. **Heating controls:** e.g. appliance thermostats, smart heating controls, zone controls, delayed start thermostat, thermostatic radiator valves

- The total amount households get towards the cost of secondary measures cannot exceed the total amount they get for primary measures.

Consumers can check their eligibility for the voucher and receive tailored advice at the Simple Energy Advice website and make applications at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-green-homes-grant>

#### **4. How can I participate in the scheme as a business/tradesperson?**

To carry out work under the scheme, all tradespeople and businesses will need to be certified to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures to relevant standards and to register their certification with TrustMark. Registered businesses can sign up to take part in the scheme at <https://www.gov.uk/register-as-green-homes-grant-installer>.

#### ***Eligibility***

- Before you can register with TrustMark, you must be certified to relevant standards.
- If you install energy efficiency measures, you must be certified to install measures against Publicly Available Specification (PAS) standards 2030: 2017 or 2030: 2019 by a certification body that has been accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).
- If you install low carbon heat measures such as heat pumps, you must be certified with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS).
- UKAS is the sole National Accreditation Body appointed under licence by BEIS to underpin quality and reduce risk in the delivery of services in a wide range of sectors including construction.

#### ***Registration with TrustMark***

##### Existing members of a certification body

- Where an existing certification body or scheme provider member wishes to become TrustMark registered, they can apply either directly to TrustMark, or through their certification body;
- Where the business meets the TrustMark criteria, registration will take place within five working days.

##### New applicant to certification body

- Where a business is not yet a member of a certification body or scheme provider, they can identify a suitable scheme via the TrustMark website. From there they will be passed to the scheme for onboarding and registration;
- Where an experienced business is signing up to a Scheme Provider, this process can be completed within 12 working days (subject to the scheme provider), followed by TrustMark registration within five working days;
- Where a business needs to gain PAS or MCS Certification, the timescales are typically 6-12 weeks, followed by TrustMark registration within five working days.

## ***Installer Journey***

1. Installers wishing to carry out installations under the Green Homes Grant Scheme will need to be certified to either PAS 2030:2017 or PAS 2030:2019 by a Certification Body that has been accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).
  - A list of all such accredited bodies operating in these sectors is available on the UKAS website.
2. Register as a certified installer on the TrustMark website.
3. Business will be added to a directory of certified installers on the Simple Energy Advice website.
4. Business will need to register your company and bank details so you can receive payments.
5. Homeowners can apply for a voucher from the end of September.
6. The voucher will contain the name of the tradesperson or business that the homeowner has selected to carry out the work.
7. The government will pay for costs covered by the voucher after the work is completed and the voucher has been redeemed (subject to meeting the scheme and voucher terms and conditions).

Vouchers cannot be used to help pay for works that were carried out prior to the voucher being issued.

### **What are the benefits of certification?**

- By using an installer that has achieved accredited certification to either PAS 2030:2017 or PAS 2030:2019, consumers can be confident their installations meet required standards and will result in an enhancement of the overall energy efficiency of their homes.
- Trust in the sales and installation process, products used as well as aftercare service is a vital component of the Green Homes Grant Scheme.