



Warm Homes Fund

First time gas connections for fuel poor and vulnerable households

The funding will provide low income and vulnerable households with free first-time gas central heating. The funding is for those who are currently using electric or coal heating but whose home is near to an existing gas main.

Background

The Warmer Worcestershire Network is a Worcestershire County Council coordinated partnership between public sector organisations and the third sector. All organisations are working together to tackle fuel poverty. Currently, around 11.5% of County residents are low income households with high energy costs making heating the home difficult. The last Census showed there are over 4,100 households in urban areas in Worcestershire without any central heating. In addition to this, over 11,800 urban households are reliant on more costly electrical heating, such as storage heaters and plug in electric heaters.

Where is the funding from?

Worcestershire County Council, on behalf of the Warmer Worcestershire Network, has received funding from the National Grid Warm Homes Fund. The funding will help 150 households to connect to mains gas for the first time and install a mains gas central heating system.

Who are the project partners?

Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council, Wyre Forest District Council local energy charity Act on Energy.

How do residents find out more?

All customer enquiries should be directed to local energy charity Act on Energy 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Eligibility

- No existing central heating at the property.
- The property is near to an existing mains gas supply
- Privately owned (improvements to social housing cannot be funded)
- Low income household.

Additional Information





What will the funding cover?

- The funding will be matched with Energy Company Obligation¹ funding to cover the cost of the installation of a central heating system. The size of boiler and radiators will be determined by technical survey completed by the installer. Only gas central heating can be funded where no existing central heating is provided.
- A battery operated carbon monoxide detector.
- A pre and post installation Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The EPC will indicate the level of improvement in energy efficiency and expected financial savings as a result of the installation.
- Spot checks on a proportion of the installs will be completed by an appointed clerk of works to monitor the quality of installations.
- Disposal of all waste as a result of the install.

The funding does not cover

- The connection from the gas main to the property. This element must be covered through an application to the Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme. An Energy Advisor will help each household to complete the application form.
- Redecoration costs
- Other energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation. If the Energy Performance Certificate recommends insulation measures the resident will be asked if they would consent to a referral for Energy Company Obligation funding towards the cost of the install.

All installations are subject to a technical survey completed by the installer to determine feasibility of the install.

How to apply

For more information or to confirm eligibility phone Act on Energy 0800 988 2881
The funding will be available from September 2018 to May 2021 unless allocated prior to this date.

¹ Large energy companies are required to spend an agreed amount on home energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions and support fuel poor households

