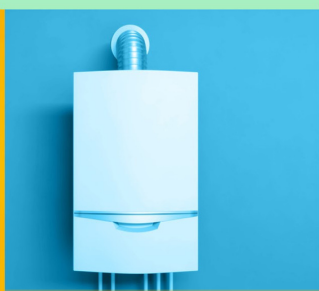
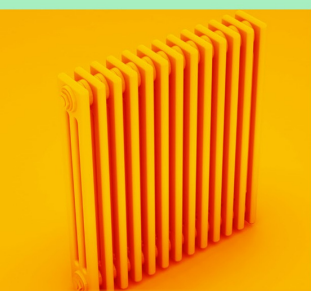




a place to call home:

Energy and Homeowner Support Team

April 2021 Newsletter



Big Boiler Scheme - " We want You!"

As reported last month, the Big Boiler Scheme is now live and operational. This is our biggest heating project ever. The first wave of applications have been processed and the contractors are preparing to start installing new boilers and central heating systems all over the Wakefield District.

Demand has been high but a re-assessment of the available funding is telling us we can help even more households - up to 100 more! We are promoting the project widely but are also asking Partners to pass the word so that your home owner clients, friends, colleagues, family and loved ones don't miss out on this unmissable opportunity to get a new boiler and/or new heating for FREE.



There are 3 main routes for homeowners to qualify for a 100% grant from the Big Boiler Scheme:

Route 1 - to qualify you need:

- Gross income of £30,000 or less
- Savings of less than £16,000
- A cold related illness OR
- A child under 5 OR
- To be pregnant OR
- To be over the age of 60
- Heating that is either broken or inadequate
- To be no more than 2 months in arrears with Council Tax

Route 2 - to qualify you need:

- Net income of £21,000 or less (after any mortgage payments)
- Savings of less than £16,000
- Heating that is either broken or inadequate
- To be no more than 2 months in arrears with Council Tax.

Route 3 - to qualify you need:

- To be in receipt of an EC03 'Affordable Warmth Obligation' Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) benefit as defined on the Government's website
- Savings of less than £16,000
- Heating that is either broken or inadequate
- To be no more than 2 months in arrears with Council Tax.

Please help us to get the message out so that we can help as many local residents as possible.

Call 01924 305887 or e mail energyteam@wakefield.gov.uk to register your interest.

We have new leaflets plus information on our social media pages. Please get in touch if you would like some leaflets, to refer a client or to arrange for us to visit and talk about our schemes

- 01924 305887/ 01924 305892
- @wakefieldenergy
- @wakefieldenergy
- energyteam@wakefield.gov.uk
- moneysmart@wakefield.gov.uk
- www.wakefield.gov.uk/energy

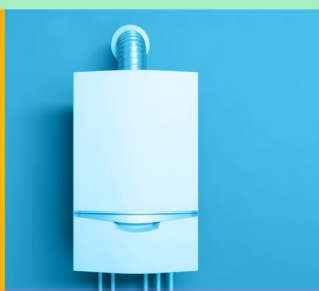
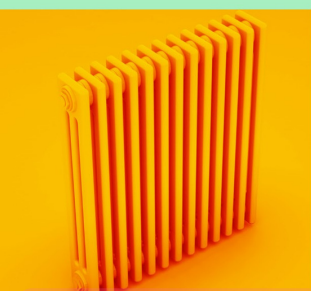
wakefieldcouncil
working for you



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Helping residents (and the nice things they tell us ...)

a) The Energy Team worked with a family who had an old central heating system, meaning that winters were extremely cold, especially upstairs where there were no radiators. We delivered a new, fully funded central heating system through the Big Boiler Scheme scheme including new radiators upstairs. The family said: "I can't tell you how pleased and grateful we are ... it will make a huge difference to our lives going forward and no more freezing cold winters upstairs. Thank you for all your help ... it's much appreciated."

b) The Money Smart Team helped a lady who was really struggling financially and making the choice of whether to heat her home or eat. We were successful in getting her vouchers to the value of £198 to allow her to do both, whilst we sorted out her budget and helped with her finances. She was really grateful for this initial help as well as much warmer.

c) The Toasty Homes project helped a tenant suffering with chronic health issues in a property with a broken heating system. The tenant was in rent arrears meaning that the landlord couldn't afford to fix the heating. A new, fully funded central heating system was installed. The tenant is much warmer. The landlord said: "I cannot thank you enough for responding so quickly. Absolutely brilliant...nothing short of outstanding. It has been such a joy to deal with the Energy Team, who I found to be very professional, always helpful and who always provided solutions and not obstacles. I simply wanted to say that your team are appreciated."

d) The Money Smart Team helped a resident to avoid homelessness. He had received an eviction letter. A budget was prepared and then we liaised on the client's behalf with his landlord to put in place an affordable arrangement resulting in no further action being taken.

Mortgage Breathing Space project - help to prevent home repossessions

The Mortgage Breathing Space scheme is still active in Wakefield, and can offer home owner residents within the District financial help with secured debts if they have run into difficulties.

Whilst many struggling home owners took advantage of the payment holidays offered over the last 12 months by lenders, these payment breaks have now ended and some may still be struggling until they can get back on their feet or find a solution to money worries.

Mortgage Breathing Space can offer an interest free secured loan to qualifying residents to pay off mortgage arrears or cover up to 12 months mortgage payments, giving them the time and space they need without the additional worries and stress of legal action or the threat of homelessness. Call 01924 305892 or e mail mortgagehelp@wakefield.gov.uk for more information.

We have new leaflets plus information on our social media pages. Please get in touch if you would like some leaflets, to refer a client or to arrange for us to visit and talk about our schemes

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