

Financial Assistance for a Warmer Home

Cold Weather Payment If you are receiving Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, with either a pensioner premium or disability premium, or have a child under five, or you are receiving Pension Credit, you may be eligible for cold weather payments of £25 for each period of very cold weather. It will be paid automatically. A period of very cold weather is when the temperature is either:

- recorded as an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days in a row
- forecast to be an average zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days in a row

Budget schemes Your electricity and gas companies will have payment schemes which enable fuel costs to be spread evenly over the full year, rather than peaking in winter. Ask them for details of this and other budget or savings schemes.

What to do if you fall behind with bills If you have gas or electricity bills that you can't pay, let your supplier know. They will want to help you find a way of settling the amount, perhaps by spreading out repayment over a longer period. It is best to contact them quickly rather than let the debt mount up. Gas and electricity companies will not disconnect supply to all-pensioner households in the winter. Make sure they know that you are a pensioner.

Trust Funds Some energy companies and water companies offer Trust Funds. These are for one off applications. They are to help domestic customers who are experiencing hardship and struggling to pay their gas and electricity bills regain a hold on their finances and become financially stable with the ability to meet future bills.



Is your home difficult to heat?

Are you struggling to pay your bills?

Do you have to choose between eating and heating?

Don't suffer in silence – seek help!

Bury Council offers free, impartial advice and information to help Bury residents find the best ways to save energy. To access this advice call: **0161 253 5353**

There is a range of assistance available to ensure you can affordably heat your home:

Little Bill

Bury council is working with Keepmoat to help you to reduce your bills by helping you install energy saving measures at home.



ECO (Energy Company Obligation)

is a new mandatory requirement under the Energy Act 2011 for large gas and electric suppliers to fund energy efficiency improvements. You may be able to have a new boiler installed for free if you are eligible. The Little Bill scheme has access to this funding. If you are not able to get measures totally free there may be partial funding available.

The **Green Deal** helps homeowners and tenants make energy-saving home improvements, like insulation, to make your home more comfortable. The person responsible for paying the electricity will pay for some or all of the improvements over time through their electricity bill. Repayments will be no more than what a typical household should save in energy costs.

Little Bill Communities' is a new incentive scheme open to householders (homeowners, private tenants) in specific community localities wanting to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Phone Keepmoat on **0845 030 4124** for further information on any of the above.

Winter Fuel Payments

The government provides winter fuel payments each winter to provide help for older people with their heating bills. The payment is usually £200 for each household. If you are 60, and you normally live in Great Britain, you may be entitled to a payment - whether or not you are receiving any social security benefits. People aged 80 or over who are entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment usually get an extra payment of up to £100.

You should get your payment automatically, before Christmas, if you receive State Pension or other social security benefit (except Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, or Child Benefit). You should also be paid automatically if you have received a payment in a previous year and your circumstances have not changed. If you don't fall into these categories, then you should make a claim. If you're not sure whether or how to make a claim, or if you want advice, call the Winter Fuel Payments Helpline on **08459 15 15 15**.

Warm Homes Discount Scheme

The Warm Home Discount Scheme helps some older people with energy costs. The Government will write to all those potentially eligible for the winter 2015/2016 discount in autumn 2015. If you qualify you'll receive £ 140 towards your electricity bill in winter 2015/2016. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and participating electricity suppliers will share some limited information about their customers. This allows participating electricity suppliers to give the energy discount automatically to customers who qualify. Discounts will be paid and funded by participating electricity suppliers. You may also be eligible if you are in receipt of other specific benefits – if this is the case you will need to apply directly to your energy supplier, contact them to find out more.



Do you want to turn your big bill into a 'Little Bill'?

You may be eligible for financial assistance towards the cost of installing energy efficiency measures in your home.

Why not find out how you could benefit and plan ahead for energy price hikes?

Check out the back of this leaflet for more information about these offers.

You can also visit the Council webpage for more information:
www.bury.gov.uk/energy

Or call the Bury Council Customer Contact Team to see what you may be entitled to:

0161 253 5353



What's on offer in Bury

Bury Council has teamed up with Keepmoat (and Little Bill!) to help you make savings on your fuel bills all year round and for many years to come.

With this government funded incentive home owners and private landlords could take advantage of a range of energy saving measures. Current offers* include:

- Unbeatable funds towards energy saving home improvements in selected areas e.g. Solid wall insulation, central heating etc
- Funds towards installing loft and cavity wall insulation in selected areas.
- Funds toward installing a new boiler, for customers who are on eligible benefits.

Solar PV Scheme

To lower Bury residents electricity bills we are also investigating the possibility of a borough wide solar PV scheme that would offer 2 options:

Solar option 1 – FREE panels for some residents. Panels are maintained for the next 20 years (homes must have a south-facing roof, be semi-detached, detached or a bungalow).

Solar option 2 – you purchase the panels and you receive national 'feed-in-tariff' funding for producing your own energy.

Please contact us to register your interest in this.

So, what are you waiting for?

Book your full Little Bill home energy assessment to see what may be suitable for your home.

The assessment will be carried out by Council approved, qualified assessors. Assessment includes an Energy Performance Certificate and an Occupancy Assessment. You'll be advised how you can 'future-proof' your home and options / assistance on energy saving improvements.

*Offers are subject to availability, survey, terms and conditions.