

StewkleyGreen after 6 months

It is 6 months since the first meeting of StewkleyGreen and although we haven't achieved as much as we hoped for at that first meeting much has been achieved. Last month we did our 50th survey in Grffin field, disappointingly inefficient for a modern house, and we helped a lady in Ivy Lane having difficulty in obtaining a 100% grant for loft insulating. These have become much harder to obtain because the demand has exhausted many of the sources. However grants towards cavity wall and loft insulation are still available although there is quite a waiting time to get the work done due to a large increase in demand following the 30% increase in gas and oil prices. So if you want to get some benefit this winter do apply now. Last month we also supported the school's application for grants for generating their own green electricity.

If you already have done your insulation and installed low energy light bulbs: Reflective Radiator Panels are another easy win. For an investment of around £50 you can save 15%pa (more in older houses) of your heating bill so they pay for themselves in six months. They are easy to fit and you don't have to remove the radiator. They are available from EcoSavings Direct in the village 306 110 or www.ecosavings.co.uk

StewkleyGreen still needs more help, we can't meet the demand for home surveys, we need people to do them, and we need people who could assemble the reports at home. We can give training for both these activities, so if you could spare a few hours a month to help Stewkley reduce its carbon foot print please contact us. We also missed out on a grant because we don't have any members in the age group 16-25, so we would particularly welcome younger members.

As we can't meet the demand for surveys we have partnered with the Energy Saving Trust who offer a professional survey at the heavily subsidised rate of £99. 14 families in the village have already benefitted from this scheme in the pilot run in August that provides a tailored report and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) as required when selling your home and valued at £100. In Stewkley the measures which typically make the greatest difference to reducing our energy bills and reducing our contribution to climate change are: changing boilers (even relatively new ones) to more efficient gas/oil **condensing boilers**, increasing the amount of **loft insulation** to 250mm, **cavity wall insulation** for newer houses and **solid wall insulation** for older solid wall houses, **Reflective Radiator Panels**, use of **solar panels** to heat hot water, **double glazing** and using **smart driving tips** to use less fuel.

If all this sounds of interest and you want to see what is best for you then take a look at their [advertisement](#), [leaflet](#), Or contact Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk 240 794.

There is talk of a new scheme to offer up to £4,000 grant and £4,000 interest free loan for energy savings. This would be of particular benefit for people wishing to insulate solid walls or install solar panels etc. Contact Roger for more details 240 794.