

# TORFAEN HOMES ENERGY NEWS

Torfaen Homes Energy Newsletter

Summer 2014



## Affordable Warmth Strategy 2012-2017

Torfaen Council Housing Services developed an [Affordable Warmth Strategy](#) to guide the council and partner organisations to work towards reducing the level of fuel poverty in Torfaen. The Council recognises that it has a key role to play in tackling fuel poverty locally and achieving affordable warmth for all. In the strategy Torfaen have set out how it will address fuel poverty in the borough and work towards achieving the Welsh Government target of eradicating fuel poverty by 2018.



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Elgam Avenue

## ARBED 2 – Blaenavon Project

Arbed is a Welsh Government and European funded programme that allows Local Authorities to apply for funding for measures in the most fuel poor areas. The name Arbed is taken from the Welsh word for 'Save' and this name was given to the scheme by the Welsh Government.

Torfaen County Borough Council secured funding for Blaenavon during year 1. Torfaen Housing services worked in partnership with Melin Homes to deliver this project which was completed during October 2013. Throughout the project the following measures were installed:

Measure	Number of Measures Installed
Heating Control Upgrades	26
Full Gas Central Heating Systems	93
Voltage Optimisers	135
External Wall Insulation	86
New Windows & Doors	23
Improved Ventilation	86

Throughout the project 201 households in the area had a survey completed with the majority having at least one energy efficiency measure installed.  
The amount of funding invested in this area was **£2,505,0579,00**.

### How has the work changed your day to day life?

*"Having a combi boiler is a big improvement as I have hot water straight away. Having a new door to enter the garage has meant no draughts and has improved the heat in the garage. The EWI has been a visual improvement and has meant I don't have to have the heating on as much.*

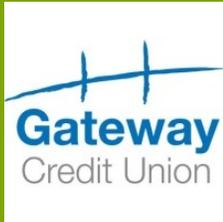
*The Central heating is brilliant as I can now adjust by degrees."*

*- Mrs Roberts, Elgam Avenue*



Mrs Roberts

**Average savings per property due to the project is £292 per annum**



## Solar Loans

If you want to have solar panels on your roof to produce electricity, why not spread the cost with a Credit Union loan at 7.2% APR?

Visit [Gateway Credit Union](#) for more details



## Worried about your water bills?

The Energy Saving Trust [Water Energy Calculator](#) will give you a review of your water usage.



## ECO Arbed Cwmynyscoy & Treveithin

Torfaen Housing Services, in partnership with Melin Homes, are continuing to work towards the delivery of the aims and objectives of the Affordable Warmth Strategy. In doing so, £1.9 million of Welsh Government Arbed and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding has been secured to deliver energy efficiency improvements to private sector housing in two areas of Torfaen i.e. Cwmynyscoy and Treveithin. Improvements include external wall insulation, boiler replacements and loft insulation. Energy saving advice will also be provided to all local residents.





Sirhowy Court



## ECO Arbed

### Thornhill Estate, Upper Cwmbran

The Thornhill Estate is a single, self-contained estate made up of hard to treat timber frame properties, comprising largely of terraced houses and a small number of flats in 3-storey blocks. The estate was constructed over several years during the 1970's. Independent analysis and testing has confirmed that these properties are not suitable for treatment of cavities and require robust EWI solutions in order to significantly improve their energy efficiency. The properties are 'hard to treat' timber frame which lend themselves extremely well to external wall insulation.

#### Torfaen Council Bid – First Phase

Torfaen Council in partnership with Melin Homes submitted a bid to the Welsh Government (WG) to improve the energy efficiency of 130 homes on the Thornhill estate. This was successful and work to install External Wall Insulation (EWI) is currently underway on these properties. As well as improving the energy efficiency of the homes there will also be a number of social and economic benefits delivered as part of the scheme, including:

- Analysis of residents current energy use and profile
- Assistance with behavioural change to ensure residents understand their energy usage
- Ongoing monitoring of energy usage in order to determine impact of measures
- Identification and delivery of potential project to benefit entire community
- Creation of local jobs and training opportunities



It is hoped that further WG funding will become available which will allow the project to be expanded to target all parts of the Thornhill estate.



Sirhowy Court



Usk Court



Usk Court

# Southville, Cwmbran



Northville/Southville was formally declared a Neighbourhood Renewal Area (for a ten year period) by the Council in May 2010 following the findings of a comprehensive NRA Assessment undertaken independently and through wide consultation with residents. A renewal area is identified as having poor housing conditions coupled with social, economic and environmental needs. One of the key findings of the NRA Assessment were the lack of energy efficiency measures of Northville/Southville properties, in turn increasing fuel poverty, impacting negatively on health and well being issues in the area. Heat loss from the properties is of particular concern, and the design and methods of construction (e.g. solid wall properties) exacerbate problems associated with poor energy efficiency.

As Southville is within a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, Specific Capital Grant (SCG) can be spent in this area, therefore SCG was used in conjunction with Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding in order to complete 14 properties in this area. Westdale Services who were already working in this area carried out the work.

## Free Energy Advice



Nest is the Welsh Government's flagship scheme to combat fuel poverty in Wales.

It is designed to make private sector households warmer and healthier places to live. Nest aims to improve the energy performance of households which are living in fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is defined as people who spend more than 10% of their household income on heating their home.

If you are finding it difficult to pay your energy bills you may be eligible to access free energy efficiency improvements including loft and cavity wall insulation, draft proofing and boiler replacement. As well as support in accessing energy efficiency improvements Nest also provides callers with advice and guidance on benefit entitlement, energy tariffs and money management.

For energy advice and eligibility for the Nest scheme visit [Nest Wales](#) or telephone 0800 512 012

Alternatively you can read [The Nest Guide](#)



For free, independent and local energy saving advice and to find out more about energy efficient installations including insulation, micro renewables and grants:

**Energy Saving Trust:**

**0800 512 012**

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

## Contact Us



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# Are you energy efficient?



The most effective way to save money on your energy bills is to make your home more energy efficient. Applying the following tips around your home can help you save hundreds of pounds a year:

- **Get on down.** Turning your thermostat down by 1 degree centigrade could cut your heating bills by up to 10%.
- **Don't get in hot water.** Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat shouldn't be set any higher than 60 degrees centigrade.
- **Turn it off.** Don't leave appliances on standby or on charge unnecessarily. This adds up and wastes energy.
- **Wash wisely.** Use the half-load or economy programmes on your washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher if they are not full.
- **Care for your kettle.** Only fill up and boil as much water as you need.
- **Mend that drip.** A dripping hot water tap can waste enough hot water to fill half a bath in just one week. Fix leaking taps and make sure they are properly turned off after use.

## Energy Efficient Installations

Installing energy efficient measures will really make a difference to your energy consumption and bill prices.

- **Keep the heat in.** A third of household heat is lost through the walls. Installing cavity wall installation can save you up to £160 a year. Modern materials used in cavity wall insulation allow air circulation which prevents dampness.
- **Look up:** Insulating your loft with 10 inches/25 centimetres of insulation can reduce your heating costs by a quarter.
- **See the light:** Replacing 1 old style light bulb with an energy saving light bulb, can reduce lighting costs by up to £78 over the lifetime of the bulb. Plus they last up to 12 times longer than ordinary bulbs!
- **Say good bye to your old boiler:** If your boiler is over 15 years old, consider changing to a new energy efficient boiler. High efficiency condensing boilers can save up to a third of your annual heating costs.

