



# Green Doctor Newsletter



April 2022



## How Energy Savvy are you? Why not have an energy check up with our Green Doctor?

Do you think you are being as efficient with your energy as you could be? A chat with one of our Green Doctors can help you to see ways in which you could reduce your carbon footprint, save energy and in turn save money. If you want to know more about this, contact Mike on the details at the end of this newsletter and see how much energy you can save and find out just how green you are!

## Governments Energy Bill Rebate - £150 rebate on council tax

Many people in council tax bands A-D have recently received their £150 rebate if they make their council tax payments by Direct Debit. If you make your council tax payments in ways other than Direct Debit, the council will contact you in due course to let you know how you will receive your rebate. If you haven't received your rebate by direct debit yet, councils are urging for people to be patient as they are working through everyone and this will take a little time.

It is also worth noting that a fund has been provided to Councils to help lower income households who may not qualify for the Energy Bill Rebate. This will include households who are on lower incomes or in receipt of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and who are in higher than a band D property. Further information on this fund is to be available over the coming weeks on the councils' websites.

## Warm Home Discount update

On 1 April, the UK Government announced its decisions on the future of the Warm Home Discount. The scheme will be significantly expanded compared to previous iterations and will run until March 2026. For those who do not know what the Warm Home Discount (WHD) scheme is, it is a scheme set up by the government to give a discount of £140 off your electricity bill for people who are eligible. Eligible people were categorised into two groups, the core group (being people who received pension credit guaranteed credit) who received it automatically and the broader group (people with low income and receiving eligible means tested benefits) who had to apply to their energy provider to receive one. The WHD typically runs from September/October through to March and people had to apply for the discount during this time to get it and there was a limited supply meaning that it was on a first come first served basis. The announced changes for the new Warm Home Discount Scheme are:

- An additional 750,000 households will receive the rebate, which will be increased by £10 to £150
- The current core group will be maintained as is, meaning that all recipients of Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit will get the rebate automatically.
- There are changes to the broader group. Every rebate will be applied automatically (as of yet there has been no confirmation as to how this will work in practice). This will be on the basis of the household a) being in receipt of a means tested benefit; and b) having high estimated energy needs, based on the characteristics of their home. This means that:

- The rebate will not be available based on receipt of Personal Independence Payments, or Disability Living Allowance, as these are not means tested.
- The rebate is more likely to go to low-income households living in larger properties that cost more to heat.
- More suppliers will have the obligation to deliver the scheme, meaning all but the smallest suppliers (with fewer than 50,000 customers) will need to give rebates.



## Community events

If you would like to arrange for our Green Doctor to come to your community event or group, please do not hesitate to contact Mike on the details at the end of the newsletter and he'll be happy to discuss how we can help.

## Good News!

Everyone likes to hear of good news and we are no exception! Ms K recently spoke with us about how she had been getting on since she had her Green Doctor call a couple of months earlier. Ms K said that the first thing she has noticed is that she is not needing to do extra top ups with her energy meters and has actually had some credit left on her meters when she does her monthly top up! She has been able to change her approach on her energy usage and with a few new habits is saving energy and in turn money. She is also waiting to hear back from her water company regarding what discount she will be receiving on her water bill. Ms K has said that she “wanted to say thank you to Mike for his help” and has passed on his details to her friends and family so that they can benefit from the service. Ms K has also said that she has actually found that she is sleeping better now and puts that down to no longer worrying about her energy bills.

## Green Doctor Service

We are still providing either in home visits or a phone consultation service depending on people's requirements. These are some of the free services we offer when someone signs up for a Green Doctor consultation: -

- Identifying causes of heat loss in the home
- Helping identify and tackle damp or mould problems
- Offering useful tips for saving energy and water whilst ensuring your home stays safe and comfortable
- Installing small energy and water efficiency measures, such as draft excluders
- Supporting you to access other support, government subsidies or grants, advice on energy or water debt

**If you would like to know more about the service or make a referral, please use one of the following ways:**

 07771 362 853 (Mike)

 <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/green-doctor-2/>

 [Michael.blackham@groundworknottingham.org.uk](mailto:Michael.blackham@groundworknottingham.org.uk)

 <https://www.facebook.com/GreenDoctorNottingham>