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Reference: ??????

Green Living

A guide to saving energy, reducing waste and a greener lifestyle



HAVEBURY
HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Climate Commitment

To ensure that we have a sustainable future we all need to reduce the impact we are having on the planet.

Over 40% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, the main greenhouse gas which causes climate change, actually come from the things we do as individuals every day.

Things like leaving lights on unnecessarily or overfilling the kettle all waste energy and result in needless carbon dioxide emissions.

So saving energy is something that we can all do by making small adjustments to our daily routine. This leaflet gives lots of useful tips about saving energy, reducing waste and saving money at the same time.

NEED HELP WITH OIL?

Fuel prices continue to rise and for those using oil the large payment required on delivery can be very hard to find. Havebury has been looking for ways that might help you cover the cost of paying for your oil, and the Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union (ISCU) may be able to help you with a loan, visit www.iscu.org.uk.

You could also consider joining a syndicate. This means you can save money on the oil you order by ordering it at the same time as other people that live near you. You can usually find out who co-ordinates your nearest syndicate by contacting your parish council or Suffolk Acre also run an oil syndicate scheme which ISCU promote, visit www.communitybuying.org.uk



What is Havebury doing

Havebury is committed to save energy and making a difference in the community and for the environment.

Havebury wants to reduce the environmental impact of its properties and in 2012 we were awarded Silver status by the Sustainable Homes Index for Tomorrow (SHIFT). The index is a sustainability benchmark and best practice network, representing over 2 million residents nationwide. We will continue to strive for improvement, and endeavour to reach Gold status in the future.

- There are many things we have already done to help save energy in our homes.
- Loft and wall Insulation has been installed or upgraded to most of our 6,000 houses.
- New windows, doors and draft proofing have been fitted to all our properties.
- A programme is underway to upgrade central heating systems.

TIP

Keep this leaflet handy or hang it up on the back of your kitchen door as an everyday reminder.

For further advice and help, see the handy contact list overleaf or visit our website www.havebury.com

- We have installed 22 ground source heat pumps in our development at Norse Avenue in Stanningfield near Bury St Edmunds.
- We have fitted solar panels to our office in Bury St Edmunds and also to two of our sheltered schemes.
- Every tenant has been issued with four free low energy light bulbs.
- We continue to trial products and equipment to improve the energy efficiency of our homes.

What you can do

We encourage you to read this leaflet and draw up your own action plan on how you can save energy and money. Most things just need a small change in habit which, over a longer period, will really help.

REDUCE

Did you know you can cancel unwanted junk mail? We're so used to it we just throw it in the bin without thinking twice; however you can unsubscribe to many national mailing lists (see details overleaf). If we all did this it would make an enormous difference to the amount of waste paper we receive during the year.

REUSE

There are many local charity shops where you can donate your unwanted items and raise money. St Nicholas Hospice has opened a collection warehouse in Bury St Edmunds and Havebury supports this scheme through the donation of items from empty properties and therefore reduces our contribution to landfill sites.

RECYCLE

Try to buy products that you can recycle or are made from recycled materials. Products that the Borough Council doesn't currently recycle such as tetra cartons and non segregated glass can be taken to a local waste centre. For more information on reducing, reusing or recycling your waste you can visit the St Edmundsbury Borough Council's waste and recycling pages at www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk.

HEATING BILLS

If you are worried about your heating bills, do not switch off or drastically cut your usage. Contact the Home Heat Helpline - this service is available to anyone who is elderly, disabled, living with a longterm health condition or to families on low income. Alternatively contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Energy saving tips

FOOD SAVING TIPS

Don't be tempted by supermarket offers such as 'buy 1 get 1 free' unless you are sure you won't waste it. A third of food bought in the UK is thrown away!

Wash fruit & vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap - then use the water for house and garden plants.

Cook with lids on saucepans & cut food into smaller pieces to cook more quickly. Use a microwave instead of the oven as much as possible.

Use a compost bin for vegetable peelings, fruit, teabags, egg boxes, shredded paper, etc. for plant compost all year long.

WATER SAVING TIPS

Dripping taps waste energy. In one week half a bath could be filled and a dripping hot tap means the boiler cuts in unnecessarily.

Find out where your stopcock is located, so if a pipe bursts you are able to turn off the water.

Fill up washing machines, tumble driers and dishwashers - one full load uses a lot less energy than two half loads.

A 5 minute shower uses half the water of a bath (unless it's a power shower which can use more).

Only boil enough water as you need (but cover the kettle elements). For cold drinks fill a jug of water and place in the fridge.

Use a water displacement device in your WC cistern to save water - Anglia Water offers these free.

Use a water butt (or two) to save water for your indoor and outdoor plants.

Use a watering can rather than a hose to water your garden.

ELECTRICITY SAVING TIPS

Switch off lights when you leave the room.

Use low energy light bulbs that last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs.

Don't leave electrical appliances on standby or on charge as they still use energy.

Defrost your freezer regularly to help the appliance run more efficiently

GENERAL SAVING TIPS

Turning down your thermostat by 1 degree could save you 10% on your annual heating bill.

Donate unwanted items such as books, CD's, household items and furniture to charity shops for reuse.

Draw curtains at dusk to conserve heat. Check for draughts around windows and doors.

Reuse your plastic bags as often as you can and use 'bags for life'.

Dry clothes outside as much as possible; tumble driers use a lot of electricity and are expensive to run.

Ensure your tumble dryer is properly vented outside so it works efficiently and avoids condensation problems.

Set your heating and hot water timer so it's only on when you need it. Adjust your hot water cylinder thermostat to 60 degrees.

Save paper by asking for your utility and other bills to be sent to you by email.

