Keep warm and end fuel poverty

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/c6e821eb334c/end-fuel-poverty-campaign-3912758?e=b620c73f5d) | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing logo  Description automatically generated | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Icon  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **There’s still time to get those energy bills reduced before the Winter sets in.** | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This Winter, it’s more important than ever that you keep warm in your home because we know that cold homes can affect your health and can exacerbate respiratory diseases such as colds and flu’. We can all play a part in looking after our health to prevent the health service from being overwhelmed.  Above all, don’t risk your health by turning the heating down or off when you need it.  If you are worried about how you can pay for your heating then get in touch with us.  There are lots of way we can help. | |      |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing graphical user interface  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | 1    Check your       [Energy Performance Certificate](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=1d2c7d2dfd&e=b620c73f5d)       to see the Energy Efficiency of your       home.  This will also state what steps        could be taken to improve energy       efficiency. | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Text, whiteboard  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | From 1 April this year landlords **MUST** provide you with this Certificate.  If your home  is energy rated below E, your landlord **MUST** do works to bring the property up to E. | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *There are some exceptions if the work would cost more that £3,500, but most homes           can be warmed up for less than that.* **It is unlawful for landlords to let homes that       are Energy Rated F or G**(these are the most energy inefficient bands). | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | If the energy rating is E or above,       but your home is still hard or       expensive to heat, you can       remind your landlord that       the Government is offering Green              Homes Grants of up to £5,000        for energy improvements to       improve tenants’ homes above E.  Text  Description automatically generated | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 2    Your home may be hard to heat because of ill-fitting doors or windows and other items       of disrepair. Speak to your landlord about this now, and if they are unwilling to do the       repairs, contact the local council and tell them about it.  They can tell the landlord       that the works **must**be done. | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 3    Think about changing your energy supplier.  You can go online for an       [energy price check](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=e1c56fbb61&e=b620c73f5d) | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 4    Now you’re ready to take further steps.  The most obvious thing is to wear warm       clothing so that you can turn the thermostat down by a small amount and use less fuel. | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Other tips include,   * Energy efficient lightbulbs – they are more expensive to buy but last much longer than ordinary bulbs and use less electricity. * Wash laundry at a lower temperature (a wash at 30 degrees uses 40% less energy) and where possible dry it outside. * Open your curtains and use natural light when you can * Switch off lights and other equipment in rooms when you are not using them           More tips [here](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=1f000d8a32&e=b620c73f5d) | | |      |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Graphical user interface, application  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | 5    Apply for a Smart Energy meter.              This  will allow you to check your       energy use and identify            what appliances are using the most.        You will also receive correct energy       bills rather than ones based       on estimates. | | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 6   You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021 under the **Warm Home Discount Scheme**.  The money is not paid to you - it’s a one-off discount      on your electricity bill, between September and March.       You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier      provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find  out more. | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing diagram  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 7    Finally, if you, or someone you know is vulnerable you can record this on the       [Priority Services Register.](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=58183fc208&e=b620c73f5d) This is for customers who may need extra support in            emergencies.       The register is confidential and is only ever shared with key partners such as the       electricity and gas distribution network. The Register should ensure that customers       who need it are given support in the event of supply outages, power failures, and other       emergencies. Customers who qualify for the Priority Services Register include:   * Customers of pensionable age * Customers who are visually-impaired or have hearing difficulties * Customers with a disability * Customers with chronic health issues * Customers with a serious short-term illness or injury * Customers with children under the age of 5        You just need to sign up to the Priority Services Register through your current supplier.      You can also ask your supplier to forward your details to your network operator. | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **If you are struggling with your utility bills this winter contact  Pat Fernandes  Advice4Renters Financial Inclusion Manager  who can advise and help you with the latest schemes, discounts and vouchers.**   **Tel 0203 971 4580** [**Pat.Fernandes@Advice4Renters.org.uk**](mailto:Pat.Fernandes@Advice4Renters.org.uk) | | |      |  | | --- | |  |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Diagram, text  Description automatically generated | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **PETITION**   **Please show your support by signing the petition and sharing the link below on your social media.**  [https://www.change.org/EndFuelPoverty](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=b0654819e4&e=b620c73f5d) | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * Over 200,000 households are set to fall into fuel poverty as the economy struggles to recover from lockdown, according to new estimates. * Fuel poverty is caused by low income, high fuel prices, poor energy efficiency, unaffordable housing and poor quality private rental housing. | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The End Fuel Poverty Coalition**is warning that as the numbers in fuel poverty soar, a future wave of **COVID-19** striking during colder weather could be catastrophic for individuals and health services.   **The End Fuel Poverty Coalition**is calling on the government to build on announcements in the Economic Statement and take urgent action to save lives and help address the financial impact of the current crisis. | |      |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Sign The Petition**](https://advice4renters.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1a4859644253089278bc24ed8&id=8ba66c0c2b&e=b620c73f5d) | |      |  | | --- | |  |        |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***2020 |Advice4Renters| All rights reserved.*  Our mailing address is:** [**info@advice4renters.org.uk**](mailto:info@advice4renters.org.uk) | | | |

**RESIDENT SUPPORT FUND BRENT COUNCIL**

**Resident Support Fund**

1. [Overview](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#overview)
2. [Who can apply](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#whocanapply)
3. [Costs the funds can cover](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#costs)
4. [Costs the fund will not cover](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#coststhefundwillnotcover)
5. [How to apply](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#howtoapplyrsf)
6. [What happens next](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#whatnext)
7. [Further support](https://www.brent.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/resident-support-fund#furthersupport)

**Overview**

The Brent Resident Support Fund (RSF) is a discretionary support fund available to Brent residents who are in financial difficulties, for example struggling with food, utility bills and other household essentials. You can also apply if you are in short-term financial need because of an emergency.

The fund provides additional help in the form of an interest-free loan, grant or both.

**Apply**

If you think you meet the above criteria, you can apply online.

If you need help with an application please visit [Brent Customer Services](https://www.brent.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/contact-us).

**Resident Support Fund**

[**Apply for the Resident Support Fund**](https://customerportal.brent.gov.uk/create-resident-grant/?_ga=2.150265142.1818327393.1638175770-212143080.1610037524)

**Resident Support Fund digital form**

If you want help getting access to the internet, a laptop or both, you need to apply using Residents Support Fund DigitalForm.

[**Apply for the Residents Support Fund Digital Form**](https://customerportal.brent.gov.uk/rsfdip-online/?_ga=2.252155273.1818327393.1638175770-212143080.1610037524)

You can save, retrieve and continue with an application you have already started.  When you save your form, you will receive an application reference number by email. To retrieve an existing application, you just need to enter this number. Draft applications will be deleted after 14 days.

**Contact us about benefits**

**Phone:** [020 8937 1800](tel:020%208937%201800)

**Online:** [My Account](https://customerportal.brent.gov.uk/myaccount?_ga=2.174176738.1757460412.1638701812-1624052179.1634033260)

**Visit the Brent Customer Services Centre**  
Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way,  
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

