

## Case Study: Healthy Homes

**Participant:** The Hamill Family

**Location:** Orton Wistow,  
Peterborough

**Date:** February 2016.

**Partners:** Healthy Homes is funded  
by the British Gas Energy Trust,  
managed by Charis Grants.



### Introduction

Fuel bills rising? Boiler on the blink? The independent charity Peterborough Environment City Trust is here to help with its new Healthy Homes project, which aims to assist residents in Peterborough and Fenland to enjoy affordable warmth.

With more than 22 years' experience working within the city and surrounding areas, Peterborough Environment City Trust delivers ground-breaking and innovative projects of local, regional and national significance, enabling change for a sustainable future.

This community-based project, funded by the British Gas Energy Trust, aims to help local residents save money and improve the energy efficiency of their homes, whilst also lowering the carbon footprint of local communities and conserving limited natural resources.

“Through a free home visit, I can advise residents on energy tariffs, the national Warm Home Discount, available grant funding and positive behaviour that saves hundreds of pounds annually,” explains Project Officer Sam Bosson. “In addition to this, everyone will receive a free home energy pack, and even home improvements for residents who meet the criteria.”

This service is available to residents throughout Peterborough and Fenland, whether or not you own your own home.

### The challenge

Mr and Mrs Hamill learned about Healthy Homes through the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services newsletter. Mr Hamill had been made redundant a few months earlier, leading to tough financial times for the family over winter.

The family got in touch with Sam Bosson, Healthy Homes Project Officer, to find out if they would be eligible for any support. Through the Healthy Homes project, anyone in Peterborough and Fenland can receive a free energy advice visit, saving households an average of £235p.a. Sam carried out a home visit for the Hamills, including an energy tariff price check, advice on behaviour change measures to cut bills and an assessment of the current heating system and insulation.



In addition to the home energy advice visit, those with a household income of less than £18,000 could also be eligible for fully funded home improvements such as boiler replacements and insulation. The income limit excludes household benefits such as Child and Working Tax Credits - meaning that in this case, the Hamill family was successfully referred for a range of home improvements to help reduce their energy bills.

## The results

Through the Healthy Homes project, the Hamill family has received a range of support:

- £437 p.a. savings identified by switching to a cheaper tariff.
- Information about the £140 Warm Home Discount.
- Installation of a new 20kw Baxi boiler, two new radiators, new hot water tank, upgraded heating controls and thermostatic radiator valves, with expected savings of £185p.a. through improved efficiency.
- £500 of fuel debt relief, clearing all of the debt on the gas account and a significant amount on the electric account. The family can now top up their accounts without saving additional charges and will also be able to switch supplier to secure a better deal.
- An online training voucher including IT and Prince 2 courses , helping Mr Hamill to work towards his aim of moving into a project management role.

## Feedback

“A very worthwhile project – it will help us tremendously!” – Sean Hamill, project participant.

## For more information

Call Sam Bosson on 01733 866440, email [sam.bosson@pect.org.uk](mailto:sam.bosson@pect.org.uk) or visit the website at [www.pect.org.uk/healthyhomes](http://www.pect.org.uk/healthyhomes) for further details.

