

Case Study: Healthy Homes

Participant: Mrs Bett Slack

Location: Whittlesey,
Cambridgeshire

Date: March 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.

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

Bett Slack was referred to the Healthy Homes project by Fenland District Council Care & Repair. The Council’s Care and Repair team had identified various improvements which could be made to Mrs Slack’s home, but were only able to part fund the work through existing national grants. They referred Mrs Slack to the Healthy Homes project to see whether any additional support could be provided.

Through the Healthy Homes project, anyone in Peterborough and Fenland can receive a free energy advice visit, saving households an average of £295p.a. Sam Bosson, Healthy Homes Project Officer, carried out a home visit for Mrs Slack, 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 results

Through the Healthy Homes project, Mrs Slack has received a range of support:

- Review of energy service provider carried out by Project Officer, resulting in an annual energy bill saving of £344.
- Simple behaviour change tips such as upgrading to low energy bulbs, turning off appliances and reducing tumble drier use, saving £115 p.a. on electricity costs.
- Free energy pack, including a low energy light bulb to help put the behaviour change tips into action.
- A referral for the £140 Warm Home Discount. Read more about Warm Home Discount on PECT's blog: <http://pect.org.uk/blog/5-2016>
- Installation of a new A-rated combi boiler, replacing a 35 year old G-rated model. 7 thermostatic radiator valves were also installed, allowing rooms to be heated to different temperatures depending on use. Overall, the home improvements are forecast to save Mrs Slack £215 in the next year, as well as reducing carbon emissions by 927 kgCO₂/kWh.

Feedback

“It's been wonderful - I'm very, very happy. You've been a great help to me - thank you.” Bett Slack, project participant.

For more information

Call Sam Bosson on 01733 866440, email sam.bosson@pect.org.uk or visit the website at www.pect.org.uk/healthyhomes for further details.

