

Case Study: Healthy Homes

Participant: The Tavares family

Location: Peterborough

Date: January 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

The Tavares family was referred to the Healthy Homes project by Cross Keys Homes (CKH). Normally, households with an income of less than £18,000 p.a. (excluding certain benefits) are considered for fully funded home improvements such as boiler replacements and insulation through the Healthy Homes project. However, as a housing association, CKH takes responsibility for maintaining properties on behalf of tenants, meaning that the Tavares' home already had adequate loft and cavity wall insulation as well as an A-rated boiler.

CKH referred the family for advice on other ways to cut energy bills. Sam Bosson, Healthy Homes Project Officer, carried out a home visit for the Tavares family, including an energy tariff price check, advice on behaviour change measures to cut bills and a free energy pack. Anyone in Peterborough and Fenland can receive a similar free energy advice visit, saving households an average of £295p.a.



The results



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

- Review of energy service provider carried out by Project Officer, resulting in an annual energy bill saving of £269. This included arranging for an exchange to a single rate electricity meter to allow the switch to take place.
- Free energy pack including information about cutting bills as well as gadgets such as low energy bulbs.
- Free Radfan also provided- a small fan which clips to the top of a radiator, to direct heat flow into the centre of the room.
- Simple behaviour change tips such as turning the thermostat down by 1°, turning off appliances and reducing tumble drier use, saving £175 and 2,023 kg of carbon emissions per year.
- 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>

Feedback

Cross Keys Homes said, “We enjoy working in partnership with PECT and are delighted with the results and positive impact the one to one advice has had on our customers. We are happy to refer to PECT as we are confident that Sam’s free, impartial and comprehensive advice really does make a difference and can lead to substantial savings. There are many positives as a result of this engagement.”

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.

