



Green Doctor Newsletter



September 2021

Insulate Britain protests!

On the 13th September the first of the Insulate Britain protests were made by protesters blocking junctions of the M25 and caused tremendous delays and tailbacks for miles. The Insulate Britain movement was founded with the aim of ensuring insulation across Britain, the group laid out two specific demands for its September 2021 protests. The first is that the British government fund insulation of all social housing by 2025, and the second is that, by the end of 2021, the government must create a plan to fund retrofitting of insulation of all homes in Britain by 2030. Insulate Britain created a Parliament petition for the first demand.

Now, whilst I may not agree with the methods of the protests, the fact remains that this is an important issue! There is such a high proportion of the homes in Britain that could dramatically benefit from insulation – both the occupants and the environment. According to The Guardian, the group's demands are in line with consensus among climate scientists and policy experts that home insulation—including when retrofitted—is an environmental priority, it saves money to occupants and is beneficial to the economy as well as the environment.

Energy Price Cap increase and energy firms going bust!



Also in the news in September was the increase in the Energy Price Cap that means that a typical household will be paying a total of £1,277 annually for their gas and electric – a rise of £139 from the previous cap. This increase has been caused by the recent increase in energy costs through a wide range of reasons (gas wholesale prices increasing by up to 250%, less renewable energy being created, a fire on a main electricity supply line from France, scheduled maintenance on Nuclear power plants) and this energy cost increase has forced some energy companies to go bust. First there was MoneyPlus Energy and PFP Energy on the 7th

September, then People's Energy and Utility Point on the 14th, then Avro Energy and Green Supplier Limited on the 22nd and then Igloo Energy, Symbio Energy and Enstroga on the 29th. Sadly, this may not be the end of the energy companies that may go bust. Our advice for people whose energy company has gone bust is- don't panic Ofgem ensures that any credit in your account is protected and they will set you up with another energy provider relatively quickly. You will not be without supply and they advise to continue to pay in the same way you have been doing until the new company is in contact with you about setting payments up with them.

Should I switch my tariff to a different supplier?

For the first time in a long while the answer to that is NO! At the moment, the new price cap means that for someone on typical usage will be paying annually £1,277. The cheapest fixed tariff on the market is £1,570 based on the same usage. That means you would be paying £300 more just to have the certainty of keeping a price for a year. Also, further advice from our Green Doctors as well as Martin Lewis (Money Saving Expert) is that with regards to switching tariff, we suggest that you stay on the price cap (or standard tariff) and wait (with fingers crossed) for the energy prices to come down a little and for the fixed rate deals to become more reasonable. If you are currently on a

fixed rate tariff, your rate will stay at the level it was fixed for (which will be noticeably less than the current price cap) until the fixed rate ends and will then change to the price cap unless other fixed rate deals are offered by your supplier. If you are on a “standard” tariff or “flexible” tariff you are likely to be on the equivalent of the price cap and will be affected by the 1st October price rise and will probably have had a letter in the post confirming this.

Do you think your community could benefit from Green Doctor advice?

Do you know of anyone who could benefit from the Green Doctor service? Do you have any community events happening near you that could benefit from Green Doctor advice? If so, contact Mike on the details at the end of the newsletter and he'll be happy to discuss how we can help.

It's not all doom and gloom!

Whilst there is a number of unhappy headlines in the news (which there often is) there are still some good things happening out in the world. September the 27th marked the start of National Energy Action's Warm Homes Week which this year saw the NEA celebrating its 40-year anniversary and they spent this milestone by bringing together their supporters across the whole of the UK, surpassing last year's event and crucially investigating new opportunities to work together to end fuel poverty. The NEA held a number of presentations and the links to these can be found here:




<https://www.nea.org.uk/nea-campaigns/warm-homes-week-2021/>

Current Service

We are now providing either in home visits or a phone consultation service depending on people's requirements. These are some of the free services we offer when someone signs up for a Green Doctor consultation:-

- Identifying causes of heat loss in the home
- Helping identify and tackle damp or mould problems
- Offering useful tips for saving energy and water whilst ensuring your home stays safe and comfortable
- Installing small energy and water efficiency measures, such as draft excluders
- Supporting you to switch energy providers to save money
- Supporting you to access other support, such as emergency heating, government subsidies or grants, advice on energy or water debt.

If you would like to know more about the service or make a referral, please use one of the following ways:

 07771 362 853 (Mike)

 <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/green-doctor-2/>

 Michael.blackham@groundworknottingham.org.uk

 <https://www.facebook.com/GreenDoctorNottingham>