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Welcome to Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth News! This issue brings you up to date with the latest news about Fuel Poverty, Energy Saving Week, energy efficiency grants for landlords and a scheme for pensioners to help them replace the heating systems in their homes. For more information from the action group, visit:

**[www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk](http://www.wolverhampton-affordable-warmth.org.uk)**

## Wolverhampton councillors walk the walk to combat fuel poverty

St Helens Council launched their Fuel Poverty Strategy on 25<sup>th</sup> September and marked the occasion by walking from St Helens, Liverpool to London to hand deliver the Strategy to MPs in Westminster. The journey took walkers through 15 towns and cities on the way, including Wolverhampton.

The group arrived in Wolverhampton on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, and set off through the City from Aldersley following a speech from Cllr Judith Rowley. They were joined by representatives from PCT, Whitmore Reans in Partnership, npower, the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, Wolverhampton City Council, Health Through Warmth and Cllr Heap from the Liberal Democrats.

Walkers were greeted by over a hundred school children waving balloons and windmills on the route from Aldersley to the Mayors Parlour, which passed through Whitmore Reans, a fuel poor area of Wolverhampton.



The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr John Davies led a welcome party to receive the 16 Walkers at the Mayors Parlour with well earned refreshments and exhibition stands from all partner organisations. Free low energy light bulbs were given to residents who attended the event to emphasise the issue of saving energy.

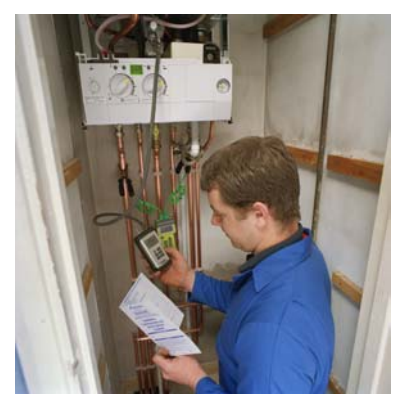
The walk was organised by Age Concern and also acted as a focal point for Age Concern week. It's aim was to highlight concerns about Fuel Poverty and rising gas and electricity prices, with a particular emphasis on low income households and those whose health could be affected by living in cold or damp properties.



# Action for affordable warmth

## Warm Front introduces £300 rebate scheme

If you know someone with no working heating system, aged 60 or over and not in receipt of any benefits, then look no further. The Warm Front Team are offering eligible householders a £300 heating voucher as part of the Heating Rebate Scheme, to replace inoperable heating systems or install new heating systems in homes that currently do not have one. The Warm Front Team have already helped thousands of householders receive heating and insulation improvements for their homes through various schemes since 2001.



The Warm Front Team can be contacted on 0800 316 2808 to check for eligibility. If the application is successful, the householder will be issued their heating voucher which will be valid for 3 months from the date of issue. They will also be provided with a list of six registered installers who will be fully qualified to install their new heating system.

Give them the free phone number 0800 316 2808 today to ensure their homes are adequately heated this winter!

**Wolverhampton City Council has recently employed an Energy Efficiency Officer to help promote energy efficiency grants and schemes for domestic properties.**

**Tom Winckley is based at the Civic Centre and can be contacted on 01902 551346 if you have any queries regarding the assistance available in your area.**

## Child's suffering eased thanks to Health Through Warmth.

A young lady in Wolverhampton received a full Warm Front grant as a result of an application to the Health Through Warmth scheme. Ms Myers, a Goldthorn Hill resident, has a child who suffers from severe eczema. Faced with the dilemma of using their electric convector heaters, which aggravated her daughter's condition, or going without any heating, they contacted the Energy Advice Centre and a Health Through Warmth application was made.

The Warm Front grant that Ms Myers received enabled them to receive full gas central heating, loft and cavity wall insulation, draught proofing and a pack of low energy light bulbs.

Ms Myers says that the grant has made a huge difference to her daughter's health and has also made a large dent in their fuel bills.



# Action for affordable warmth

## Affordable Warmth Facts

The Affordable Warmth Grant scheme for Wolverhampton has so far helped over a thousand private sector households.

As a direct result of this work, substantial reductions in CO2 emissions have been achieved.

Since its launch in 2000, the Affordable Warmth Grant scheme has allocated over £1,000,000 of funding to help those most in need in the City.

## Consumers are switched on to energy saving at B&Q



The 23rd of October saw the beginning of this year's energy efficiency week. The Energy Advice Centre went to B&Q in Bilston to distribute low energy light bulbs to members of the public as an incentive to help them commit to saving energy in their homes.

The Council provided staff to help out at the event where over 500 bulbs were given away. Chris Shears, Project Administrator at the Energy Advice Centre commented "the event was a fantastic success. Members of the public were enthusiastic about Energy Saving Week and the free light bulb puts them a step closer to their commitment to save 20% in line with Energy Saving Week's theme."

B&Q has also become one of the first high street retailers to supply domestic renewable appliances such as solar water heating systems and wind turbines. For free and impartial advice on renewable energy measures contact your local Energy Advice Centre on free phone 0800 512 012.



## Council teams up with Salix to help community energy projects

Wolverhampton City Council has teamed up with Salix Finance Ltd to bring funding for energy efficiency measures to the City. The funding is to be spent on council owned community buildings to help them fit insulation and heating controls.

Before any measures are installed, a payback period is calculated based on the energy that they will save. The bill payers will continue to pay their normal rate until the measure has paid for itself, with the extra money returning to the pot to be reused. After the payback period they will benefit from having the savings on future utility bills.

For further information, or if you know a building that could benefit from this help, contact Dave Webb on 01902 555 540.



# Action for affordable warmth

If you have any news or stories that you would like to see in the next Affordable Warmth newsletter you can e-mail them to:  
chris.shears@hestiaservices.co.uk

## Wolverhampton's new landlord scheme

The Energy Efficiency Investors in Tenants initiative, aims to integrate a minimum energy efficiency standard into all University and College private landlord recommendation schemes across the region. The scheme offers grants to help landlords invest in energy saving measures and exceed the minimum standards. Landlords investing in measures through the grant scheme will be awarded the Energy Efficiency Investors in Tenants mark and this will be included in the recommended property listings viewed by students.



All landlords across the West Midlands region are eligible for help towards energy saving measures, irrespective of the type of tenant living in their rented property. Landlords will be offered grants covering 100% of the cost of installation if their property is rented to a student through a University or College partners' scheme, or in receipt of benefits. All other privately rented properties will be able to access a grant of around 30% towards the cost of installation.

A series of promotional mailings and events will take place over the next 18 months aimed at raising students', landlords' and universities' awareness of the initiative and the benefits of investing in energy saving measures both to the landlord and tenant. Also, in recognising the problems that many students are faced with when first renting in the private sector, practical advice on using heating and hot water systems, monitoring fuel supply and fuel payment options will also be provided alongside energy saving advice.

If you would like to find out more about any of the grants and schemes mentioned in this news letter you can contact your local **Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** on free phone:

# 0800 512 012

