

# Green Homes Grant Discussion | CCAN Zoom [18/08/20]

## A summary of what was discussed, and concerns raised:

- The scheme ends with the financial year 31st March 2021. Concerns were raised around the short timescale (six months) of the scheme:
  - Does this mean the money has to have been spent by then or just allocated? Most feasible - money must be allocated by then, as it does not seem like enough time to ensure work is completed
  - Does this deadline apply to the Local Authority part of the scheme? If so, LAs will likely struggle to meet the short delivery time/ provide the much needed upgrades of homes for low income households in their areas
  - With the timescale falling in winter months, weather will likely delay work, especially external wall insulation (EWI).
  - Due to Covid-19, people may be anxious to let installers into their homes. What about the uncertainties surrounding future lockdowns?
  - A large amount of money has to be approved (or possibly spent) in a very short timeframe - how do we ensure we don't inadvertently help those who already have the resources, rather than the most vulnerable people and those with poorly insulated homes which need the upgrades the most?
  - The short timescale also leaves no opportunity to learn from the whole process to inform the future.
  - Looks like it may become a 'first come, first served' situation which will have implications for isolated, vulnerable people who may not have access to the internet:
    - There may be a place for community groups and fuel poverty organisations to reach vulnerable households and those in rural areas e.g. by promoting/sharing information with as many people as possible.

Sheelagh Handy from Tideswell Climate Action Group said they plan to proactively make sure people living in fuel poverty know what is available so they can make an informed choice.

- While the vouchers will provide a much-needed boost for low-income households, the £5,000 cap – or even the £10,000 for the poorest homeowners - may not be enough for certain energy efficiency improvements e.g. solid wall insulation. Worry that the money will not actually go to those in need for the measures that will do the most good for them.

- How much of the £2bn funding will find its way to rural homes? These are often large and some of the least energy efficient properties in UK. Vouchers up to the value of £5,000 will not cover two-thirds of the costs in these instances.
- Will a part of the fund be used for monitoring/evaluation? How will carbon and financial savings be tracked? Will there be a portal we can use to view the carbon improvements we are achieving? - *No system as of yet has been announced. But, we should expect to see some form of analysis in the future.*
- Tradespeople must register for TrustMark or Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation to take part in the scheme. This may be lengthy process with fees involved – which favours larger installers over just-as-good smaller/independent installers:

*Estimated costs:*

**TrustMark:** Range £70 - £100, depending on the Scheme Provider

**MCS accreditation:** Fees vary depending on how many technologies you install. For one technology, it costs about £500 (including MCS License) + £100 non-refundable initial application fee.

- No further information on the government's wider green package has been made available - £1 billion programme to make public buildings across the UK more energy efficient and the additional £50 million to pilot innovative approaches to retrofitting social housing at scale
- For more information on Local Authorities part of the scheme, see [Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme](#).