



Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing

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The Energy Saving Trust (EST) was set up by the UK Government after the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and is one of the UK's leading organisations addressing the damaging effects of climate change. Our goal is to achieve the sustainable and efficient use of energy, and to cut carbon dioxide emissions which are the key contributor to global warming. We are a non-profit organisation funded by governments and the private sector.

Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing (EEBPH) sets standards above the current building regulations. The standards, covering Good Practice, Best Practice and Advanced Practice, provide an integrated package of measures that cover all aspects of new build and refurbishment.

The programme provides a source of tools and training available for everyone involved in the design, construction and refurbishment of domestic housing in the UK.



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Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing

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Energy Efficiency Best Practice in Housing is managed by the Energy Saving Trust on behalf of the Government.

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Dwellings built to Best Practice standards will have lower fuel bills and lower environmental impact.

Why should I care about Best Practice?

EEBPH can help you protect your housing projects against future changes to building regulations. More importantly, it can give you the edge over competitors who are slow to recognise the importance of energy efficiency.

A home built to Best Practice standards will have a higher Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating (a calculation of a building's energy efficiency) and is likely to be more marketable to prospective householders and tenants.

EEBPH can also help you to understand the wider context of your housing project and support you in delivering the best package of measures and solutions to meet your requirements.

Alarming figures on the condition of our environment highlight the need for Best Practice measures. In the UK, homes alone account for more than a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions which contribute to climate change. This is a good enough reason to take immediate action.

Currently it is Best Practice to specify condensing boilers; from April 2005 this will be a required standard in England and Wales. They have a seasonal efficiency of 90% compared to non-condensing boilers at 78% - 82% making them cheaper to run.

EEBPH provides free:

- practical, relevant information and tools for delivering the best standards in energy efficiency
- training and events to develop understanding of energy efficiency and renewable solutions
- advice from some of the UK's leading experts on housing energy performance
- specialised site-specific consultancy for larger development or refurbishment projects

Installing cavity wall insulation where possible is Best Practice; it reduces the heat loss through the walls by up to 60% and can save the occupant of a semi-detached house £70-100 a year.

EEBPH is managed on behalf of DEFRA by the Energy Saving Trust (EST). It aims to provide:

- environmental benefits through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change
- financial benefits for organisations through the minimisation of management and maintenance costs
- social benefits from contributing to the alleviation of fuel poverty and reducing the energy bills of householders and tenants

Is there an EEBPH guide suitable for my work sector?

There are EEBPH guides available for new build and refurbishment in the following areas:

- whole house
- lighting
- heating
- glazing
- renewables
- insulation and ventilation
- hard to treat

These and project case studies can all be ordered free of charge by contacting the Helpline on 0845 120 7799 or downloaded from www.est.org.uk/bestpractice

Training events

EEBPH provides training events across the UK to help you to develop your understanding of key energy efficiency, renewables and sustainable housing issues. Visit www.est.org.uk/bestpractice/events to find out when the next events are.

Implementing Best Practice standards can make a significant inroad into tackling fuel poverty.

Consultancy

EEBPH offers you free access to some of the UK's leading experts in energy efficiency and renewables in housing. If you're looking for advice on a technical issue, you can call the Helpline on 0845 120 7799 or fill in the form at www.est.org.uk/bestpractice/consultancy. Your questions will be passed on to an expert consultant who will contact you directly with advice and solutions.

In new build dwellings, lighting and appliances can now account for up to 75% of total fuel costs, 33% of CO₂ emissions and 20% of total energy use. Following Best Practice standards can help reduce these figures.



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Interactive tools

The EEBPH website has a suite of interactive tools to help you adopt Best Practice as standard practice:

- whole house boiler sizing wizard – this provides a quick and simple method of boiler sizing
- energy calculator – use this to calculate the environmental impact of your energy use
- hard to treat matrix – this is a source of technical solutions for hard to treat properties
- robust details – this is a series of robust detail CAD drawings covering a variety of building configurations, detailing insulation options throughout

Visit www.est.org.uk/bestpractice/tools to find out more.