

LOOKING FOR HELP? – WE TELL YOU WHERE TO GO!

An excellent place to start – whatever your Energy Question!

www.EnergySavingTrust.org.uk

tel: 0800 512012

Independent, free, impartial and expert advice.

- Insulation
- Feed-in tariff
- Renewable Heat Incentive Premium Payment
- Energy efficient appliances

Supplier Switching

USwitch - www.uswitch.com - tel: 0808 1783492

Switch with Which? - www.which.co.uk/switch

Department of Energy and Climate Change

www.decc.gov.uk

Warm Front Scheme

limited funds for households on certain benefits –
providing grants for energy saving measures up to £6,000

DirectGov - www.direct.gov.uk - tel: 0800-3162805

The Mid Sussex “Green Doctor”

have a **free** visit from the Green Doctor provided by
Mid Sussex District Council - tel: 01444 477191

All the above links and numbers can be found on

www.HoathlyHub.info/Energy

To be put in touch with a Parish case study of a particular topic mentioned in this leaflet email energy@HoathlyHub.info or call **01444-892065**

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with funding from Mid Sussex District Council

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Independent Energy Advice

www.HoathlyHub.info/energy

watt? ENERGY ISSUE

**LOSING ENERGY?
THE TREATMENTS**

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**THE GENERATION GAME
TIME TO ACT?**

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**GROWING BILLS
AND HOW TO DUCK THEM**

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**“OHM” TRUTHS -
LOWER YOUR RESISTANCE**

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ALL HOT AIR?
**watt? SHOWS YOU HOW TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
FOR £SS**

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watt? ENERGY ISSUE

We hope you enjoyed our light-hearted front page and thank you for reading on. Now for the serious stuff about doing something about our rapidly growing energy bills and the depletion of natural non-sustainable resources.

Before the winter starts and our heating bills inevitably increase, we want to highlight some immediate energy opportunities you can take advantage of **NOW**. This leaflet forms a follow-on to the "Home Energy Fair" we ran in October 2010. The back page of this leaflet has some very helpful contacts.

LOSING ENERGY? - FREE OR CHEAP REMEDIES

We spend a lot on heating our homes – whether from oil, electricity or other means – so the most effective thing we can do is not to let that heat just escape through the roof, windows or the walls! Most people probably have some insulation, but today the recommendation is 270mm (or nearly 11 inches) of **loft insulation**. In the early days of loft insulation just 2 inches was the typical thickness!

If someone living in your home is 70 years old or more or you qualify for certain benefits, you can have your loft insulation installed or just upgraded to the current standard **FREE!** If you have **cavity walls** you can have those insulated for nothing too. So it costs you nothing and as a result your heating bills could be reduced by up to £200 every year.

Even if you aren't 70 or over you can still benefit from subsidised insulation improvements carried out for less than £200.

THE GENERATION GAME - TIME TO ACT!

If you have ever thought about installing solar panels to generate electricity, the next 6 months are likely to be the best time financially to do it we are ever likely to see! A bold claim maybe but you have no doubt seen some of the many solar photovoltaic (PV) panel installations that are now in West Hoathly Parish. These households have realised that the current **Feed-In Tariff (FIT)** of 43.3p per unit, which is Government guaranteed for 25 years, will be reduced year-on-year from 1st April 2012. A policy review is also looking into FITs which could further reduce its attractiveness. A PV system could cost up to around £14,000 but pay a tax-free, index-linked income of £1,600 or more - which is a rather better return than a deposit account and would go a long way to paying your energy bills.

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ALL HOT AIR? – HOW TO KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR LESS

This summer the Government announced incentives in the form of money-off vouchers which run **until March 2012** to encourage new installations of "renewable heat". The Renewable Heat Incentive Premium Payments (RHIPP) range from £300 for a solar water heating system, to £1250 for a Ground or Water-Source Heat Pump. Biomass heating and Air-Source Heat Pumps are also included. Once all the vouchers are taken the scheme will close so time is of the essence. From Autumn 2012 there will be RHI annual payments for most of these technologies installed from July 2010, but the final details of the on-going scheme are yet to be announced.

"OHM" TRUTHS – LOWER YOUR RESISTANCE

We all know about low energy light bulbs and not leaving TVs on standby – but there is a lot else we can do to reduce our home energy use. From simple things like closing curtains, turning our heating and hot water thermostats down just a little, not heating rooms we aren't using and not boiling more water than we need for tea. Each of these and many other tips on the EnergySavingTrust (EST) website all add up to making a noticeable difference.

Add to that choosing a more energy efficient replacement boiler or efficient appliances when we replace old fridges (and particularly freezers), washing machines etc (the EST has a comprehensive list of appliances) will mean we continue to reduce our energy use for the lives of the new products.

GROWING BILLS – AND HOW TO DUCK THEM

There can't be many things on which we spend hundreds of pounds every year but most of us don't "shop around" for the best deals. Many people seem very reluctant to do this for their electricity for example; yet comparisons are very easy to make and the switching process is quite straightforward through specialist independent websites or phone lines. There are lots of choices including fixed or variable tariffs, with or without standing charges, monthly or quarterly billing and type of generation used. At this time of significant tariff increases it is very worthwhile to go to *USwitch* or *SwitchWithWhich* and see if there is an energy deal out there which would suit your home better.

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