

Thermal cameras: Next steps

In North Somerset, energy consumption in our homes accounts for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. North Somerset Council is committed to tackling the climate emergency and reducing energy use is a key component in our plans to reach net zero by 2030.

Once you've used a thermal camera to find where your home is losing energy, the next step is to identify the home improvements needed to help you stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer – reducing your carbon emissions plus saving you money on your energy bills.

Please help us spread the word about our new thermal camera loan service by telling your friends, family and neighbours all about it! It's completely free, they just need to be a North Somerset library member to borrow one. They can check their library membership is up to date or become a member at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/joinalibrary.

Small gaps

For heat loss around doors, windows, letterboxes, cables or plumbing fixtures, there are lots of low-cost ideas to fix problem spots on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website at www.cse.org.uk/advice/diy-draught-proofing.

Larger areas

If your thermal camera photos show there are larger areas where heat is escaping your home, there are lots of options to help you fix the problem.

There is money available to help you pay for many of these solutions – check the 'Funding' section at the end of this information sheet.

Roof

If your home is losing energy through the roof, it's a good idea to top-up your loft insulation. There's more information on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website at <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/loft-insulation>.

Walls

Homes built after the 1930s usually have a gap between the external walls, which can be filled with insulation to stop energy escaping. Find out more on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website at <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/cavity-wall-insulation>.



Windows

If your home is single glazed, secondary glazing will reduce energy loss. If double glazing is not an option for your property, it is usually still possible to fit alternative secondary glazing. Find out more on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website at <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/secondary-glazing>.

Funding

There are various funding pots available in North Somerset which can help you pay for home improvements which reduce carbon emissions and cut energy bills.

Bright Green Homes

Grants help low-income households living in properties that do not have mains gas central heating fund energy saving measures. Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/BGH or call 0117 352 1180.

Connected for Warmth

Funded by the National Grid, this scheme installs heating and insulation measures into homes across Britain. Find out more at www.evolvehes.co.uk/connected-for-warmth or call 0800 107 8576.

Great British Insulation Scheme

A UK Government scheme for free or cheaper insulation. Find out more at www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme.

More support

If you're not sure where to begin, there are lots of local groups who can help you make a plan to improve the energy efficiency of your home:

- Zero Carbon North Somerset's Home Energy Taskforce offers free or low cost surveys for homeowners. Find out more: <https://zcns.org/home-energy-task-force>
- Burnham & Weston Energy offer services in Weston-super-Mare. Find out more: www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk/home-energy-advice
- The Bristol-based First Thermal project covers some of the areas of North Somerset close to Bristol. Find out more: <https://first-thermal.co.uk>

You can also find lots of ways to save energy on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency>.