

Hello

Autumn is definitely here (bye bye summer – what little we had of you!) so its time to think about getting your home ready for winter.

In this issue of our newsletter you'll find more information about the Government's recently launched policy initiative to help us all improve our homes at no upfront cost – **the Green Deal**, and how Bristol City Council and BGD are getting involved in raising the profile of this initiative. There are still opportunities to get free or subsidised insulation through your energy company before the end of the year - see below. We also bring you a short movie – something you can watch on one of those cold wet and dark winter evenings, and an opportunity to buy a BGD T-shirt.

The Green Deal

Interested to know what's happening with the Government's new initiative to help us improve the energy use in our homes? The Green Deal is a new scheme to encourage householders to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, at no upfront cost. The initiative is open to all, whether you are a homeowner or tenant in a privately rented home, or one rented through a social housing landlord. The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) have produced some guidance documents which are available from their website through this [link](#).

Bristol Green Doors are working on a new webpage for our website that outlines what the Green Deal is about, how it works and how you can engage in the process. Links to government guidance documents will be provided, as well as others that we think will be useful. This page will be up on the website by the end of October under 'Next Steps'.

Free or cheap insulation through your energy provider

Currently energy providers are obligated to help their customers make their homes more energy efficient. They do this through providing free* or subsidised installations of loft and cavity wall insulation. The energy companies are set targets to achieve each year, at the moment all of the big six (Npower, EDF, British Gas, Scottish & Southern Energy, EON and Scottish Power) companies are behind on their obligations. At the end of the year, when the Green Deal goes live, the rules will change. The energy companies will still be obliged to help their customers, however this will be focussed on those on the lowest incomes and helping customers in houses where it is not easy to install energy efficiency measures. This will be done through the ECO part of the Green Deal. What this means for the average customer is that loft and cavity wall insulation will no longer be subsidised, and will have to be installed by the customer or as part of a Green Deal package. So, if you haven't done either of these simple measures yet, now is the time to make it a priority!

Here are links to the big six energy companies websites

[British Gas](#), [EDF](#), [EON](#), [NPower](#), [SSE](#), [Scottish Power](#)

*Generally only applies if you are over 70, are on certain state benefits or if you currently have less than 100mm of loft insulation.

Our friends at the **Centre for Sustainable Energy** also provide a home energy advice telephone service. There are still schemes in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire where you can take advantage of grants and support to help make your home more energy efficient. The link to their website is [here](#) or you can contact their helpline on **0800 082 2234**.

Bristol City Council & the Green Deal

Bristol City Council are one of 7 cities across the country that have been awarded funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for a Green Deal Go Early trial. BCC plan to help over 600 householders improve the energy efficiency of their homes through installation of retrofitting measures. There will be subsidies for all householders taking part in the scheme, though those on lower incomes or receiving certain statutory benefits may receive full or much higher grant contributions.

BCC are looking for individuals interested in participating in the scheme. You can register your interest to participate through our website. Should you be successful and proceed through to installation, both you and Bristol Green Doors will receive a small donation as a thank you. Follow this [link](#) to register your interest. (All information will be held in the strictest confidence and only shared with BCC).

Bristol Green Doors hope to be able to help BCC deliver an open homes aspect of this project (subject to tender) sometime in 2013, so that visitors can understand more, not just about retrofitting measures, but how the Green Deal process works.

Tackling the Terrace

After a long summer waiting for the weather to improve for long enough to finish the project, the scaffolding was finally removed in early August. With the help of our friends at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, we have produced a short video which you can watch by clicking [here](#).

Bristol Green Door T-shirts

We have a small number of T-shirts (of varying sizes and colours) featuring the Andy Council "Planet Bristol" illustration. These are printed on 100% organic cotton T-shirts that are produced in a carbon neutral manufacturing process. We like to stick to our principles where we can! As I said – stocks are limited, so get in touch quick to place your order. Click [here](#) for our online shop.

Wrap yourself and your house up to stay warm this winter.

That's all for now folks!

Ben, Dan, Ele, Kate & Tom