

Energy saving for care homes 2023

 Florence



Energy saving for care homes: a complete **guide** for 2023

The energy crisis is pushing
care homes to the brink.

Here's how to fight back.

Make your care home **energy efficient**

When your care home is struggling with soaring energy costs, it's not a simple case of turning the heat down. Your residents need to be warm and happy, some may rely on electrical medical equipment, and the services you provide – from cooking to laundry – come with associated power consumption. So, what to do?

Here, we explore small changes you can make straight away to reduce energy expenditure, as well as larger modifications you can plan in the long term. We'll also cover how to secure funding for longer-term changes.

Use this as a go-to guide for making your care home more energy efficient in 2023, without sacrificing residents' and staffs' comfort.

Table of contents

1. Everyday energy-saving tips
2. Long-term energy-saving tips
3. Fund energy-efficient improvements
4. How Florence can help your care home

1. Everyday energy-saving tips

These are small and relatively inexpensive changes you can make which will cumulatively improve energy efficiency in your care home.



Replace older bulbs with LED



Fit thermostatic radiator valves



Install low-flow showerheads



Invest in electric blankets and throws



Seal gaps to minimise draughts



Go for new, energy-efficient appliances



Avoid leaving appliances on standby



Replace older bulbs with LED

This tip has been out for a long while, but there are still energy-guzzling bulbs floating around – and not just incandescent bulbs. Older compact fluorescent bulbs also use more energy than modern LED bulbs (70–80% less vs 90% less than incandescent bulbs), so it's worth checking to make sure you don't have any of those in light fixtures, either.

Incandescent bulbs cost [nearly six times as much](#) to run as equivalent-lumen LED bulbs, and multiple bulbs all running at once in a care home quickly add up. According to the [Energy Saving Trust](#), at current rates, you can

save up to £15 a year switching from a single 100W incandescent bulb to its LED equivalent. If you have even 15 incandescent bulbs hiding in your care home, you could save up to £225 a year.

It's worth checking sneaky places like:

- Outdoor fixtures on sides of buildings.
- Light fixtures in driveways.
- Light fixtures in garages, sheds and workshops.
- Bathroom light fixtures.

...to make sure you're maximising your LED bulb usage.



Fit thermostatic radiator bulbs (or smart valves)

Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) make it easy to separately control the air temperature of individual rooms. TRVs automatically give you room temperature control, and help you save money by avoiding the overheating typically caused by manual valves.

Typical TRVs will cost around £10–£30 each. A smart TRV can cost a lot more, starting from £50.

[More info here](#) via Homeserve.



Install low-flow showerheads

These use less water (but still produce a nice shower experience), so you have to heat less hot water in total.

[More info here](#) via Homeserve.

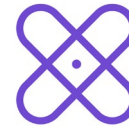


Invest in electric blankets and throws

The mantra “heat the person, not the room” works very well in a care setting. Electric throws are easy to give people when they’re in chairs; electric blankets work well in beds and fit neatly under waterproof sheets.

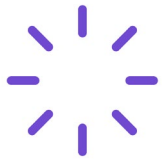
If moving someone using a wheelchair, consider getting rechargeable battery packs to keep blankets toasty while residents are mobile and away from plug sockets.

If you’re heating people in their bedrooms, communal living areas and so forth, you can keep bathrooms (and other spaces where blankets won’t work) warmer.



Seal gaps to minimise draughts

Collectively, small spaces around windows and doors add up to a lot of heat loss. It’s worth checking exterior doors for draughts and adding draught-excluder foam tape and/or weather stripping to minimise air flow. You can do the same with windows.



Go for new, energy-efficient appliances

Energy-efficient appliances, like new industrial washing machines and dryers, can really cut down costs. Think about machines you use every day, over and over again.

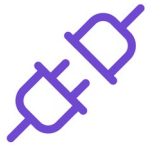
You can make energy-saving choices when replacing these appliances:

- Washing machines.
- Tumble dryers.
- Dishwashers.
- Microwaves.
- Fridges/freezers.
- Cookers and hobs.

- Kettles.
- Floor and table lamps.
- Desktop, laptop PCs and tablets.
- Smart speakers and DAB radios.
- Televisions.

When upgrading or renewing, always spend a little extra on energy-efficient models, looking for the highest rating on the A-G scale provided (A+++ models being the highest) because they'll help save electricity.

[More info here](#) via the Energy Savings Trust.



Avoid leaving appliances on standby

Standby is the energy used by certain appliances when not in use and not switched off at the plug.

Fortunately, there are a number of products available to help cut down your standby electricity consumption, such as standby savers that allow you to turn all your appliances off in one go. Some come with timers, and others come with a single off switch.

[More info here](#) via the Energy Savings Trust.



2. Long-term energy-saving tips

These are larger energy-efficiency modifications you may need to make when it's warmer to improve energy efficiency in your care home, next year and beyond.



Check water tank and pipe insulation



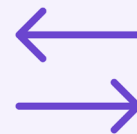
Insulate older buildings



Top up existing insulation



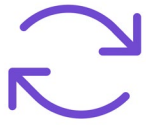
Replace windows and doors



Switch tariffs



Explore renewable energy



Check water tank and pipe insulation

Hot water tanks and pipes that aren't properly insulated lose a significant amount of heat. It's worth checking if tanks and pipes are properly insulated – over time, insulation can degrade and mice can also do damage.



Insulate older buildings

You frequently hear of older buildings not having insulation because walls are made of brick or stone, so they don't have cavities. However, various options exist to improve energy efficiency:

1. Creating cavities in walls for insulation.
2. Exterior cladding.
3. Interior cladding.



Top up existing insulation

Even well-insulated buildings need examining every now and again to make sure the insulation hasn't degraded or doesn't need topping up.

Common signs your insulation needs replacing...

1. **Animal infestation** – Squirrels, rats, mice, bats, wasps and more can all find their way in at times, and if this happens then you may need to replace your insulation. Droppings, chewing and general movement from pests can damage insulation and prevent it from being as effective as possible.
2. **Wet insulation** – If your home suffers from a significant leak, you will likely have to replace

your cavity wall or loft insulation. If insulating material become damp or wet then it must be replaced immediately to prevent the growth of mould, and also to ensure that your home insulation stays effective.

3. **Draughts/temperature changes** – If your insulation has been working fine but then all of a sudden you notice a significant change in temperature, or start to feel draughts, then this is a sign that your insulation may need topping up or replacing.

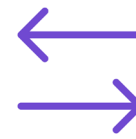
[More info here](#) via Westville.



Replace windows and doors

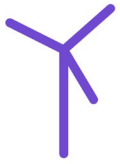
Leaky windows and failed double glazing can reduce a property's energy efficiency. If you have older windows, it's worth replacing them with newer, more energy-efficient windows. You may not even have to replace the entire window unit – it might be possible to replace the glazing only on older frames.

Same with exterior doors – replace doors with better-insulated doors with proper modern locks on them and you could save energy **and** reduce your insurance premium (because the doors are more secure).



Switch tariffs

We're in the middle of an energy crisis, so it may be hard to find a better-value business electricity tariff – but that doesn't mean it's impossible. It's important to keep checking to see if what you're paying is reasonable or not.



Explore renewable energy

Renewable energy can keep your costs lower year round and could help protect you against another energy crisis in the future.

[More info on getting a wind turbine](#)

via Zero Carbon Business.

[More info on installing commercial solar panels](#)

via MoneySavingExpert.

[More info on installing a ground source heat pump](#)

via the Renewable Energy Hub.



3. How to fund energy-efficient improvements

Check for available grants and low-cost loans to fund longer-term energy-saving initiatives. Repayments on low-cost loans can often be cheaper than paying high utility bills for energy-inefficient buildings.



Energy efficiency grants for care homes



Green finance loans



European Regional Development Fund: grants



Screwfix Foundation



The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund (Wales)



SME Loan Scheme (Scotland)



Work with a consultant



Tax incentives



Energy efficiency grants for care homes

Look for grants aimed at low-efficiency buildings, rather than those specifically aimed at care facilities. You may be entitled to some money toward improvements, which will then help cut electricity costs.

[Find grants to support energy saving for your business - via gov.uk.](#)

Ask [your local council](#) if they provide energy efficiency funding or sustainable business growth grants. You will normally need to submit a business case to apply. Some initiatives may also be eligible for [business innovation funding](#).

See if you can get paid to generate your own renewable power and heat through the national

[Smart Export Guarantee scheme.](#)

Energy companies may offer small business energy-efficiency schemes or grants.

Eligibility criteria and availability will vary, depending on things like:

- the size of your business.
- your location.
- your business sector.

[Contact your supplier](#) to find out what they offer.

You can also look for funding options via free grants search services, like [Grants Online](#).

Let's Talk has information on [business funds some charities offer](#) and how to apply.

[WRAP](#) may offer grants and investments supporting business waste-reduction costs.

[Find more resources for funding your energy savings through grants](#) via Ofgem.



Green finance loans

Look into low-cost business loans for energy-efficient improvements via...

[Barclays.](#)

[NatWest.](#)



European Regional Development Fund: grants

We've left the EU and this program is coming to an end, but there are funds still available (quite a few grants run until the end of 2023).

It's worth checking to see if you're eligible for help: some grants are national, while others are tailored to specific audiences or regions (or both). [More info here.](#)



Screwfix Foundation

[Screwfix Foundation is a charity](#) that supports development of various building projects, including not-for-profit care homes. It works with recipients all over the country and offers up to £5,000 in funding.



The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund (Wales)

[The Carbon Trust](#) could pay up to 30% of the project cost (up to a maximum of £10,000). You can get energy-saving equipment like new lighting, heating, or a control system installed in your care home.



SME Loan Scheme (Scotland)

You could get an [SME loan](#) worth up to £100,000 or a cashback grant worth up to £30,000 for installing eligible energy-efficiency equipment.



Work with a consultant

Working with a consultant can help you figure out what you really need to do to make your care home more efficient. Consultants have a lot of experience and regularly work with businesses like yours, so they're in a great position to identify gaps in energy efficiency (and quickly, too!). Options include:

- [Focus Business Consultancy](#).
- [BRE Group](#) – long-standing organisation that can help you assess what your needs are and how best to improve your circumstances.



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Tax incentives

Don't forget to claim capital allowances on equipment (including energy efficient mods) you use in the care home. You can deduct the costs of these from your profits before tax.

[More info here.](#)



4. How Florence can help your care home

With Florence, you save 30% of your agency budget by filling shift gaps with your own staff first. For any shifts you don't fill, you can immediately get cover from our community of 90,000 fully-vetted nurses, healthcare assistants and support workers.

Your schedule is updated for you, instantly, with full visibility of who's working when.

Cut agency spend and use Florence to get peace of mind over your schedule for good.

We're on your side.
Find out more and
[book a demo](#) today.