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SuperHomes



Welcome to your new SuperHomes newsletter. This is brought to you by the SuperHomes Team and the National Energy Foundation.

If you have any news, views or ideas please do get in touch with us

at jo.williamson@nef.org.uk

Join the SuperHomes network!

Spring statement: VAT scrapped for energy efficient retrofit measures

Budgeting for greener homes?

VAT will be scrapped for energy efficiency measures such as solar panels, heat pumps, insulation and triple glazing to tackle high energy bills, it has been announced. The abolition of VAT on these will be in place for at least five years (it does not cover battery storage, however). SuperHomes has been involved in campaigning for this and very much welcomes this move.

The spring statement also had details of a letter the Chancellor wrote to the UK Infrastructure Bank, which works with high street banks to develop products. In this letter, he said that “it is more important than ever” that the Bank backs clean energy, energy efficiency and measures to improve the UK’s climate



SuperHomes campaigns with other groups for retrofit outside HM Treasury

Greener retrofit to become the norm?

Energy use in our homes contributes about 14% of the UK's current carbon footprint, and with bills rising rapidly due to global forces, there has never been a better time for retrofit. Our housing association members have told us this is a live issue for them, as many of their residents on lower incomes will struggle to pay their utility bills. Bills could rise all the way to £4000, according to Banking Group Investec. The government's package of help consists of:

- A £200 discount on bills for about 28 million households (repayable in £40 instalments over five years from 2023)
- £150 Council Tax rebate for homes in bands A-D
- Other discretionary funding



National Energy Foundation took part in the Great Homes Upgrade Campaign

The price cap has just risen, and there is very likely going to be another rise in October, quite apart from the market volatility due to other reasons. No wonder RSLs (registered social providers) and individual homeowners are throwing their weight behind green retrofit wherever possible. This could be one of the reasons why our resident member numbers have increased by a whopping 300% and you can also join us!

Find out more about joining our retrofit revolution and becoming an aspiring SuperHomer!

[Join here!](#)

New energy strategy announced: a sustainable future or a missed opportunity for homes?

The good: [Under the government's new plans](#), up to 95% of the UK's electricity could come from low-carbon sources by 2030. There is a big focus on offshore wind, with a new target of producing up to 50 gigawatts (GW) of energy from this source by 2030. Officials said this would be more than enough to power every home in the UK.

The controversial: A new body called Great British Nuclear will be launched to

Some missed opportunities? From the domestic energy point of view, given soaring bills and the climate emergency, this would have been the ideal time for a funded thorough home insulation funding programme.

New funding available for heat pumps



The Government's announcement of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, or BUS, announced earlier this month, gives householders £5000 off the cost and installation of an air source heat pump or biomass boiler, or £6000 off the same for a ground source heat pump. There are some conditions you need to fulfil, such as not having any outstanding EPC recommendations, but this is a step in the right direction. We have held a Heat Pump event for our Aspiring SuperHomers, but may hold others according to demand.

[Our upcoming events](#)

Also in the news: Green light for EV charging

Strategy, there will £500m invested in expanding the EV network, creating a more even spread of Chargepoints nationally and making recharging easier, for example by allowing contactless payments. There will also be increased support for divers without off-street parking and fast charging for longer journeys. BP also confirmed it would spend £1bn on new UK charger infrastructure as part of its plans to diversify revenues.

[Sales of new cars and vans with petrol and diesel engines](#) will be banned from 2030, and sales of EV cars have increased dramatically: Last year saw the biggest annual increase in a number of registrations, with more than 305,000 electric vehicles registered showing a growth of 74% on 2020.

Our next SuperHomes event for organisations: Hard to Treat Flats



An open event focusing on the retrofit of hard-to-treat flats All flats are Hard-to-treat and present constraints over the retrofit options. We will examine a range of issues including: what are the low-carbon solutions to heating flats? Fire safety and retrofit. How can we deal with mixed tenure?

If you would like to join us for this event and lots of others as an organisation, please get in touch with Jo (jo.williamson@neforg.uk) or check out our website:

Government's Energy Strategy Delayed

Publication of the government's eagerly awaited Energy Strategy has been further delayed; we learned this week. Speculation has suggested there are conflicting ministerial views on nuclear vs. wind, both of which are likely to feature heavily in the strategy, now due next week. Other reasons for the delay are potentially around awaiting a decision on how to help lower income households access affordable warmth, and securing our energy supply going forward. Possible policies for inclusion are:

- schemes to offer homeowners discounts on energy if they live near new windfarms or nuclear plants.
- A further council tax rebate to counteract energy price rise due in October
- A home insulation scheme (we particularly like this one at SuperHomes).

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Find out how we're helping homes assess the performance of their

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