

Solar energy grants

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More households are taking up the offer of a grant from Herefordshire Council towards installing solar energy systems.

Under the Special Energy Efficiency Scheme (SEES), grants of £500 are available to all homeowners in Herefordshire towards renewable energy measures such as solar power, wind energy, ground source heat pumps, wood fuelled boiler systems and stoves. Councillor Phil Cutter, Herefordshire Council's energy champion, said: "So far this year we have given out 20 grants for solar energy systems showing county residents are willing to embrace new technology as a way to reduce their fuel bills.

"People taking up solar energy will also help the county to reduce carbon emissions and this, in turn, will help tackle climate change," he added.

SEES was launched in Herefordshire in 1999 and, to date, energy efficiency improvements have been carried out on 10,000 county properties.

Half of households in Herefordshire are off the mains gas network and many people also live in older properties with solid walls which are harder to insulate.

This year the SEES scheme will be targeting people who live in the wards Ross on Wye West, Aylestone (College Estate, Kingsway and Barrs Court areas) and Kington.

The £500 grant households in the target wards who are owner-occupiers or live in homes that are privately rented with tenants receiving the consent of landlords for energy efficiency works to go ahead.

The scheme is also open to clients living in Herefordshire who heat their homes by electric storage heaters, electric central heating, solid fuel central heating, LPG central heating or room heaters with no central heating. Residents who pay for their fuel by prepayment meter are also eligible.

To find out more information about the SEES scheme, contact 01432 260398