



## ECO-GUIDE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Energy Efficiency Guide for Wingfield and Stowford, Wiltshire

Reducing energy usage at home is not only good for the environment but also helps lower household bills. This guide offers practical tips to make your home more energy-efficient, tailored to residents in Wingfield and Stowford. By taking simple steps, you can significantly reduce your carbon footprint while staying comfortable year-round.

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#### 1. Why Energy Efficiency Matters

- **Lower Carbon Emissions:** Reducing energy demand helps combat climate change.
- **Save Money:** Energy-efficient homes use less electricity and heating, leading to lower bills.
- **Improve Comfort:** Well-insulated and draught-free homes stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

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#### 2. Quick Wins for Energy Savings

##### Lighting:

- Replace traditional bulbs with LED bulbs, which use up to 90% less energy.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.

##### Heating:

- Lower your thermostat by 1°C to save up to 10% on heating bills.
- Use thermostatic radiator valves to control temperatures in individual rooms.

##### Appliances:

- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use, or use smart power strips.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers with full loads and on eco settings.

##### Water Heating:

- Install a water-efficient showerhead to reduce hot water usage.
- Set your water heater to 60°C to prevent overheating.

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#### 3. Home Improvements for Long-Term Efficiency

##### Insulation:

- **Loft Insulation:** Add at least 270mm of insulation to keep heat from escaping.
- **Wall Insulation:** For older homes, consider cavity wall insulation or internal solid wall insulation.
- **Floor Insulation:** Use rugs or install insulation beneath wooden floors to reduce draughts.

##### Windows and Doors:

- Install double or triple glazing to reduce heat loss.
- Seal draughts around windows and doors with weatherstripping or draught excluders.

##### Energy-Efficient Appliances:

- When replacing appliances, choose ones with high energy-efficiency ratings (A+++).
- Consider upgrading to an energy-efficient boiler or heat pump for heating needs.

##### Renewable Energy:



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- Install solar panels to generate clean electricity and potentially lower bills.
- Explore government grants or schemes that support renewable energy installations.

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### 4. Tips for Reducing Energy Waste

- **Use Timers and Smart Thermostats:** Automate heating and lighting to avoid wasting energy when you're not at home.
- **Switch Energy Suppliers:** Use comparison websites to find greener, cheaper energy tariffs.
- **Defrost Freezers Regularly:** A frost-free freezer runs more efficiently.
- **Close Curtains at Night:** Prevent heat loss by keeping curtains or blinds closed after dark.

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### 5. Indoor and Outdoor Considerations

#### Indoor:

- Maximise natural light by keeping windows clean and curtains open during the day.
- Use radiator reflectors to direct heat back into the room.

#### Outdoor:

- Plant trees or shrubs to create natural windbreaks and shade for your home.
- Use solar-powered outdoor lights to reduce electricity usage.

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### 6. Resources for Local Support

- Wiltshire Council: Check the council's website for information on energy-saving grants and home improvement loans.
- Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE): Provides advice on improving energy efficiency in older homes common to Wiltshire.
- Energy Performance Certificate (EPC): If buying or renting a property, check its EPC rating and potential improvements.

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### 7. Start Small, Make a Big Difference

Every little change adds up to significant energy savings over time. Start with quick wins, then plan for larger home improvements as time and budget allow. Whether you're replacing an old appliance, sealing draughts, or investing in solar panels, every step helps create a more sustainable Wingfield and Stowford.

Together, we can lower energy use and support a cleaner, greener future for our community.