

Green Deal

Cashback Scheme Closed

The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund is closed to new applications. On 23 July 2015, the Government announced it has stopped funding the Green Deal Finance Company, which lend money to Green Deal providers. The Government scheme was set up to help homeowners pay for all those improvements works that will save energy.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme launched alongside the Green Deal, gives grants to low-income households and people living in older properties. It will continue until March 2017. The aim of the Green Deal was to help homeowners make energy-saving home improvements to their property and repay through savings from their energy bills. The Green Deal was advertised as a loan what put

many people off. In real the energy company made repayments by the homeowner by deducting from their standard bill, what was not only spread on for a long time but also did not increase the bill. The homeowner had to repay only what was predicted as a saving on the energy bills each month.

The funds were available for:

- Cavity wall insulation
- Double-glazing
- Draught-proofing
- Solid wall insulation
- New boiler
- Heating controls
- Loft insulation
- Solar panels
- Underfloor heating
- Many more improvements

The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund was intended to give a boost to the energy efficiency policy, but about 9,500 applicants took the final £70m in just three days. The popularity of the scheme was

increased when a refund of the green deal assessment fee of approx £100 was also included.

Many building services companies got certified to deliver the Green Deal improvements. The energy efficiency industry has claimed that thousands of jobs have been lost due to problems with the green deal.

The ECO cash is still available. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme gives grants to those on low-income or living in older properties or low-income communities. All six suppliers - British Gas, Npower, EDF, E.on, SSE and Scottish Power, have an obligation to help customers insulate their homes. The Green Deal providers can bid for the money for everyone who is eligible. There are also freebies on offer for insulation and solid wall insulation.

In summary, it seems that if you have funds to cover improvements upfront it is worth it, taking into account long-term energy bill savings.

More about home improvements for energy savings and the guide about currently available grants and how to get them in the next issue of IBB Builder.

