

ENERGY SAVING LIGHT BULBS GIVEAWAY

11th June 2007

North Staffordshire Warm Zone has already given away over 15,000 energy saving light bulbs and it's estimated that during the course of the project that this figure will increase to over 200,000.

By changing just one standard 100-watt light bulb with a 20-watt energy saving bulb, you can save around £10 off your electricity bill every year for up to 10 years. Plus you'll be saving 9kg carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year.

If everyone installed just one energy saving light bulb the CO₂ emissions saved would fill 2 million double decker buses. And if each house installed three energy saving bulbs, it would save enough energy to run the country's street lights for a year.

That's why North Staffordshire Warm Zone plans to give away 4 free light bulbs to every household who qualify for the Warm Zone scheme across North Staffordshire.

Supported by North Staffordshire Warm Zone Partners, the campaign aims to help save energy, money and help meet North Staffordshire's CO₂ reduction targets as part of its commitment to addressing climate change.

The free energy saving light bulbs will be available to all eligible residents who complete a Warm Zone form. So look out for the Warm Zone team who will be visiting you over the next two years. If you can't wait until then you can download a form at <http://www.warmzones.co.uk/northstaffs.html> alternatively households can call 01782 238443.

Everyone who claims their free energy saving light bulbs will also be eligible for insulation grants and other services. For more information visit www.warmzones.co.uk or call 01782 238443.

Tracy Hine, Director of the Warm Zone, says "the programme will help cut carbon emissions and bring immense benefits to the area. We expect tens of thousands of people will be able to reduce their CO₂ emissions by accessing insulation grants and free light bulbs, making their homes much warmer and more comfortable whilst at the same time cutting their fuel bills.

Over the next coming weeks a letter will be sent to residents in Silverdale, Parkside & Tunstall area telling them about the scheme. That Home Visitors, who will be in Warm Zone uniforms and carry identity cards will visit them and ask a series of questions on their doorstep after which the data

collected will be assessed to determine whether or not they qualify for the free or discounted measures. A surveyor will then visit a few weeks later and all being well, arrange for the necessary work to be carried out.

Councillor Wanger who represents Tunstall said "I welcome any scheme that tackles fuel poverty and cuts CO₂ emissions. It's refreshing to see that this scheme helps owner occupied and privately rented households. I would hope that private houses take this opportunity to improve their homes and use the other services available to them"

North Staffordshire Warm Zone top energy-saving tips:

Here are 12 tips to help you save energy in the home, money and the environment and to help you get the most out of your electricity and gas.

1. Loft Insulation. An un-insulated or poorly insulated loft can account for 25% of the heat loss from a typical house. Insulating your loft can save £80-£100 per year.
2. Cavity Wall Insulation. Up to 35% of heat is lost through the walls of your home. Insulating your cavity walls can save up to £100
3. Washing. A shower rather than a bath uses, on average one fifth of the hot water.
4. Low Energy Lamps. Low energy lamps use one fifth of the energy of an ordinary light bulb. Energy cost savings over the lifetime of the lamps £50-£60.
5. Cooking. Microwave ovens use up to 75% less energy to heat food compared to conventional cookers.
6. Kettles. Boil only as much water as needed for immediate use.
7. Heating. Keep a regular check on thermostats. Turning down your heating by 1C can reduce your bills by up to 10%.
8. Laundry. Wash cloths at 40C – a quarter of the cost of the hottest cycle.
9. Doors and Windows. Draught proofing saves heat loss and improves the comfort of your home.
10. Fridges/Freezers. Locate in a cool place. Defrost regularly.
11. Hot Water Tank. Make sure it is properly lagged with a minimum 80mm jacket. This will keep your water hotter for longer and save you money
12. Energy Efficiency Labelling. Look out for energy labels next time you purchase a fridge, freezer or a laundry appliance. Purchase the most efficient you can afford.