

Minister Sees How Warm Zone Can Fight Residents' Fuel Bill Rises

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Climate Change Minister Joan Ruddock, will visit a London resident to see how they are fighting the fuel cost hike with the help of London Warm Zone and Newham council.

Average household energy bills are approaching a record £1,400 a year, causing headaches for many East Londoners this winter.

81 year old Alfred Francis, who lives in Plaistow, has received help from London Warm Zone which has installed cavity wall and loft insulation slashing hundreds of pounds of her annual energy bill.

London Warm Zone (LWZ) can help residents in the capital keep warm and healthy by making their homes more energy efficient.

Joan Ruddock, MP said: "I welcome this opportunity to see the type of work Warm Zone is doing in London and the impact that insulation, draught proofing and energy efficient appliances can have on bills."

"I would urge all Londoners eligible for free insulation or reduced cost measures to take up the offer. With prices constantly rising, advice can save you money and this is a good time of the year to get things done."

Cavity wall insulation is one of the most energy efficient home improvements that can be made and can cut fuel bills by up to 30%, according to LWZ.

Mr Francis said: "LWZ has made an enormous difference to my life and finances. They can look at the energy efficiency of my home and recommend solutions to keeping warm, such as heating and insulation. They also helped me claim benefits I didn't know I was entitled to and this has been a great help to me. I am very glad of their help."

LWZ works in conjunction with the East London Renewal Partnership (ELRP) which operates in Newham, Hackney, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets, Havering and Barking and Dagenham. The partnership helps vulnerable households improve the heating and insulation in their homes and increase incomes through benefits take up work.

EDF Energy also supports the Partnership through funding for insulation and other measures.

The ELRP recently secured funding from the Government's Community Energy Efficiency Fund and was able to provide help for hundreds of additional east end families.

Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales, said: "Residents appreciate the help they get in making their home energy-efficient and see the benefits through savings on their utility bills.

"Fuel poverty is a major issue and with the increase in energy bills, it's vital that people, especially those who are vulnerable such as older people, can afford to heat their homes."

Jim O'Sullivan, director of LWZ, said: "If you are concerned about your gas and electricity bills after the recent price hike by some energy companies, LWZ may be able to help. An assessor can visit your home to undertake a free assessment to find out how to make your home warmer and identify any benefits you may be entitled to.

"We are grateful for Joan Ruddock MP's visit. It demonstrates her keenness to see the impact that LWZ has had on the health, warmth and comfort of London residents.

"Working with the East London boroughs demonstrates our commitment to help as many people as possible across the region live in warm healthy homes and help fight the ever-present threat of global warming."

To find out more and book a home energy assessment call LWZ on freephone 0800 587 2251 or visit the website at www.londonwarmzones.co.uk