



Thermal Camera Results: What next?

Once you have used your thermal camera to find where your home is losing energy, the next step is to identify the home improvements needed to help you stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer, reducing your carbon emissions plus saving you money on your energy bills.

Home improvements can vary in both scale and cost, it is always important to compare prices of both materials and contractors when planning work, to ensure you are obtaining value for money.

Small Gaps for heat loss around doors, windows. Letterboxes, cables or plumbing fixtures there are many low-cost ideas to fix the problem and undertake the work yourself. For more information visit the following energy advice pages:

[DIY draught-proofing - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/diy-draught-proofing)

[Cavity wall insulation - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/cavity-wall-insulation)

[Energy Saving Trust: Draught-proofing](https://www.energy-saving-trust.org/draught-proofing)

Larger Areas - if your thermal camera photos show larger areas where heat is being lost or escaping in your home, there are many solutions to help you reduce this from happening.

Roof - if your home is losing energy through the roof, it is a good idea to top up your loft insulation. Information on insulation measure available can be found on the Centre for Sustainable Energy Website [Loft insulation - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/loft-insulation) and [DIY loft insulation - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/diy-loft-insulation)

Walls - can vary in construction depending on the age and design of the house. Houses built after 1930 are usually of cavity wall construction, which is a space between the external and internal wall and can be filled with insulation to stop energy escaping. Information on cavity wall insulation can be found on the Centre for Sustainable Energy Website [Cavity wall insulation - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/cavity-wall-insulation)

Windows - If your home is single glazed, secondary glazing will reduce energy loss. If double glazing is not an option for your property, it is usually still possible to fit alternative secondary glazing. Find out more on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website at [Secondary glazing - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/secondary-glazing) and [Energy efficient glazing & high performance external doors - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](https://www.cse.org.uk/energy-efficient-glazing)

Funding

Here's a summary of the main grants and schemes currently available to Swindon residents for home energy efficiency improvements:

Warm Homes: Local Grant (open now, runs to March 2028)

This is probably the biggest one to signpost residents to. It launched on 1 April 2025 and is open for applications in the Swindon area. [Warm Homes Funding](https://www.cse.org.uk/warm-homes-funding) Households can receive up to around £15,000 for energy efficiency improvements like insulation, solar panels and draught-proofing, plus a further £15,000 towards low-carbon heating such as heat pumps. [MoneySavingExpert](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com) To be eligible, household income must be under £36,000, the property needs an EPC rating of D to G, and applicants must either own the property or rent privately. [MoneySavingExpert](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com) The quickest way to apply is through the GOV.UK eligibility checker, or residents can contact Swindon Borough Council directly. [MoneySavingExpert](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com) Worth noting that local authority funding allocations are fixed, so it's a case of first come first served — once Swindon's pot is spent, no more applications can be processed until around 2028. [Uswitch](https://www.uswitch.com)

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) — extended to 2030

A £7,500 grant is available for air-to-water heat pumps, and for the first time a £2,500 grant is available for air-to-air heat pump systems. A new £2,500 grant is also available for heat batteries. This is a universal grant with no income threshold, so any homeowner replacing a fossil fuel boiler can apply regardless of earnings. Installers now deduct the grant upfront from the quote, so residents no longer have to pay full price and claim back.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme>

ECO4 Flex / Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS)

The ECO4 scheme focuses on supporting low-income and vulnerable households by improving the least energy-efficient homes. [Swindon Borough Council](https://www.swindon.gov.uk) facilitates ECO and LA Flex energy grants, with flexible eligibility criteria that can consider factors like income, age, or health conditions beyond traditional benefits. The Great British Insulation Scheme supports ECO4 by delivering predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households. Note that ECO is being wound down with its remaining funding redirected into the Warm Homes schemes so this one may close soon.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme>

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20055/home_energy_efficiency/233/home_energy_conservation

Warm Home Discount

This provides an automatic £150 rebate on electricity bills, applied to around six million eligible households. Payments run from October 2025 to 31 March 2026, and in England and Wales the discount is applied automatically if the account holder's name was on the bill by August 2025.

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

Warm and Safe Wiltshire (free advice service)

This is the council-backed service offering free, impartial energy saving advice to all Swindon residents, with an advice line open 9–5 Monday to Friday. They can help with advice on insulation, heating and draught-proofing, available grants and schemes, and can make referrals to installers if residents are eligible for funding. The number is **0800 038 5722** or residents can visit the link below. This is a good first port of call for anyone unsure which scheme suits them.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20055/home_energy_efficiency/840/warm_and_safe_wilts_hire

Coming soon - Warm Homes Plan consumer loans

Government-backed zero or low-interest loans for solar panels, batteries and other upgrades are expected from around April 2027 [Ovo](#), with full details due in March 2026. These will be for homeowners of any income level. Not open yet, but worth flagging to residents asking about solar.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/warm-homes-plan>

For further information visit:

<https://www.cse.org.uk/resources/>

[Energy Saving Trust: Energy at home](#)

[GOV.UK: Find ways to save energy in your home](#) - Government endorsed advice site

[Warm and Safe Wiltshire service](#) is a partnership between Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The service aims to give residents access to free and impartial advice around affordable warmth and improving energy efficiency of the home. The service supports low-income households who may otherwise struggle to heat their home and exposed to potential health risks associated with living in cold homes, such as respiratory conditions. The service can be accessed through [Warm and Safe Wiltshire - Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](#) or alternatively a free telephone service on 0800 0385722

If you wish to find out more information on how Swindon Borough Council is tackling climate change, please visit <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/bethechange>

Please help us spread the word about our new thermal camera loan service by telling your friends, family and neighbours all about it! It's completely free, they just need to be a Swindon Libraries member to borrow one.