

Upgrading insulation

Low carbon heating systems are only economic in well insulated homes so step 1 will be to identify the sources of heat losses

Consulting the EPC register is then the simplest way of identifying what needs to be done and what will be the likely cost and benefit in terms of lower heating bills. EPC register can be consulted at <https://find-energy-certificate.digital.communities.gov.uk>

Low cost measures include reducing ventilation losses through fitting draft excluders, restoring radiator efficiency and insulating the loft. Insulating external walls and fitting double glazing are more expensive but also more effective at reducing losses.

Restoring radiator efficiency is important because it will then be possible to operate at lower central heating water temperatures which will increase thermal efficiency

Gas boilers

Gas boilers should be of the condensing type but not combi boilers as low carbon heating systems cannot provide instantaneous hot water. A hot water storage tank is therefore required.

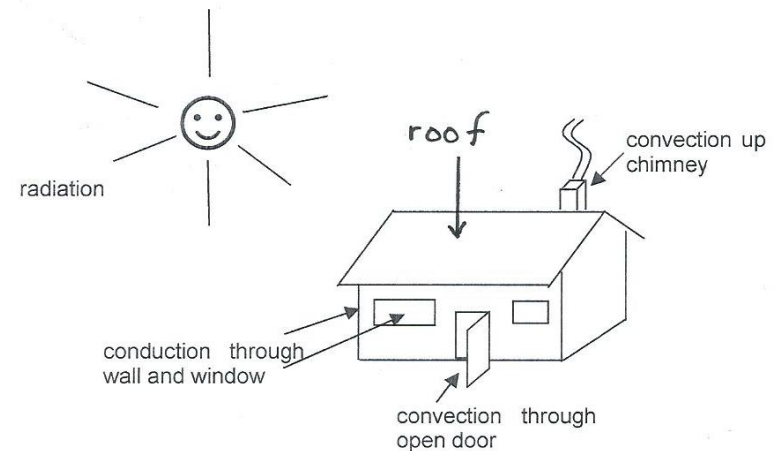
Further information

Leaflets on these measures and other relevant information is available at www.readingcan.org.uk

Citizens advice bureau can advise on reducing energy costs and what grants and support might be available. For more information go to energy@citizensadvicereading.org ph 0808 278 7819



Preparing buildings for low carbon heating



The older the building, the higher the heat loss as Building Regulations only began to require thermal insulation to be fitted from 1965 onwards. Subsequently insulation standards have been progressively increased over the succeeding 50 years

To limit climate change, gas boilers will be phased out over the next 10 years starting with new build in 2025 and will be replaced by low carbon heating systems like heat pumps which concentrate the heat, not produce it