

Environmental Tip of the Month

Free Impartial Energy Advice

You may not have heard of South Dartmoor Community Energy (SDCE), or know what we do.

We are mainly concerned with the delivery of free, independent energy advice throughout the South Hams. We are trained to provide the LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) service to those most in need. LEAP operates a free Energy Advice service to people at risk of 'fuel poverty', including:

- state pensioners,
- low waged,
- those on benefits,
- and people with disabilities.

The service works like this:

People can refer themselves or, with their permission, others, either to SDCE or directly to the Local Energy Advice Partnership service. You can email SDCE on advice@sdce.org.uk or call free on 0800 112 3044.

We can then advise you on the spot or make a referral to LEAP for a full and free Energy Advice Call. The call lasts about 45 minutes and we get to understand your situation in depth. This enables us to give you useful energy saving advice and easy measures. The call covers your heating system, home insulation and other guidance on reducing your energy bills and saving you money.

We make sure they you are signed up for the Warm Home Discount worth £140 a year.

We also advise on eligibility for and what specific home improvements a Green Homes grant (maximum £5,000) can cover, and for the higher (100% up to a further £5,000) grant, and on how to apply. The criteria for the higher grant are:

all low income home owner occupiers receiving at least one of the following income-based or disability benefits are eligible:

- Income based Jobseekers allowance (JSA)
- Income based Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Working Tax Credit (WTC)
- Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Universal Credit (UC)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Contribution based Jobseekers allowance (JSA)
- Contribution based Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- Housing benefit

We can also help to switch energy suppliers which can really benefit the householder.

Contact us by phone on 0800 112 3044 or email advice@sdce.org.uk

Or apply direct for a LEAP appointment to applyforleap.org.uk/apply/

Tony Lyle, Director SDCE