

## Is heating your home adequately a struggle?

As part of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), energy companies are required to help households who can't afford to adequately heat their home. ECO can assist by greatly reducing the cost of a number of energy saving home improvements:

- Loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation (for homeowners and private tenants)
- Double glazing (in low income areas with a mix of private and social housing)
- Boiler replacement/central heating (if the boiler is unreliable/open fires in use)

### **What's the catch?**

You'll usually have to contribute to the cost and you'll need to be in receipt of means tested benefits such as pension credit for a boiler replacement. However, the possibility of improved comfort and lower energy bills should make this a very good long term investment.

### **How do you apply?**

To find out if you are eligible, call the Affordable Warmth helpline on 0800 107 0044 or email [awn@nef.org.uk](mailto:awn@nef.org.uk)



*Cavity wall insulation helps a home retain warmth for longer*

*Photo courtesy of [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk)*

## **Notes for Editors:**

**For more information, please phone Matt Neal on 01908 526933 or email [matt.neal@nef.org.uk](mailto:matt.neal@nef.org.uk)**

### 1. The Affordable Warmth Network

The Affordable Warmth Network is funded by the NHS and district councils across Bucks and Oxon and is central to the regional Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) project. The Network aims to reduce the number of people in fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing. The Network provides a free helpline, community outreach and training of frontline staff to help spot and alleviate fuel poverty.

The council areas covered by this service are:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Chiltern District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Bucks District Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Wycombe District Council

### 2. National Energy Foundation

Responsible for operating the Affordable Warmth Network, the National Energy Foundation (NEF) is an independent, national charity which has been at the forefront of improving the use of energy in buildings for more than 25 years. The Foundation aims to give individuals, organisations, communities and government the knowledge, support and inspiration they need to understand and improve the use of energy in buildings.