

ECO OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLID WALL PROPERTIES

As housing accounts for more than 27 per cent of the UK's total CO₂ emissions, it is understandably an area of focus in improving energy efficiency. Harjit Sandhu, domestic specification sector manager at British Gypsum, discusses how Registered Providers (RPs) can make the most of Government schemes to upgrade their housing stock and help tackle resident fuel poverty by keeping energy bills to a minimum.

Energy efficiency is a hot topic. With significant carbon reduction targets to be reached by 2020, the Government is focused upon driving down energy usage and making housing more efficient. For RPs, this presents an opportunity to access support and funding



In partnership with the Energy Savings Trust, British Gypsum conducted a trial in the seaside town of Whitley Bay in North Tyneside to test the in-situ performance of Internal Wall Insulation. Comparing data collected pre and post insulation, the trial found that yearly gas use has gone down by 36.7 per cent, which equates to a 1098 kg reduction in CO₂ emissions from the property and a saving for the homeowner of £269 over the course of a year.

to upgrade existing housing stock, which will help to create more comfortable living environments for residents that are cheaper to run.

Making the most of ECO

In line with its energy efficiency focus, the Government launched The Energy Companies Obligation (ECO). Introduced in January 2013, ECO provides additional funding for insulation projects that cannot be funded through Green Deal alone. The two ECO sub obligations of particular interest to the social housing sector are the Carbon Savings Community Obligation (CSCO) and the Carbon Savings Obligation (CSO). The CSCO targets those living in the most deprived areas and rural locations, whereas the CSO offers funding for hard to treat cavity walls and solid walls.

A solution for solid walls

Up to 35% of heat loss is through uninsulated walls, and approximately eight million homes in the UK have solid walls but only three per cent are insulated. Typically, these are properties that pre-date the 1920s, for which cavity wall insulation is not an option, making it trickier to improve thermal performance. In recognition of the difficulties that upgrading certain types of housing can present, and in light of the opportunities created by the Government, British Gypsum has invested in the development of Internal Wall Insulation solutions. These help RPs improve thermal efficiency and energy companies to meet their ECO targets.

For example, there are a range of Internal Wall Insulation systems on offer from British Gypsum that are BBA Certified to meet the Green Deal and ECO requirements. The four IWI systems – GypLyner UNIVERSAL,



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GypLyner IWL, DriLyner RF and DriLyner TL – are all designed to increase energy efficiency and lower fuel bills by offering improved thermal performance, and each comes with a 25 year system guarantee.

In addition, each of British Gypsum's BBA Certified drylining systems is supported by a specialist installer training course, which has been developed in partnership with the CITB, to ensure that installers meet Green Deal, ECO and PAS2030 standards. The training also allows registered companies in scope with the CITB to apply for training grants for company employees and subcontractors.

Guidance

With help and support from British Gypsum, RPs are able to make the most of Government schemes such as ECO and Green Deal, which present a great opportunity to upgrade housing stock and help to improve living environments for residents, while having a positive impact on fuel bills.

For more information on reducing CO₂ emission through Internal Wall Insulation systems, please visit
www.british-gypsum.com/renovation



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