


## Apply for a home Improvement grant


Spelthorne residents may be eligible for a range of **free** insulation work. To qualify, residents must be on means-tested benefits or low incomes. For those able to pay, the cost is subsidised.

**Grants are available for:** loft insulation in houses and flats; insulation for caravans; solid or cavity wall insulation and biomass boilers that use wood chip, wood pellet or cereals to provide hot water or heating.

 To apply or find out more, call Climate Energy on **0800 980 0902**, 9am - 5pm, weekdays.

## Decent Homes Grant

In addition, a Decent Homes Grant of up to £10,000 is available for those residents who receive one of the main means-tested or disability-related benefits. This is to repair homes and to bring them up to a reasonable state of repair.

 For information please call **01784 446251**. Elderly or disabled applicants should apply to Spelthorne's Home Improvement Agency on **0845 408 6755**.

## Create your own energy

Once you have made the changes to use energy more efficiently, insulated your home and bought energy efficient products you might think about creating your own energy.

### Why not look at:

- **solar PV systems** (pictured) that convert sunlight into electricity. The greater the intensity of the sunlight, the more electricity is generated. Used correctly, up to half the electricity needed over the year could be generated.

- **solar water heating** uses heat from the sun to pre-heat water for your hot water or heating. Solar hot water systems can provide you with up to a third of your hot water.

- **ground source heat pumps** make use of the ground's constant temperature by converting and transferring this heat into a house or building, usually via radiators or under floor heating. Heating this way is 3-4 times more efficient than a condensing boiler. You need a big enough outside area or garden in which to lay the ground loop required.

 For more information please call Francesca Nesbitt, Climate Change Officer on **01784 446308** or e-mail [f.nesbitt@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:f.nesbitt@spelthorne.gov.uk)

## Spelthorne Civic Pride

### Celebrating 20 years

Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers is celebrating 20 years of community-inspired conservation. Contact them for details of their programmes:

- **Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers (SCPV)** - Jill Stephens, 01932 564543
- **Egham & Staines Conservation Volunteers (E&SCV)** - Roy Gyngell 01784 254904
- **Spelthorne Natural History Society (SNHS)** - Peter Routley 01932 232344 / 07836 746041
- **Spelthorne Tree Wardens (STW)** - Dave Woods 01932 786806

### Community Orchard Project

Working with SNHS and E&SCV, Spelthorne Civic Pride plan to plant an orchard on **13 December**. Contact Jill Stephens on **01932 564543** if you know about local fruit varieties or old fruit trees in Spelthorne. We also need help to plant the trees.

### Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers Environmental Awards 2009

Is your local school, church, WI, residents' association, youth group or neighbour helping the local environment? Please tell us about them. Closing date for nominations is 31 December. For a form call Jill Stephens on **01932 564543** or e-mail [jillcivicpride@googlemail.com](mailto:jillcivicpride@googlemail.com)

Visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitygroups](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitygroups) for more information about Spelthorne Civic Pride.