

Council backed campaign will offer advice and help with rising energy bills

New energy campaign offers residents advice and support with bills

Edinburgh residents who may be struggling with rising energy costs are being offered advice and support with their bills as part of a city-wide campaign aimed at helping those who are most in need.

Run by The City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Changeworks and Home Energy Scotland, the campaign seeks to support people experiencing, or most at risk from, fuel poverty with energy savings advice so they can save money on their bills.

As well as helping residents find out if they are eligible for grants or funding for energy efficiency home improvements, help is also being offered to people dealing with fuel debt and high energy prices.

In key areas of the city, home owners and private tenants are being urged to call Home Energy Scotland for support, free on 0808 808 2282 and Council tenants are being urged to call the Energy Advice Service for free on 0800 870 8800.

They can also visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/EnergyAdvice for more information.

Last year, 790 Council tenants were supported through the Energy Advice Service with gas and electricity billing issues

and with support around supplier debt. The service also gained around £170,000 of savings for the tenants.

Home Energy Scotland has also helped 24,000 homeowners and private tenants across Scotland to benefit from the Scottish Government funded Warmer Homes Scotland programme since it launched in 2015. Eight out of ten have received completely free energy efficiency improvements, with each of them also saving on average around £300 on their energy bills per year.

Home Energy Scotland is a free advice service funded by the Scottish Government. They work hand in hand with the Council's Energy Advice Service to make sure people in Edinburgh get all the support they need from their friendly advisors.

Council Leader Adam McVey said: "This valuable campaign comes at a time when many households across the city will be faced with a choice of heating their homes or eating – due to rising food and energy bills as well as a £1,000 cut in universal credit payments for those who need support most- all contributing to this cost of living crisis.

"We want to do all we can to help make sure people most at need are able to access the advice and support available to them so that they can live in warmer, more comfortable homes.

"I urge anyone in the city struggling with their bills to call Home Energy Scotland or the Energy Advice Service so they can get the support they need today."

Depute Leader Cammy Day added: "Rising home energy costs are leaving many people across Edinburgh worried about how they will pay their gas and electricity bills.

"We want to make sure that people know there is help and support there for them. If you're a Council tenant, this is through our Energy Advice Service, run in partnership with Changeworks, and for people who own their own home, support is there from Home Energy Scotland.

“Their advisors have lots of excellent advice and tips to help people save money on bills so get in touch as they will be happy to share them. Making a few small changes can add up to a big difference.”