How do you combat rising energy prices? Follow the advice and insulate!

Following recent announcements by Britain’s two largest energy companies that they are to raise prices in December, it is thought that around 11.6 million customers will be hit by these increases. This is likely to add around £70 to £80 to the average combined yearly fuels bills, causing further hardship for many householders. With this in mind, the National Insulation Association (NIA) is renewing its call to householders to act now and insulate their homes to save their hard earned cash! By insulating now they will not only notice a warmer more comfortable home, they will start saving money on their fuel bills from day one.

Home insulation is the single most effective method of saving money on domestic energy bills – typically cutting around £260* off the annual bill and these savings will continue year on year! With fast-rising consumer costs in many other areas too such as food, fuel and the VAT increase in January, why wait a moment longer to put these money-saving measures into place?

Neil Marshall, Chief Executive of the NIA, said: “It’s a great concern that many people could resort to not heating their homes properly this winter for fear that they won’t be able to pay their bills. But there is a simple way they can bring these bills down without compromising their quality of life – and that’s by insulating their homes.”

Ensure your readers, viewers or listeners get the best advice by pointing them in the direction of the National Insulation Association (NIA) - the not for profit organisation that offers sound advice on how the consumer can take immediate action to significantly reduce their energy bills.

The NIA is also committed to raising public awareness of the range of financial support available for insulating their homes.

- If you are 70 or over, or on qualifying benefits, you could get your home insulated FREE OF CHARGE.
- You don’t have to be in a vulnerable household to benefit from financial assistance – there are grants and subsidies available to all sectors of the population.
• Even if you don’t own your own home and live in rented accommodation, you can still apply for a grant.
• To find out what you are entitled to and find an NIA approved installer in your area visit www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk or call 01525 383 313

* Based on adding cavity wall insulation and loft insulation of 270mm. Saving based on a three bed semi detached gas heated house.

Ends

Notes to Editors
The National Insulation Association represents over 90% of the UK’s home insulation industry, including installers and manufacturers. The NIA and its members are committed to providing a high quality, value for money service to householders, housing managers and developers.

The NIA is here to help you with expert opinions and comments on any matter that concerns the insulation of homes and businesses.

For further information and images call Duncan or Michele at the NIA press office on 01327 701 702 or email Duncan@evolution-pr.co.uk

NIA installers carry out work that complies with national standards and technical approvals such as the British Board of Agrément, and in the case of Cavity Wall Insulation according to the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency technical guidance covering assessment and installation.

Cavity Wall Insulation work is covered by the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency’s (CIGA) independent 25-year guarantee. www.ciga.co.uk

All of our members abide by the NIA Code of Professional Practice.
• Half of the heat lost in a home is through the walls or loft space.
• The UK’s housing stock is estimated at approximately 24.5 million dwellings and of that, approximately 36% are non-cavity wall construction – solid brick, solid stone, pre-1944 timber frame and non-traditional (i.e. concrete construction). It is estimated that there are around 7m properties that have solid walls that need insulating.
Cavity Wall Insulation is the most cost-effective way of improving comfort levels and reducing energy use in the home. Average savings of around 15%, equating to £115 per year can be made on a typical home’s energy bills. The installation is clean, safe and only takes a couple of hours.

It’s estimated that around 9 million UK homes have cavity walls which have not been insulated. Collectively, they are wasting around £950 million every year through the energy being lost through their walls. This still leaves roughly one in three British households which could have their comfort levels increased and their fuel bills reduced.

Increasing the thickness of existing loft insulation in the 13 million homes with 100mm or less of loft insulation to thicknesses required for modern new dwellings (270mm) would reduce each of their individual energy costs by around 25%. By fitting loft insulation, householders can reduce heating costs by around 15%.

In 2003, space heating accounted for around 53% of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. Over 40% of the Government’s projected carbon savings for the household sector are expected to come from insulation.

This corresponds to around 200MtC over the lifetime of the measures, nearly 15% of the annual household emissions.

To find a local NIA approved installer in your area, access information on the benefits of insulation or find details of grants available please visit our website :-
www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk

The biggest carbon challenge in the UK is to significantly tackle the real “energy wasters”, the existing housing stock.