

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

6th January 2023

Struggling with Fuel bills? Help and support available in Honiton

Award winning Exeter Community Energy (ECO) is increasing the number of energy advice drop-in clinics over the Winter to help residents in Honiton most affected by the fuel and cost of living crisis. Advice and support clinics will help households reduce fuel bills and maintain warm and healthy homes.

The clinics will offer free and impartial 1-2-1 advice and support

The clinics will be held on:

Tuesday 10th January	15.00-17.00	The Beehive
Monday 23rd January	10.00-12.00	Dunning Court
Friday 3rd February	10.00-12.00	The Family Church
Thursday 16th Feb	13.00-15.00	CUB Community Use Building
Friday 3rd March	10.00-12.00	Honiton Library

We can help with residents with:

- tariff checks and energy supplier support
- registering for Priority Services Register
- energy and water saving tips and advice
- grants for insulation and heating
- heating control advice
- smart meter advice
- help with benefits and debts
- Book a free Home Visit with 'easy measures' such as draughtproofing and LED lightbulbs installed for the most vulnerable residents.

Advice is also available through the Freephone number 0800 772 3617 via email: healthyhomes@ecoe.org.uk or via self-referral via the website www.ecoe.org.uk/healthy-homes-wellbeing

Households will benefit from impartial and whole house advice to help reduce energy usage and bills. A tailored package of solutions including free easy measures, and home improvement grants for those who qualify aims to improve the energy efficiency of hard to heat homes.

“The impact of fuel poverty and cold homes on the physical and mental health of adults and children is now well established.” Comments Matthew Axe, Team Leader at ECOE_ “While much of the evidence relates to cold homes, it is important to recognise that some low-income households, particularly those with disabilities or young children, will struggle to keep their homes warm this winter.

Tara Bowers, ECOE Director and project manager added, “We are grateful for additional funding from Honiton Town Council to help us provide more energy advice clinics in the town. Our drop-in clinics are a great way for us to engage with the local community and provide a regular face to face service that supports those most in need. We are there to help residents who are struggling with their fuel bills and ensure they can stay warm and healthy in their homes for this and future years.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Formed in 2014, **Exeter Community Energy (ECOE)** is a not-for-profit social enterprise registered as an IPS Community Benefit Society with the FCA. ECOE uses community-owned renewable energy as a means of tackling climate change, empowering communities, addressing fuel poverty issues, and boosting the local economy.

Exeter Community Energy launched the **Healthy Homes for Wellbeing** project in November 2017 and has already helped more than 5000 households. It offers a unique service where local residents can get advice on energy efficiency, with practical hints and tips on insulating their homes, help with energy supplier and tariff switching and advice on discounts and grants available. Help is provided at local energy clinics across the region as well as one to one home visits. The Healthy Homes Energy team regularly provide talks at coffee mornings and community events where participants can also ask questions in an informal setting and book a home visit

Personalised and comprehensive home visits are a vital and much needed part of the Healthy Homes for Wellbeing project. These are funded by LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) and supported by Cosy Devon and are available for homeowners, private renters, and social-housing tenants.

ECOE is a multi-award-winning organisation. Recent awards include:
Vulnerable Customer Support Team of the year - South West Energy Efficiency Award 2021
Best Community Energy Initiative - in the national Green Energy Awards 2021

For more information, please visit <https://www.ecoe.org.uk/> or contact Tara Bowers, Director and **Project Manager Exeter Community Energy Tel: 0800 772 3617 Email: healthyhomes@ecoe.org.uk**

Exeter Community Energy  **Healthy Homes for Wellbeing**

Do you want lower energy bills?
Do you struggle to heat your home?
Contact ECOE for free energy advice and home visits

info@ecoe.org.uk 07806 623311 / 01395 276734

www.ecoe.org.uk

LEAP
Local Energy Advice Programme

The banner features a green background with a central orange band. On the left, there is a circular image of a person at a computer workstation. In the center, there is a circular image of a house with a color-coded energy efficiency overlay. On the right, there is a circular image of a house with a color-coded energy efficiency overlay and a circular image of a person at a computer workstation. The LEAP logo is in the bottom right corner.

LEAP – Local Energy Advice Partnership is a FREE service, providing important advice, support and energy saving measures to fuel poor and vulnerable households. ECOE is the LEAP partner for Exeter, Mid Devon, East Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay www.applyforleap.org.uk

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