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The Footprint Trust - updated 16 January 2014

...Delivering practical help, training and guidance on saving energy and fighting fuel poverty.

The Footprint Trust charity was set up in 2002 to reduce the 'ecological footprint' on the Isle of Wight, through promoting the benefits of sustainable living. This is achieved through practical projects...

Warmahome

Warmahome is the umbrella under which all **The Footprint Trust** household energy and water efficiency projects sit.

Warmer Wight project. Free guidance on wise use of energy etc. Insulation of hard to heat homes, new boilers to replace broken or inefficient ones. Project aimed at the fuel poor and those on means-tested benefits, funded by ECO. Contact Footprint Trust.

WarmerWight-plus project. Tailored guidance in the home to help save householders some £200 per year on their energy bills. Information on best deals available and referral on to other help agencies, if appropriate.

Energetic is a project, which is aimed at younger people, especially young families, and young people leaving home or leaving care. We run Energetic workshops at Children's Centres and other places where young parents go.

Monergy – free training to give people **skills to understand their Utility bills**, get better deals, reduce fuel and water debt. Free training held all over the Island, usually in Children's Centres.

As part of our energy saving work we offer the following to all householders;

Free home visit – giving tailored guidance on saving energy, suitable tariffs, discounts, free insulation and sign-posting people to relevant organisations, such as Age UK, Home-Start, Children's Centres, Storeroom Project, CAB, Social Services etc...**Most homes save at least £200 a year on their Utility bills following our visit!**

Fueline – telephone/text general guidance on 01983 82-22-82 or by email info@footprint-trust.co.uk

Internet – information on our website...
www.footprint-trust.co.uk/seasontips.htm

Leaflets – Heat Hero Tips, Saving Water...etc

Grants

The Footprint Trust administers access to grants for other bodies, including ECO. Contact us on 01983 822282 or email info@footprint-trust.co.uk

Warmer Ventnor - The Trust has access to this fund, which can provide grants of up to £500 towards measures to help people reduce their fuel bills. Examples have been buying new A* rated appliances and thick curtains. Again we do a home visit and then assess the situation. Money is paid to the supplier not the client. (*Warmer Ventnor has been funded by Ventnor Town Council – and we hope that other parish and town councils or charitable bodies will follow their lead.*)

Free White Goods for SSE customers. For Southern Electricity customers ONLY, in receipt of benefits and in fuel poverty we can until *March 2014. We can sometimes supply a free cooker, fridge/freezer or washing machine. *This offer is limited – once the funding is used up then the scheme ends. Email Footprint Trust for more details or to refer people. ray@footprint-trust.co.uk

Grants from other bodies

Local Assistance Scheme. LAS Grants to those Island residents who are in genuine hardship (which cannot be met through other means) to buy essential items, such as white goods, furniture, food etc. Download the form from www.iwight.com/las or contact IW Council on 0800 952 0050. (*They have requested that applications are made on line, rather than on the phone.*)

Pension Credit etc. It is important that those of pensionable age contact the Pension Service Enquiry Line. It is a popular misconception that if someone has a private pension or owns their own home they cannot get help. If someone gets even the minimum amount of Pension Credit it opens the door to lots of other help, including a new boiler via the ECO scheme, if their current one is defunct or if they have no modern heating system. Pension Service Enquiry Line 0800 99 1234.

UK Gov Disability Benefits Enquiry Line 0800 882 200.

www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

Charis Energy Trust helps people in poverty, suffering or distress who are struggling with their gas, electricity and other bills by awarding grants to clear those debts... <http://www.charisgrants.com>

This can be done on line by anyone – however – we have found it easier to use the paper form. Takes about an hour to do, providing client has all paperwork, such as bills and details of income etc. We are prepared to see clients and assist with this grant.

Southern Water Charitable Trust Fund is an independent grant making charitable trust that helps people out of poverty and debt. It can consider making a grant to meet water and/or sewerage charges due to Southern Water if someone is in hardship and thus unable to pay. In certain extreme cases the Trust can also consider giving some help to meet other household needs, such as new washing washines, cookers etc. www.southernwater.co.uk Tel. **0800 027 0363**.

This search engine can also identify grants for those in need; **www.turn2us.org.uk**

Warm Home Discount Scheme - £135 taken off electricity bills for those with the Guarantee Element of Pension Credit, Income Support etc. DWP should inform

power companies but worth giving them a ring to check that client is known about. At the same time get them put on 'vulnerable persons' register – that way they will be checked on if there is a power failure. Check they are on the best tariff. The big six power companies have signed up to this, but very few of the smaller companies. So good idea to stay with them and not switch to other suppliers, unless they are part of this initiative.

Disabled Facilities Grants and Minor Adaptations. The IW Council may be able to assist with adaptations to help disabled people remain in their own home. The types of works are:

To make it easier to get in and out of the dwelling by, for example, widening doors and installing ramps,

Providing better access to the living room,

By providing or improving access to the bedroom, and kitchen, toilet, washbasin and bathing, for example by installing a stair lift or adapting a room to provide an easy access shower facility.

For more information on Disabled Facilities Grants phone the Housing Renewal team on 821000. Or email: housingservices@IOW.gov.uk. For more information on Occupational Therapy for **Minor Adaptations** please call 534520.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help

SSAFA FH is one of the UK's leading Armed Forces charities, supporting around 50,000 people each year. It makes no difference to them whether someone served in the past or are serving now; whether they have been part of the Royal Navy, British Army or Royal Air Force; or whether they have been serving at home, overseas, or are in an operational theatre environment. They are here to provide help and support for service personnel and their loved ones. The support may be in the form of annuities, household goods, mobility scooters, etc. If you need help contact them on 01983 615379 or email iow@rydessafa.wanadoo.co.uk

Eco-Loan - Maximum loan £5,000 at low interest (3% apr) for energy efficiency or renewable energy measures, or repairs to the property. The ECO loan is administered for the IWC by United Savings & Loans, formerly the IW Credit Union, but referrals / enquires need to be made to the Housing Renewal section to initiate process. Contact Housing Renewal Section on 821000. Or email: housingservices@IOW.gov.uk

Repair Grants – Maximum grant £10,000 for repairs / renewals to property. NB: An element must need repairing, or be an essential amenity and be missing. Enquires and further information on eligibility criteria need to be made to the Housing Renewal section. Contact Housing Renewal Section on 821000. Or email: housingservices@IOW.gov.uk

Warm Front Grant

No longer available now replaced by ECO –funded by energy companies. Contact us for more details of ECO – we can help people get grant-funded boilers and insulation, subject to certain benefit criteria and/or total carbon saving.

Island Insulation Scheme - No longer available. Those in receipt of means tested benefits may be able to get free insulation via the ECO initiative, funded by the power companies. Those not in receipt of benefits might get a loan via the Green Deal. However, they may be able to borrow money

cheaper from a Building Society. **Contact The Footprint Trust for details of ECO.**

Guidance on related issues

Card and Key payments. Check that client has informed power company, if they are a new tenant – as they may be paying off someone else's debt. Certain companies charge extra for having a card or key meter. Ebico and some other companies do not charge any extra.

Best power company? We are often asked this question! Each household's circumstance is different but as a general guide it is cheaper to not be supplied by the traditional electricity company for your area. It is no longer the case that buying all your energy from one supplier is always the cheapest. **ukpower.co.uk** is a good search engine to compare prices on, they also give details of customer care for each energy company. (Not all switching sites list all companies). For all-electric homes, heating is usually via Night Storage Heaters, and the householder has an off-peak cheaper tariff. Southern Electricity's (SSE) E7, E10 and 'Super Deal' tariffs are well worth looking at.

Other help available...

Furniture and other goods

The Storeroom Project is a local charity that collects unwanted good quality furniture and household items and then sells them at a small cost to those in need. Tel. 01983 298679. They are based in Cowes but collect and deliver from all over the Island. Other charities also sell furniture and white goods, such as the British Heart Foundation, Taylor Road, Gunville.

Foodbank IW provides emergency food and support to local people in crises. foodbank@wightchuch.net Tel 07989926276.

Notes

Produced by the WarmerWight-plus Project, The Footprint Trust, Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 2QR. Tel/text 01983 822282. info@footprint-trust.co.uk Registered charity number 1106024.



*My life
a full life*

The WarmerWight-plus Project is provided thanks to funding provided through the My Life a Full Life programme, supported by the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Spectrum Housing, Southern Housing, Comic Relief and The Beatrice Laing Trust.

Information given for guidance purposes only – The Footprint Trust does not recommend or endorse any product or service. Please check the above information before passing onto clients. Many grants are discretionary and this should always be highlighted. E&OE. Do inform us of any changes or other information you feel we could include.

Details correct as of January 2014