



Case study- John Easdale

Background

Last winter was a long one for John Easdale. The 55-year-old from Greenock faced a particularly tough few months as he and wife Mary went without heating.

From October 2013 to January 2014, the couple had to endure a bitterly cold flat after their previous warm air heating system was deemed unsafe. With temperatures outside dipping below zero, it couldn't have come at a worse time.

But what would be a hugely frustrating experience for most people was far harsher for John. He is in ill health and has a disability which leaves him mostly bedridden.

During this time, John developed pneumonia. As it was clear his home wasn't a suitable environment in which to recover, he temporarily moved into a nursing home to recuperate and take some strain off of Mary.

Having lived together in the bottom-floor tenement flat for over 20 years, they knew something had to be done to prevent anything like this happening again.

The process

They referred John and Mary for external wall insulation from Inverclyde Council's Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland Area Based Scheme (HEEPS ABS). The scheme funded the insulation for the Easdale's block of flats.

This measure allows heat to be retained by installing a layer of insulation material on the outer walls, which is then covered with protective cladding. John described it as feeling "like a new home".



Home Energy Scotland also referred John and Mary for the HEEPS Energy Assistance Scheme and for a home energy advice visit from a local energy advice project.

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Recommendations

Through the HEEPS Energy Assistance Scheme, the couple received a new combi-boiler and five radiators. John said: “Once the check had been done it was just a case of filling in some paperwork. It took just six weeks from the advisor coming out to the installation going ahead.”

The visiting energy advisor recommended a number of easy steps to help them, including how to operate the thermostat properly and keep the house draft-proofed.

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One year ago, the heating problem was so severe that John had to go into care. Now, thanks to a helping hand from the Scottish Government’s Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland and the Home Energy Scotland advice centre, he and Mary can look forward to spending many comfortable and cosy winters together.



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