Rewiring Greater Manchester:

a guide to making your home electric



Developed for:

South Manchester CreditUnion

Written by:

PEOPLE POWERED RETROFIT

Funded by:

SP Electricity North West | DSO

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Disclaimer

This is an introductory booklet. Your circumstances will require specific advice. This booklet does not advise about your specific home, financial viability, or particular products or suppliers. It is designed to enable you to pursue a potential electric project with greater confidence, but doesn't have all the answers.

To go further you should engage an appropriately qualified person. Depending on the project this might mean a certified installer or an independent surveyor or designer. They can give you advice that is appropriate for your circumstances. The world of renewable technology, retrofit and home improvements can be fast changing, and this guide should be considered subject to change. We welcome your feedback by emailing info@retrofit.coop

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SP Electricity North West DSO

We'd like to thank SP Electricity North West for supporting this project and helping to raise awareness of what people across Greater Manchester can do to increase sustainable energy use in their homes.

About us

We are two Greater Manchester based community organisations. We're working together because we want to support our communities to live happy and healthy lives, whilst taking action on climate change.

South Manchester CreditUnion

We are a community based credit union that provides saving accounts and loans to the people of South + Central Manchester. For the last 24 years we have continuously looked to support people's finances and make a positive difference to their lives.

PEOPLE POWERED RETROFIT

As a not-for-profit cooperative (registered Community Benefit Society), we provide independent guidance to help homeowners and communities plan and deliver successful retrofit projects. Based in Greater Manchester, our mission is to empower homeowners, communities and organisations to collectively tackle climate change in our own homes.

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The time to go electric is now

The challenge:

Today, many of us depend on energy that is expensive, polluting and vulnerable to global events.

Burning things for energy, often piped or shipped from overseas, ties us to price spikes that we have no control over. These fuels can also harm our health in our homes. Damp and cold in your home, or pollution from burning fuels, might be contributing to nagging coughs and other illness.

The solution:

We believe there's another way and it might be closer than you think. It's a future powered by people like you - and neighbourhoods like yours - with the help of a few wires and electrons.

We do it by electrifying the way we cook, heat, and drive. The bonus is locally made power on our roofs, in our homes, and in our communities.

We're taking back control.



Photo: Centre for Ageing Better



The time to go electric is now

It's not all about reducing carbon emissions and doing the 'green' and 'eco' thing. There are lots of reasons to make these improvements:

- Improve comfort
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce bills - plus once you're fully powered by electricity, you can have your gas meter removed, freeing you from paying the gas standing charge.

No matter what we all think individually - when we buy and use power from a bigger system, we're all exposed to the changes that happen. Whether that's price hikes due to instability happening elsewhere in the world, or the phasing out of fossil fuels from energy production.

But it can be confusing - confusing to know the difference between technologies, their relevance to you and your home, and to get your head around priorities.

This guide is here to help cut through the confusion and set you on a path to going fully electric.

Photo: In-Press Photography via Centre for Ageing Better



Is this guide for me?

We'd love for everyone to read this guide. However, to start taking action you will likely:

- own your home, either outright, with a mortgage, or as part of a shared ownership scheme;
- be a landlord;
- and importantly, have permission to make permanent changes to your home.

If you rent your home then we'd love for you to read this guide too. Smaller changes like electric cooking and plug-in options may be quite straight forward if you rent. Otherwise, use it to have conversations with your landlord or guide your thinking about what to look for in a future home.

Some changes are small and can be quick to make. Others are bigger, and require a bit more planning.

Either way, there's help out there to set you on a path to becoming an electric home hero.

Photo: In-Press Photography via Centre for Ageing Better

What kind of home improvements?

Electrification means switching our homes to be fully heated and powered by electricity. This electricity can be produced more cleanly, whether we draw it from the plug socket, or whether we generate some of it ourselves from solar panels. The other great thing about electricity is it can also be stored for later. Either as electrical power in batteries, or as heat.

Electrifying your home means swapping, removing or installing systems you use for everyday things. In a UK home, electrifying the things that we use every day makes the biggest difference. You might think about these as 'kitchen table decisions:'

1. How we heat the rooms and water in our home - heating and hot water can be as much as 80% of our total energy use. In hot weather we might need cooling too.
2. How we cook our food.
3. How we dry our clothes, and keep the air fresh.
4. How we power things.
5. How we get around - that is what kind of vehicles we use.



Read on to find out what kind of upgrades we're talking about.

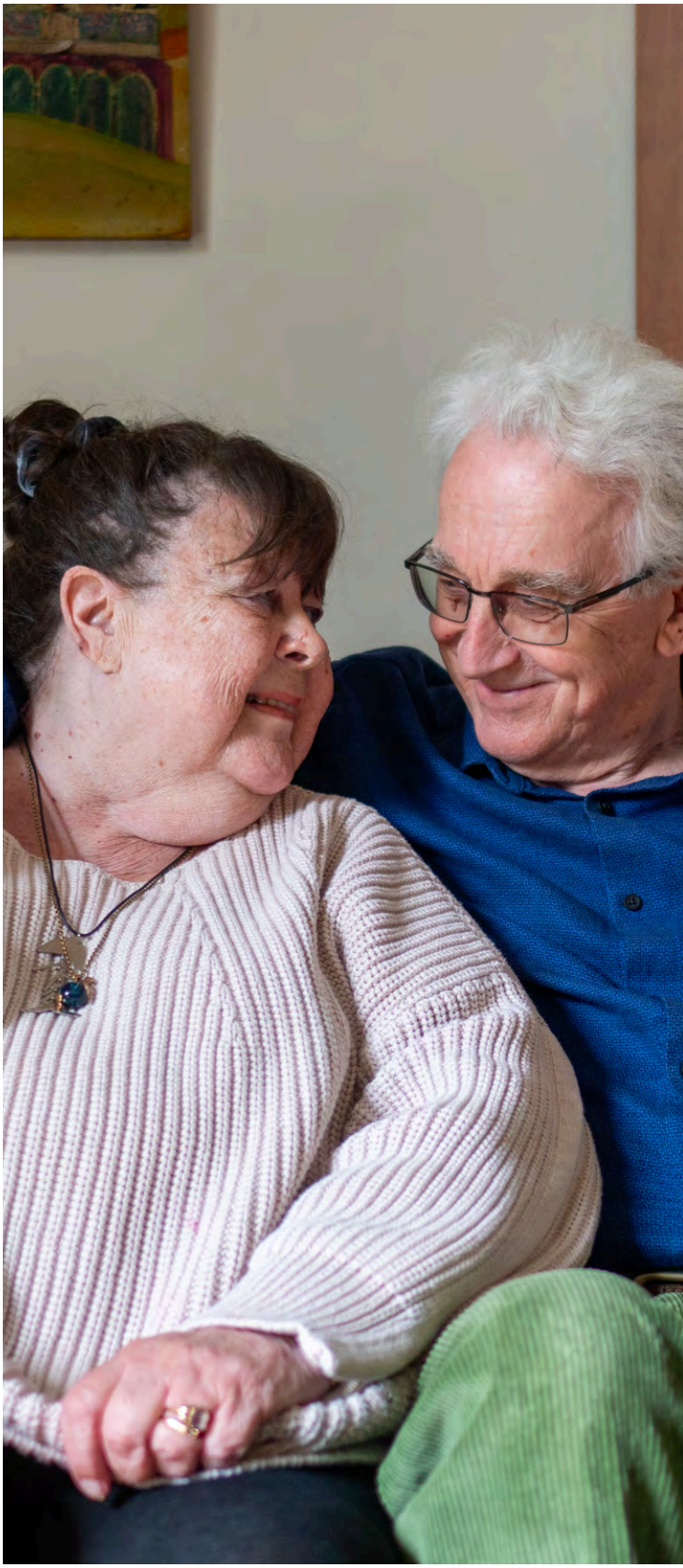


Photo: Elliot Manches via Centre for Ageing Better

Better ventilation

Electrifying your home pairs really well with **upgrading ventilation**. Most existing homes don't meet current standards for ventilation and this can make a big difference to the health of you, your family and the building.

We're talking about things like:

- Cooker hoods
- Modern extraction fans,
- Fresh air vents,
- Other centralised ventilation systems.



Photo: People Powered Retrofit

Better heating

Removing fireplaces or stoves that use gas, oil or solid fuel (including wood) can make a big difference to pollution levels inside your home, but also in your neighbourhood. Save some space in your home and leave the wood for the wildlife to enjoy.

Take it to the next step and replace your boiler with a heat pump, or upgrade your old electric storage heaters. Air source heat pumps get a gold star because they extract useful heat from the air that's around us, and they don't have to generate heat from scratch. That makes them MUCH more efficient than a gas boiler. A heat pump can also provide your hot water needs.



Photo: Katy King / Nesta / Climate Visuals

Better cooking

Cooking with electric appliances is better for the air you breathe, they make less water vapour that contributes to condensation and mould problems. They are easier to use and keep clean.

The most efficient hobs are induction hobs, paired with an electric oven. Other good options are plug-in slow cookers and air fryers. Slow cookers tend to cost the least to run, but it also depends what you want to cook!



Photo: Peter Kindersley via Centre for Ageing Better

Better power

Generating electricity yourself via solar panels. If it makes sense for you, these can also be combined with a battery, now or in the future. With solar, you can power your nice new electrical devices with your own energy!



Photo: In-Press Photography via Centre for Ageing Better

Better travel

Moving away from a petrol or diesel car or van, to electric vehicles. **Electric vehicles** are quieter, less polluting, and have fewer parts to go wrong. Installing a charger at your home to make this change as convenient as possible. **Electric bikes** are also a great option. With an electric cargo bike you could even do a big shop by bike!

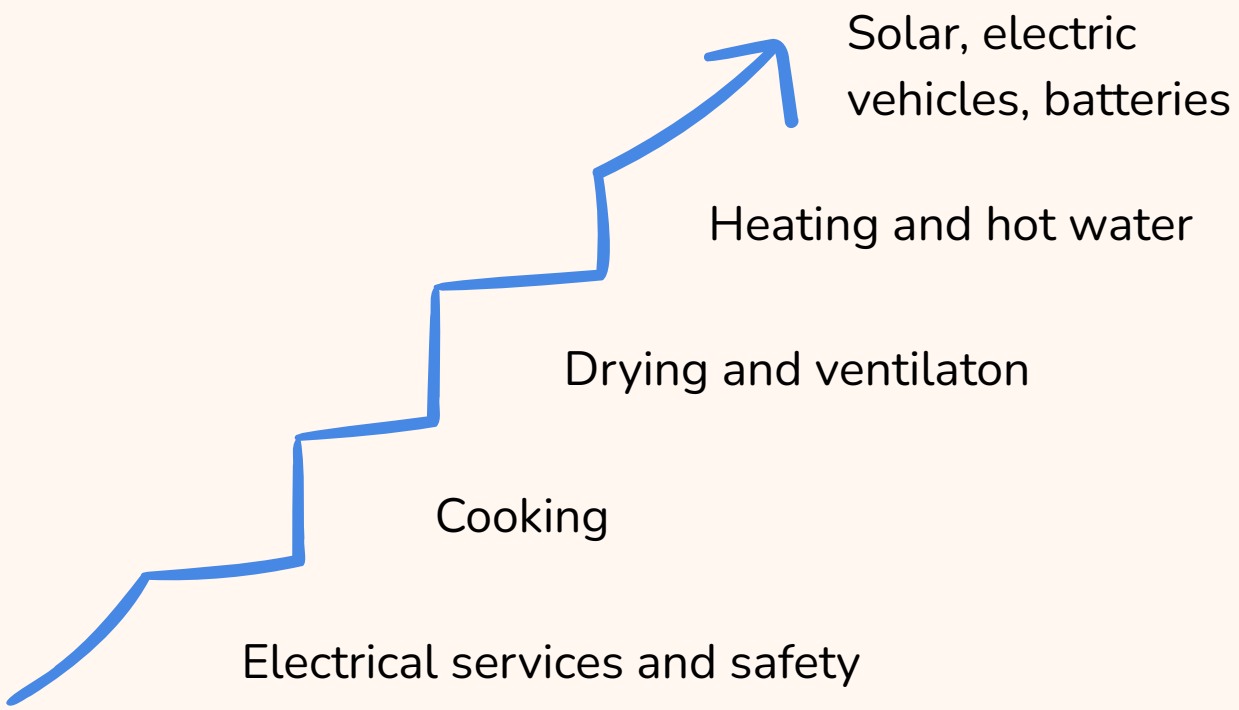


Photo: Zaptec on Unsplash

Going electric can be step-by-step

Electrification for one home might look different to the next. A lot of our homes are a good way along the journey to electrification already, or are really well placed to make a start.

Electrification doesn't need to be done all in one go, but with a little help you can achieve a lot.



Some of the improvements you make to your home are the building blocks for others. Starting with electrical services and readiness, making sure everything is safe. Then moving on to simple switches like cooking and ventilation.

Changing your heating system and and generating your own power are bigger steps that are very worthwhile but cost a bit more. What you choose to do is individual to you and your home. We might not all enter the electrification journey in the same place, or go as far, and that's ok.



Let’s cover the essentials first

It’s exciting to think about the new shiny things and technology, but let’s make sure we cover the essentials first.

Before you do anything it can really help to think about your plan for going electric.

Photo: Centre for Ageing Better

What's most important to you now?

Making your home more comfortable and healthy

- Moving to a gentler, more consistent form of heating (like a heat pump) can support this.
- Air pollution can be reduced by removing fires and cookers that burn gas or solid fuels like wood.
- You can get better air overall by having a good ventilation system that brings fresh air in and removes stale, moist air.

Key upgrades to consider: heating, cooking, ventilation, removing fuel burning fires and stoves.



Photo: Harry Mitchell / Nesta / Climate Visuals

Managing energy costs

Generally, electrifying your home will increase your electricity use. This is because you're switching systems and appliances to all run on electricity. But this isn't always a straight swap or as clear cut as you might think because:

- you'll get more useful heat from a heat pump than a gas boiler. Whether this creates savings will depend on how you're heating your home now, and if you're able to spread heating costs over the year.
- the difference in the cost of running an electric plug-in heater vs a gas fire pretty much balances out (or is in favour of electric) because of the much better efficiency of electricity versus burning fuel.
- If you fully remove gas, you can stop paying the standing charge (this can be over £100 per year).

If you're generating electricity from solar panels then how much energy you save depends how much you can use, or store for later.

Savings also depend on your electricity tariff. There are some special tariffs for heat pumps and electric vehicles that can help save more.



Key upgrades to consider: solar panels (+ battery if suitable), more efficient systems, electric vehicle charger.

Making your home safer, making it last

- Fixing condensation, damp and mould problems
- Bringing your home up to modern standards
- Reducing or removing the risk of gas and carbon monoxide leaks
- Being more resilient to flooding (e.g. moving your fuse box and sockets higher up a wall and out of harm's way).



Key upgrades to consider: electrical upgrades, ventilation, heating, cooking

Go greener and cleaner

If you're concerned about carbon emissions and want to take action on climate change, going electric is one of the best things you can do. By not burning fuel in your home, you'll remove direct carbon emissions and pollution from your home. As the energy system is powered more and more by clean renewable energy, going electric will also reduce distant carbon emissions.



Key upgrades to consider: heating, cooking, solar panels (+ battery if suitable), electric vehicle charger, removing fuel burning fires and stoves.

What's your aim?

Going electric can be a leisurely journey, or more rapid. How much you do now might depend on:

1. **What other upgrades you'd like to do.**
2. **How 'electric ready' your home is.**
3. **How much money you can spend.**



Let's cover each of these things in a bit more detail.

1. What other upgrades would you like to do?

This is important to ask yourself first, even if it's just about leaving your options open. Otherwise you might spend money on things, only to find you need to do it again in future. For example:

- You might upgrade your electric consumer unit (fuse box), only to find it doesn't have capacity to add another system in future.
- You might fit a new floor covering, only to find you need to take up some floorboards when you get the electrics or heating pipework upgraded in future.
- You might redecorate or fit furniture, only to discover your electricity supply cable needs upgrading when you come to fit a heat pump or electric vehicle charger. This may require new holes or conduits for cables.
- You might fit solar panels, but need to re-roof within the next 5 years.

Having a think about what you'd like (and need) to do can help when you speak to installers or other building professionals. You don't have to work this out alone - they can help you make the links, and plan the order of things in the easiest way. Don't forget there may be other important works that need doing occasionally (e.g. re-pointing) that you may need to think about (and budget for), alongside electric works. Here's an example:

	What I'd like to do	What needs doing
Now	Improve ventilation, switch cooker.	Electrical safety check.
Within the next 5 years	Move to a heat pump before the boiler reaches the end of its life. Get rid of unreliable diesel car and switch to an electric vehicle. Insulate the floor and replace the floor covering.	Upgrade the consumer unit to check it can accommodate bigger loads like a heat pump and electric vehicle charger. Check the incoming supply is up to scratch.
Over 5 years	Add solar panels.	Re-roofing.

2. How ‘electric ready’ is your home?

Your electricity supply

The electricity cables that supply our homes vary in different neighbourhoods. This is because they were built at different times. Sometimes the supply needs upgrading so we can add new electrical systems. This is really common and help is available.

If you're thinking about installing a new technology, such as a heat pump, sourcing an independent retrofit assessment or finding an installer is a good place to start. An independent assessment may be particularly valuable if you are thinking about how a heat pump fits with other home improvements (like insulation). An installer can support you through the installation process and advise on the best option for your home. The network operator will assess your electricity supply and confirm whether any upgrades are required. In Greater Manchester, this will usually be SP Electricity North West.

Your consumer unit (fusebox)

Your consumer unit (which a lot of us are familiar with calling a ‘fusebox’) is at the heart of everything electrical in your home. Pretty much everything else connects to this, so it’s important to ensure it has enough capacity and is up to current standards. Checking all your other wiring is safe and up to standard is key too.



Image: Carbon Co-op

Readiness for a heat pump

It’s not true that you need a lot of insulation for a heat pump to work well. A heat pump can work in practically any building - even a shed! However, how quickly your home loses heat does affect the size and cost of the system. Some basic upgrades are usually sensible to do regardless - like a good level of draught proofing and loft insulation.

How you are able to heat your home now may give you a clue to how ‘heat pump ready’ your are. Heat pumps work best heating to a steady temperature in winter. If you only have the heating on for a limited time to manage your budget, extra care is needed in deciding whether a heat pump is right for you now.

Your meters

Finally, have you got a smart electricity meter?

To really make the most of what the energy system offers now, and in the future, including the best tariffs - you need a smart meter. These give accurate and much more regular readings - without one you won’t be able to access tariffs that give you cheaper rates at certain times, or reward you for taking part in ‘power down’ or ‘power up’ events.

Unsure about smart meters? This factsheet from Carbon Co-op is a useful overview: carbon.coop/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Smart-meters-Nov-2026.pdf

3.How much money will you spend?

Talking about money can feel a bit personal, but it's important to recognise.
If money is tight then you could start small - focusing on the essential upgrades to your electrics, better ventilation, and swapping out your cooker.

If you have savings or want to go further, you might be looking at some of the bigger upgrades - like electric vehicle chargers, heat pumps or solar panels.

Are there any grants?

Some of these upgrades may have grants attached. For example, in 2026 the Boiler Upgrade Scheme offers thousands of pounds towards swapping out an oil or gas boiler for a heat pump. These might not cover all your costs.

Your personal circumstances might mean you also qualify for other help - for example, with insulation, heating controls or solar panels. Depending on the grant, there may be rules about who you can use to complete the work, and what materials they will use.

Other funding

Borrowing some money might also be an option for you - with a range of loans available. Some of these may be linked to your mortgage, others may be unsecured loans - for example, via a credit union.

Check **Feel the Benefit in Greater Manchester** for grant programmes running in your area: **gmca.retrofitportal.org.uk**

You can check grant programmes that you might be eligible for via the **Gov.uk** website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/find-energy-grants-for-you-home-help-to-heat

A good question to ask is: "what is it worth to you?" and consider the full range of benefits that electrifying your home can bring.

Purely focusing on financial payback misses all of the other benefits of these improvements, and is not a train of thought that we generally apply to other general home improvements, getting a car or taking a holiday.

Getting it right

Lots of the things mentioned in this guide include electrical work, so a big priority is electrical safety. However, there may be other requirements too. When it comes to our homes a key one is the Building Regulations.

Building professionals and installers can help guide you through this, but it's important that we all recognise our responsibility in meeting these standards, and ensuring our homes are safe for us and others.

The next page summarises the main things you might do in 'going electric' and the key regulations, standards and certifications to look for. You don't need to know the ins and outs of the technical standards mentioned, but if an installer isn't aware of them and unable to demonstrate how they comply, this should be a warning sign to look elsewhere.

Don't forget that other professionals can offer really valuable advice and services - including building surveyors, architects and engineers. Seeking independent advice, free from commercial interests, may be particularly helpful if you're thinking about how heating, insulation, ventilation and other home improvements fit together, and the most sensible ordering of these.



For an **overview of the Building Regulations and what they mean for you as a home owner** have a look at the LABC website: labcfrontdoor.co.uk/projects/general/building-regulations/tell-me-about-the-building-regulations

Building Regulations don't just apply to new buildings or extensions - they also cover most alterations.

Electrical standards

If you want to understand where your home is in relation to current electrical standards, a good starting point is an Electrical Safety Check:

- If you rent then your landlord has a legal obligation to do this at least once every 5 years.
- If you own your home it's generally recommended that you get this done at least once every 10 years.

This check will produce an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR). The cost of this depends on the size and complexity of your home, but you could expect it to be in the range of £100 and £300.

Find out more about **what's involved in an Electrical Installation Condition Report** (EICR) on this National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) web page: niceic.com/householders/electrical-services/electrical-installation-condition-reports/

Read guidance from Electrical Safety First on finding a registered electrician, and advice on choosing one: www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/find-a-registered-electrician/choosing-a-registered-electrician/

Installers can help

If you have a clear idea about a specific electric home improvement you'd like to make, then a suitable contractor should be looking at your electrical systems to see whether they can cope or will need upgrading. For example, this is a key requirement for heat pump and solar PV installers. However, bear in mind that the checks they will make are unlikely to be as comprehensive as a full Electrical Safety Check (which will look at your whole home).



Use the next pages to find key requirements for different electrical improvements, including guidance on the certifications you should look for in installers.

Getting it right:
Getting your home electric ready and in good order

Consumer unit and wiring checks

The key regulations and standards for electrical work are the national safety standard BS 7671 and Building Regulations. Part P of the Building Regulations is the legal framework for electrical safety in homes.



Photo by Jimmy Nilsson Masth on Unsplash

Don't forget - if you're thinking about adding to your home in future (for example, a new oven/hob, heat pump or electric vehicle charger) mention this to your electrician. This might help them plan things better now, saving you more work further down the line.

Use a NICEIC registered contractor for electrical work. Ask them for an Electrical Safety Certificate.

The NICEIC is a certification body for electrical businesses, assessing them against standards and regulations. This includes looking at their policies, procedures (how they work) and technical competency. If a NICEIC registered installer is part of the Domestic Installer Scheme, they are able to notify certain completed jobs to Building Control, which is a legal requirement for some types of electrical work in England and Wales: **www.niceic.com**



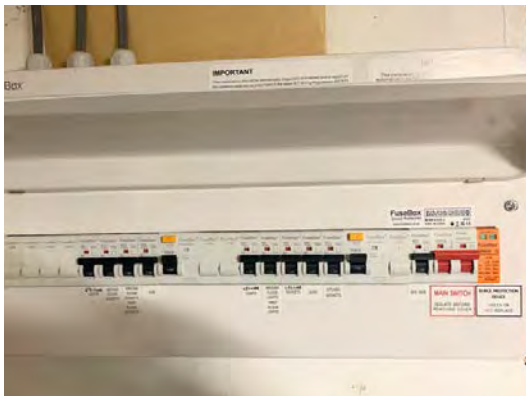


Photo: an example of a consumer unit (People Powered Retrofit)

Getting it right:
Ventilation upgrades

The key regulations and standards for ventilation:

- National safety standard **BS 7671** (where it includes electrical aspects), and
- **Part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical Safety)**
- **Part F of the Building Regulations (Ventilation)**



Photo: an example of a fresh air inlet vent, part of a Mechanical Extract Ventilation system (photo: People Powered Retrofit).

We strongly recommend continuous decentralised Mechanical Extract Ventilation (dMEV) to kitchens and bathrooms, as a minimum, alongside a controlled way of bringing in fresh air to other rooms. This is because window opening is not a reliable way of ventilating your home. When it is cold outside, or people have concerns about safety, they are not likely to open windows. A mechanical system means you don't have to worry about this. A continuously running system should be very quiet, and can be boosted when needed.

To comply with Building Regulations, ventilation systems must be properly commissioned. This is about making sure that the system has been set-up correctly, providing the level of ventilation it was designed to.

How much ventilation your home needs depends on its size, layout, how many people live there and how many 'wet rooms' (kitchens and bathrooms) you have.

Use a NICEIC registered contractor for electrical work, including one registered **under the Domestic Ventilation competent persons scheme**: niceic.com/business/niceic-certification/domestic-ventilation/

Ask them for an **Electrical Safety Certificate.**

As part of commissioning the installer should test the system once fitted, checking it is extracting (and/or providing) air at the required rates. Ask for a completed **Ventilation Commissioning Certificate.**



Photo: an example of an extract vent - part of a Mechanical Extract Ventilation system (photo: People Powered Retrofit).

You can find a short video called 'Understanding Part F of the Building Regulations' by Zero Carbon Harrogate on **YouTube**. This was developed by People Powered Retrofit. It may be useful if you are unsure about whether your home needs better ventilation.

Getting it right:
Electric cooking

The key regulations and standards for cooking depend on whether the hob and/or oven requires a dedicated circuit and hardwiring. Check with a registered electrican first. If it includes electrical work, national safety standard **BS 7671** and **Part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical Safety)** are the key ones.



Photo by Gaelle Marcel on Unsplash

Use a NICEIC registered contractor for electrical work.

Ask them for an **Electrical Safety Certificate.**

Slow cookers usually plug-in to a standard socket because they only draw a small amount of power. **Air fryers** also plug-in and may be another good option, depending on what you like to cook.

We recommend an induction hob as these are the most efficient, responsive and safe type of electric hob. However, if you have a pacemaker fitted, do check advice (linked below) from the British Heart Foundation first. This is because pacemaker signals can be affected by electromagnetic fields.



Electrical Safety First have some good advice about keeping safe in your kitchen, buying and keeping plug-in appliances safely:

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/safety-advice/home-and-people/kitchen/

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/safety-advice/products-and-appliances

British Heart Foundation advice for people with pacemakers: www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/heart-matters-magazine/medical/how-does-a-pacemaker-work/frequently-asked-pacemaker-questions

Getting it right:
Heat pumps

Air source heat pumps get a gold star because they extract useful heat from the air that's around us, so they don't have to generate heat from scratch. And yes, there is heat in the air even when it's very cold in winter! This makes heat pumps MUCH more efficient than a gas boiler. A heat pump can also provide your **hot water** needs.

The key regulations and standards for heat pumps are brought together under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Heat pumps include elements of electrical work, plumbing work, as well as requirements around working with refrigerants.

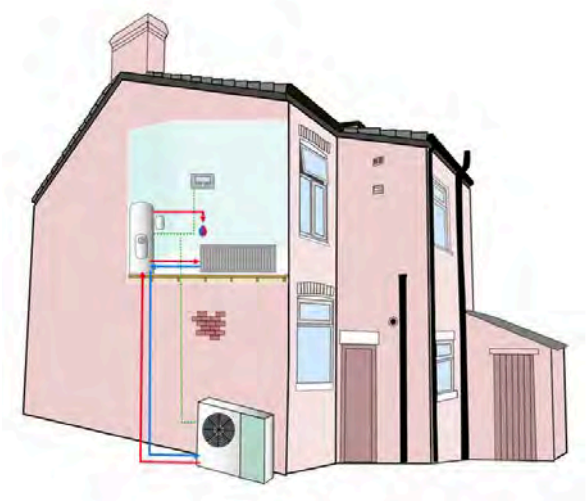


Photo: Katy King / Nesta / Climate Visuals

Use a MCS registered contractor. Amongst other requirements, they should do a **room by room heat loss calculation** to make sure that the heat pump and radiators are sized properly.

Before a heat pump is installed, your MCS contractor must notify the network operator through the Connect Direct platform (for the vast majority of homes in Greater Manchester this is SP Electricity North West). Some installations can proceed immediately under a 'connect and notify' arrangement, while others may require upgrades to the local electricity supply before installation can go ahead.

Once the system is installed you must receive a **MCS certificate.**



For more on heat pumps, and whether they may be appropriate for you, read the other guides in this series.

Getting it right:
Electric heaters and stoves

Electric heaters

The regulations and standards for electric room heaters (such as smart storage heaters) depends if the heater requires a dedicated circuit and hardwiring. Check with a registered electrican first if in doubt. If it includes electrical work, national safety standard BS 7671 and Part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical Safety) are the key ones.



Photo by Photo by e24 on Unsplash

Use a NICEIC registered contractor for electrical work.

Ask them for an Electrical Safety Certificate.

If you are using a lower power rated plug-in heater (such as a plug-in oil filled radiator), you must always use a dedicated wall socket. **Never run a heater off an extension lead.**

Removing gas fires or wood burning stoves

Only remove a gas fire or stove if your room can be heated by another system - don't leave yourself without any heating. Unheated rooms can pose a serious risk to health.



Photo by Matt Seymour on Unsplash

If you are removing something that runs on gas, use a Gas Safe registered engineer:
www.gassaferegister.co.uk

If you are removing something that uses solid fuel (including wood) use a HETAS registered contractor:
www.hetas.co.uk/consumer/

Don't forget: if you're keeping your gas (or oil) boiler, heater or a wood burning stove for the time being, get an annual service to keep them working safely and efficiently.

Getting it right:
Electric vehicle charging

Electric vehicle charging is electrical work, and so national safety standard BS 7671 and Part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical Safety) are the key ones.



Photo by Zaptec on Unsplash

Use a NICEIC registered contractor for electrical work. Ask them for an Electrical Safety Certificate.

Because EV chargers can draw significant amounts of power (and some chargers can export electricity from the vehicle back to the grid), **your contractor must notify the network operator through the Connect Direct platform** (for the vast majority of homes in Greater Manchester this is SP Electricity North West). Some installations can proceed immediately under a 'connect and notify' arrangement, while others may require checks or upgrades to the local electricity supply before installation can go ahead.



SP Electricity North West guidance on connecting small electric vehicle charging points:

www.enwl.co.uk/get-connected/apply-for-a-new-connection/electric-vehicles2/single-ev/

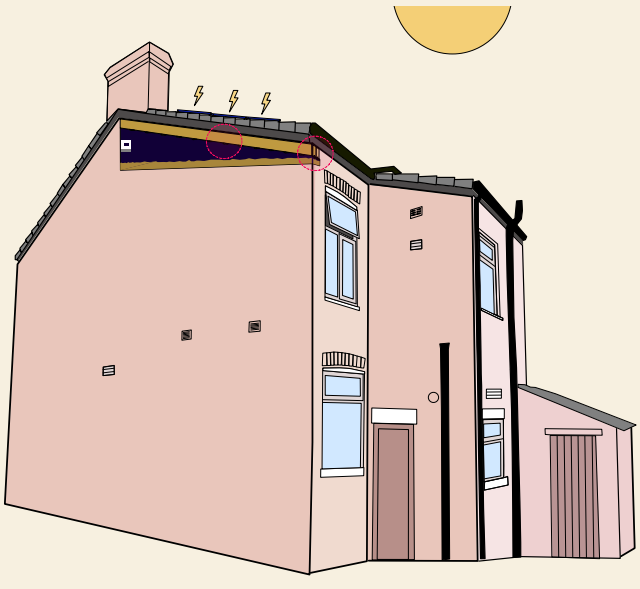
Getting it right:
Generating your own energy from solar panels

The key regulations and standards for solar panels are brought together under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Solar panels are primarily electrical work, but it includes safely working at height, and an ability to check the structure and condition of the roof.



Credit: In-Press Photography via Centre for Ageing Better

If your installer also fits a **solar diverter** (e.g. to be able to divert some of the electricity generated to heat a hot water immersion tank), they must be MCS and NICEIC certified. You should receive an Electrical Safety Certificate for this work.



Use a MCS registered contractor. They must also use a MCS registered solar system.

Before any panels are installed the MCS contractor must check that the roof structure and covering are ready for solar panels. **This includes consulting a structural engineer if required.**

If roof works are required first, we recommend you use a RoofCERT accredited roofer. You should ask for **RoofCERT certificate** once any roof work is completed. An alternative route may be via Local Authority Building Control approvals.

Part A (Structure) and **Part C** (Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture) are key **Building Regulations** that relate to roof work.

Your MCS contractor will manage the required notification or approval process with the network operator (for the vast majority of homes in Greater Manchester this is SP Electricity North West). Most domestic solar installations can proceed under a 'connect and notify' arrangement, while larger systems or installations with battery storage may require approval from the network operator before installation can go ahead.

Getting it right:
Battery storage systems

Home battery systems store electricity for use at other times. Batteries may make sense for some homes, usually used alongside solar PV panels, but not always. Whether they are appropriate for your home depends on:

- whether you have somewhere safe and suitable to fit one. This is usually outside your home and away from any routes you would rely on for escape if there was a fire, but still accessible for maintenance.
- if you would benefit from flexibility about when you use electricity.
- whether you are able to take advantage of special tariffs (for example, Time of Use tariffs).
- how you feel about the environmental and labour impacts of battery production and disposal.

There are alternatives to lithium-ion (such as sodium-ion), as well as UK manufacturers - which may provide better fire safety and supply chain options.



Photo: People Powered Retrofit

Use a MCS registered contractor. They must also use a MCS certified battery system.

You should receive an Electrical Safety Certificate.

Check that the contractor is familiar with PAS 63100:2024 *(Electrical installations. Protection against fire of battery energy storage systems for use in dwellings. Specification)*.

Your contractor will manage the required notification or approval process with the network operator (for the vast majority of homes in Greater Manchester this is SP Electricity North West). Most domestic installations can proceed under a 'connect and notify' arrangement, while larger systems or those capable of exporting higher levels of electricity may require approval from the network operator before installation can go ahead.

Independent charity, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, guide to battery systems:
www.cse.org.uk/advice/battery-storage/

Ready to be an electric home hero?



This guide is a starting point, and designed to help you decide what might be good for you and your home. Ready to go further? We've got you covered.

There are more in-depth guides to some of these topics and technologies. We've grouped these around those key 'kitchen table' conversations:

A guide to making your home electric

- **An introductory guide (this guide)**

How we heat and cool our homes:

- **Heat pumps**

How we cook:

- **Switching to electric cooking**

How we dry our clothes, and keep the air fresh:

- **Ventilation**

How we power things:

- **Get your home electric ready**
- **Solar PV**
- **Battery storage**

Useful guidance

On this page we've linked to other information and guidance that you may find helpful:

Want some basic and low cost tips on keeping your home cooler in hot weather? This guide from the Centre for Sustainable Energy and the Heatwave toolkit is a great place to start:

www.cse.org.uk/advice/how-to-keep-your-home-cool-in-hot-weather/



Thinking about electric vehicles, including e-bikes? This guide hosted on the Government website is important to read in terms of safe use and storage of lithium batteries:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/battery-safety-for-e-cycle-users/battery-safety-for-e-cycle-users



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

Heard about plug-in solar panels? New to the UK in 2026, plug-in solar panels may be a good option if you live in a flat with a balcony, or rent your home. We'll be adding to our information on these soon, but this guide from Electrical Safety Now is a good starting point on the safety considerations:

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/safety-advice/products-and-appliances/green-energy/plug-in-solar-panels/



Photo by Newpowa on Unsplash

My electric home brief



You can use these pages to help you work out next steps

1 What's most important to you?

Rank your priorities - *it's ok if you only have 1!*

	Improving comfort and health
	Managing energy costs (affordability)
	Saving carbon
	Safety and resilience

2 What improvements are you most interested in?

Use the colour key on the next page to help you see which improvements are a good match for different priorities.

Within the next year	In 2 to 5 years	Over 5 years

Colour key

Comfort and health

Things that can help you heat your home to a healthy and comfortable level, or contribute to better indoor air quality. These are marked with blue circles.

Energy affordability

Your ability to save money will always depend on your specifc circumstances, including your current usage, energy costs and home. These are marked with yellow circles.

Saving carbon

By this, we mean things that significantly reduce how much CO2 your home produces. It doesn't include how much CO2 may be required to make it, or other environmental costs. These are marked by green circles.

Safety and resilience

These are things that may improve safety around your home, e.g. by removing hazards like unsafe or old electrics, hot surfaces, combustible fuels. Some of these things can you make your home more resilient to future shsocks - such as gas shortages, or higher electrics in a flood. These are marked by red circles.

Heating: heat pump or modern electric heaters



Electric oven, induction hob or slow cooker



Ventilation improvements



Removing fuel burning fires and stoves



Electrical upgrades



Solar panels



Electric vehicle charging



Battery



My electric home brief

3 What's your budget?

£

This step isn't essential - you may prefer to explore likely costs of electric measures first. But if you have a set budget in mind, it's useful to note this down.

Savings	Grants	Other

If you know how much, or what percentage of your budget is likely to be from savings or grants, this can help you work out what else you might need.

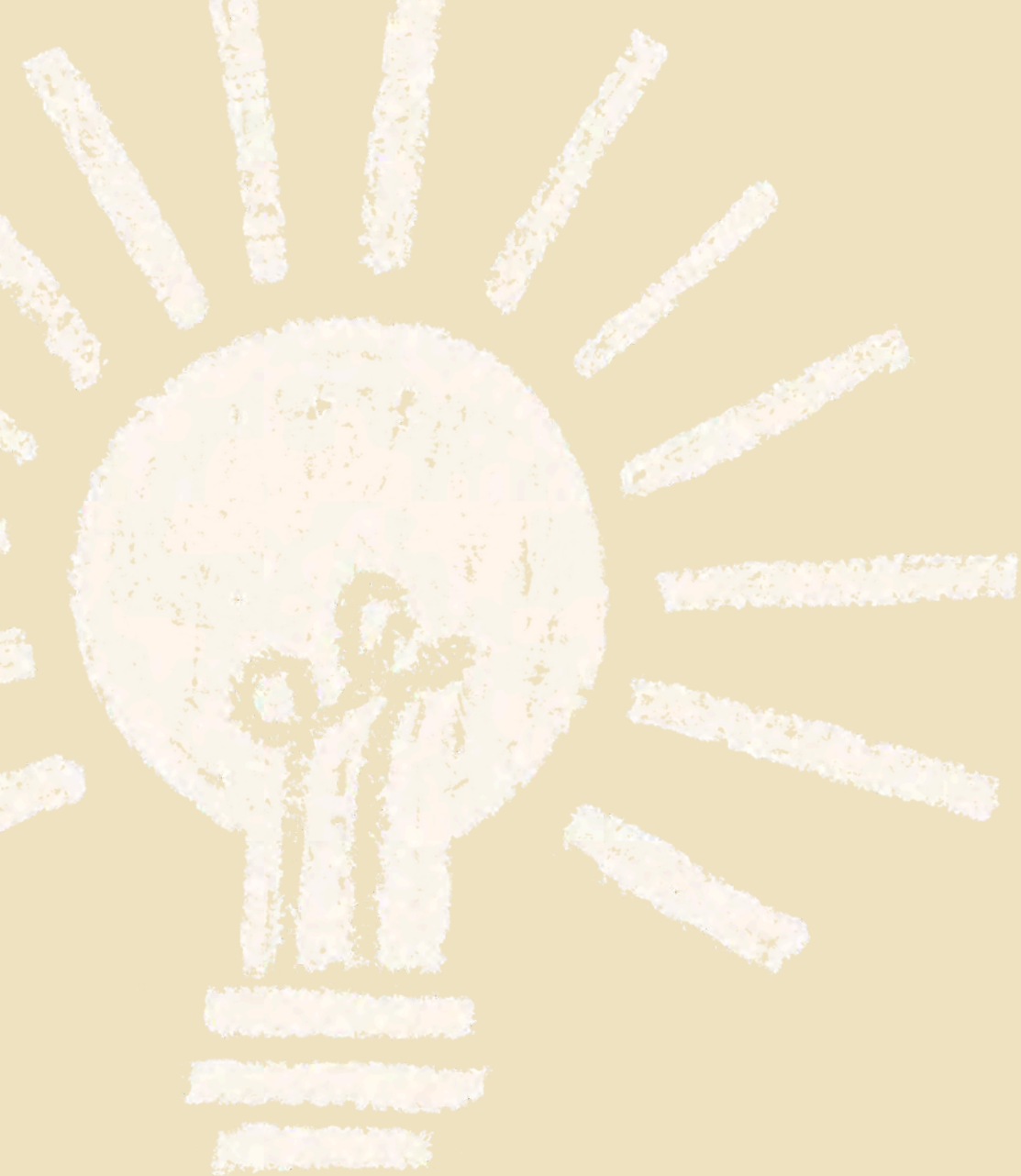
4 What are your next steps?

- [ ] Explore an assessment of my home - to help me decide what to do and in what order
- [ ] Get an Electrical Safety Check
- [ ] Research what grants are available, and what criteria apply
- [ ] Research who could supply and install
- [ ] Research other finance options

My notes:

Check **Feel the Benefit in Greater Manchester** for grant programmes running in your area: gmca.retrofitportal.org.uk

You can also check for **national grant programmes** via the Gov.uk website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/find-energy-grants-for-you-home-help-to-heat



Take the first step to becoming an electric home hero today

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