

# What is the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (WHSHF)?

The Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (WHSHF) is a government-backed initiative designed to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty in social housing across the UK. The fund provides financial support to social housing providers for retrofitting homes with energy-saving measures, such as insulation, heating system upgrades, and renewable energy installations. The primary goal of the WHSHF is to enhance the thermal comfort of low-income households, reduce energy bills, and contribute to the UK's carbon reduction targets.

The WHSHF is particularly relevant in the UK, where a significant proportion of social housing stock is older and less energy-efficient. The fund supports a range of measures, including:

1. **Insulation:** Installing loft, cavity wall, or external wall insulation to reduce heat loss.
2. **Heating System Upgrades:** Replacing outdated boilers with high-efficiency models or integrating heat pumps.
3. **Renewable Energy:** Adding solar panels or solar thermal systems to generate clean energy.
4. **Ventilation Improvements:** Installing mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems to maintain indoor air quality while minimising heat loss.

The WHSHF aligns with the UK's Building Regulations, particularly Approved Document L (Conservation of Fuel and Power), which sets standards for energy efficiency in existing buildings. It also supports the UK government's broader objectives to eradicate fuel poverty and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

## **Related Terms:**

1. **Fuel Poverty:** A situation where households cannot afford to heat their homes adequately due to low income and high energy costs.
2. **Energy Efficiency:** The use of less energy to perform the same task, reducing energy waste.
3. **Retrofit:** The process of upgrading existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and performance.
4. **Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR):** A system that extracts stale air while recovering heat to warm incoming fresh air.
5. **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC):** A document that rates a building's energy efficiency on a scale from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient).