

## Top tips on best practice in planning

- Building standards - set energy efficiency standards that go beyond current building regulations in the design, construction and refurbishment of homes. The Energy Saving Trust provides information on energy efficiency, sets standards for the housing industry and provides technical guidance on meeting these standards. The standards, covering Good Practice, Best Practice and Advanced Practice, provide an integrated package of measures for all aspects of new build and refurbishment. For more information on these standards call **0870 241 2089**, email [practicalhelp@est.org.uk](mailto:practicalhelp@est.org.uk) or visit [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/).
- Buy green - ensure environmental policies are put in place by all sub-contractors, which exerts pressure down the supply chain to improve environmental performance.
- Put you own house in order - take every opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of council buildings and reduce fuel bills. For more information contact the Carbon Trust [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk).
- Advice to developers - offer advice and support to developers to ensure they meet the highest energy efficiency standards in the most cost effective manner. Keeping developers on side will ensure highest standards achieved at lowest cost. Direct developers and building professionals to the Energy Saving Trust for free technical advice, tools and training - call **0870 120 7799**, email [bestpractice@est.org.uk](mailto:bestpractice@est.org.uk) or visit [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/).
- Introduce a prescriptive energy efficiency planning policy - require developers to comply with a prescriptive policy in the implementation of their development. Take a look at the case study on the London Borough of Merton's use of a planning condition on non-residential buildings over 1,000 square meters to incorporate sustainable energy in developments - [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/casestudies/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/casestudies/).
- Advice to householders - provide advice on energy efficiency/renewable energy to householders applying for planning permission. This will maximise the opportunity for the uptake of energy efficiency measures when building work is undertaken. Signpost householders to their nearest Energy Saving Trust advice centre for more information and advice on energy efficiency, local grants and offers available – call **0800 512 012**.
- Funding - ensure your council is proactively working with energy suppliers in offering Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funding and other support to householders. The equivalent of more than £1 billion of ECC funding for energy efficiency measures is available 2005-08. Make sure that you are familiar with all the grant schemes available in your area so that you can signpost householders to them. Take a look at the Energy Saving Trust's funding database: [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/funding/database/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/funding/database/).
- Attend a training seminar - the Energy Saving Trust provides training to professionals involved in the design, construction, refurbishment and regulation of UK domestic housing. To register for regular email updates call **0870 241 2089** or email [practicalhelp@est.org.uk](mailto:practicalhelp@est.org.uk) or visit [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/) for details of forthcoming seminars.