

## strapline

# Heating your home without the headache of high energy bills

Here comes winter and energy prices are rising fast – in fact gas and electricity prices have never been higher. How can you keep your home warm and comfortable without runaway fuel bills?

This is the challenge that Warm Wales has risen to with its new Green Assistance Package. The programme helps householders install energy saving technology to reduce those fuel bills.

Warm Wales is a not-for-profit, community interest company set up to bring advice, technical expertise and grant support to homeowners trying to reduce their energy costs.

For example, investing in solar energy (solar PV) to generate electricity makes good sense as your electricity can replace some of the power delivered from the mains.

What's more any surplus energy can be passed into the Grid and you are credited with up to 43p per kilowatt, thanks to the feed-in tariff.

Over the years this can give an index-linked return on the system worth three or four times that from a bank or building society.

What Warm Wales and its installation partner Red Dragon Heating and Solar can bring is sound advice on how and where the solar PV



Warm Wales helps homeowners cut their bills

system should be installed – and in most cases access to grants, which maybe as much as £1,600

Warm Wales can also help homes with solid fuel, electrical or oil heating where grants as much as £4,000 may be available for a new gas system and its connection to the gas main.

"Whatever the way you chose to cut your running costs, Warm Wales can help – with the added benefit of helping employment and bringing essential skills to Wales," said Phil Roberts, chief executive of Warm Wales.

■ **Contacts: Warm Wales**  
tel 01639 825960  
[www.warmwales.org.uk](http://www.warmwales.org.uk)



**WARM WALES**  
**CYMRU GYNNES**

## Tips for avoiding identity fraud

According to the National Fraud Authority, almost two million people become victims of identity fraud every year. On average, successful fraudsters make £1,000 for every identity they steal.

Identity thieves often try to obtain genuine documents such as birth certificates, passports and driving licences but they also hunt for utility bills, online passwords and personal information many people post on social networking sites.

Despite this, many people still leave confidential documents in non-secure locations such as recycling bins or waste paper baskets.

This is risky as these documents could potentially be picked up by anyone at anytime – including investigative journalists from national tabloid newspapers as Conservative cabinet ministers have recently found out. Leaving documents in this way can put individuals and businesses at risk.

Luckily the best way to prevent your identity being stolen is also one of the simplest – destroy all documents and any form of electronic storage that contains your personal details as soon as you no longer need them.

In support of the 7th National Identity Fraud Prevention Week 2011, Shred-it invited the public to utilise its



16 regional branches to dispose of their confidential documents and hard drives.

We hoped that by encouraging the public to use our industrial sized cross-shredding machines that we would help people get into the habit of shredding.

We hope businesses might see the benefit of keeping their confidential data private and would be happy to provide advice to any individual or company which requires it.



## £15m available for recycled material use

WRAP Cymru is delivering grant schemes totalling £15m aimed at businesses in the recycling, reprocessing and manufacturing sector.

The REMake scheme is designed for manufacturing SMEs in Wales to encourage them to maximise use of recycled materials such as plastics, paper, card, textiles and electronics in their products, processes and packaging.

The £14m Accelerating Reprocessing Infrastructure Development (ARID) funding is aimed at SME reprocessors, recycling service providers and manufacturers seeking to use recycled content in their products or packaging.

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, through the Welsh Government, the funds are available for SMEs in the convergence region of West Wales and the Valleys.

WRAP Cymru can also provide revenue-based business support for the recycling and reprocessing sector by providing consultancy and interim managers for business development to SMEs across the whole of Wales.

Beth Winkley, head of WRAP Cymru, said: "Our funding and support programmes are



The ARID scheme is aimed at businesses reprocessing or using recycled materials such as glass

designed to give the Welsh economy a much-needed boost by driving growth in the manufacturing, recycling and reprocessing industries.

"Part of our role is to create a supply and a demand for recycled materials, and we've already supported a large number of businesses across Wales through funding and consultancy support."

■ **For more information on the WRAP grant schemes, visit**  
[www.wrapcymru.org.uk](http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk) or speak to a member of the team on 029 2044 8090.



Working together for a world without waste  
Cydwethio tuag at fyd heb wastraff



Festival-goers will be able to buy locally made food at two events

## Winter wonderlands for food lovers in the Brecon Beacons

TWO outdoor Christmas markets in the Brecon Beacons are guaranteed to add that extra sparkle in time for Christmas with thousands of people expected to turn up and enjoy the dazzling displays of local produce and handicrafts in Hay and Brecon.

The Hay Winter Food Festival will feature over 40 Welsh food, drink, arts and crafts producers. The Brecon Winter Wonderfest, supported by the National Park Authority's Interreg IVB-funded Collabor8 project, will include a living nativity, live music, a farmers' market plus arts, crafts and gift stalls – so there will be plenty of opportunity to buy some wonderful handcrafted Welsh Christmas presents for your friends and family.

The stallholders at both events, all local to the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Marches, will be selling locally-made produce



including fine cheeses, breads, chocolates, liqueurs, meats, handmade cards, wooden toys, textiles and jewellery. Brecon Winter Wonderfest will also see the switching on of the town lights and Christmas tree with Santa and his real reindeer in the town as special guests.

Trading will be as normal in both towns with many town centre shops hoping to be inundated with the boost in population. But if all this excitement is too much for festival-goers, they can sit down and enjoy the proceedings from one of the many local cafes or coffee shops.

■ **The Hay Winter Food Festival and the Brecon Winter Wonderfest run from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, November 26. For more information please visit**  
[www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org)