That autumn feel in the air often turns our thoughts to switching the heating on and thinking about how we’ll manage our bills this winter.

You may have seen the news coverage that the energy price cap fell from Oct 1 for most people.

But even with this welcome fall, we know that many people will struggle this winter to pay their bills. There will not be the Energy Bills Support Scheme this winter (the £400 that people received last year towards their energy bills) although there will be cost of living payments for the most vulnerable – and winter fuel payments/warm home discount for certain groups.

Please also remember that the price cap is not a total cap on usage. It’s a cap on the unit rate so the more you use, the more you’ll pay. The standing charge too is payable no matter how much energy you use.

That’s why it’s crucial to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible to help reduce bills. Coventry City Council has partnered with energy advice experts Act on Energy to help anyone in the area with their energy needs. Simply call 0800 988 2881 and speak to a friendly advisor to make sure you are receiving all the help and support available.

There are lots of schemes available and not all of them have the same application criteria so please do call to find out more.

One of the schemes is Keeping Coventry Warm Scheme which is designed for those who have a long term health condition or disability which is affected by living in a cold or damp home. Applicants should be owner occupiers or living in a private rented property. Funding can include:

* External wall insulation
* Cavity wall insulation
* First time gas central heating
* Broken boiler replacement
* Inefficient gas boiler
* Loft insulation
* Upgrade or repair of electric storage heaters

Measures are income related but there is scope for wide ranging help so please do call to see if Act on Energy can help.  Call for free on 0800 988 2881 or [visit the Act On Energy website.](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/BfgCCVm45I1ZJ1BCGDVr5?domain=lnks.gd)

And if you don’t have mains gas for your home heating, and an income of less than £31,000, you may be eligible for a Home Upgrade Grant. The grant can provide fully funded energy efficiency improvements to poorly insulated homes within Coventry.

For more details call Act on Energy for free on 0800 988 2881.