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## PRESS RELEASE

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### CHANNEL YOUR ENERGY INTO REDUCING BILLS THIS WINTER

**- Avoid a winter of discontent by improving energy efficiency, urges Ebico -**

Rising energy wholesale prices and an anticipated chilly and unsettled autumn could lead to consumers feeling financially squeezed over the coming months, but simple steps can be taken to alleviate this pressure, according to Ebico – the UK's only not-for-profit energy company.

Direct debit payments for energy bills will rise considerably for many energy-users over the winter months and this, coupled with the financial strain of Christmas, could lead to a financially difficult winter for many.

Improving levels of home insulation can be a cost-effective way of increasing energy efficiency and, in turn, reducing bills:

**Cavity wall insulation:** a third of the heat within an un-insulated home is lost through the walls. Consumers could save up to £115 on a typical home's fuel bill per year by having cavity insulation installed between the exterior and interior walls. An average grant-aided cavity wall installation will cost approximately £135 which – with the savings that can be made on heating bills – will pay for itself in just over a year.

**Solid wall insulation:** houses which pre-date 1920 often have solid masonry walls, and suffer from heat loss of up to 40%. Solid wall insulation can prevent energy waste and cut up to 25% off fuel bills. Internal solid wall insulation costs approximately £5,500 to £8,500, but saves approximately £365 on energy bills per year.<sup>1</sup> External solid wall insulation will cost approximately £10,500 to £14,500, and will save approximately £385 on energy bills per year.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimated figures based on insulating a gas-heated, semi-detached home with three bedrooms.

Account for 10% of the heat loss from a household, insulation is generally cheap and easy to install and can help to save up to £50 per year. Sealing up gaps in the floor and skirting boards can help to improve efficiency.

**Loft insulation:** putting 'quilts' of insulation throughout roof space could help to save £150 per year on energy bills. Once all of the clutter has been cleared out of the loft, it is important to make sure that it is well ventilated so that condensation does not form. All cracks and holes in the ceiling need to be filled in, and the wiring laid on top of the insulation so that the cables do not overheat. If everybody in the UK topped up their loft insulation to 270mm, approximately £520million could be saved in energy bills annually. Loft insulation is effective for at least 40 years.

**Tank and pipe insulation:** pipe insulation can be bought from any home improvement stores from only £3 for two meters, while cylinder jackets can be purchased for as little as £10. Insulating tanks and surrounding pipes will keep the water within them hotter for longer, by reducing the amount of heat that escapes.

Phil Levermore, founder and managing director of Ebico, said: "While cold snaps and rising wholesale prices are beyond our control, consumers can still take steps to alleviate the financial pressures which they are facing this winter by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Whether they decide to opt for professional cavity wall insulation, or simply make some small cost-effective improvements themselves, everybody has the potential make significant savings on their energy bills this winter, in turn, enabling them to celebrate a stress free Christmas.

"For more information about energy saving tips, insulation advice and qualifying for energy grants, please log onto [www.ebico.co.uk](http://www.ebico.co.uk)."

**-Ends-**

#### **About Ebico**

Ebico is the UK's only not-for-profit energy supply company in the UK and is committed to the reduction and elimination of fuel poverty. The company's flat rate tariff with no standing charge rewards low users of energy.

For more information visit [www.ebico.co.uk](http://www.ebico.co.uk). Phil Levermore is available for interviews.