

QUIDOS QUARTERLY



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Quidos
Excellence in Efficiency

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New Report

Saved Reports

Settings

iQ Mobile now includes zPlan Floor Plan Software

You can now draw your floor plans within iQ-Mobile at no extra cost. With the simple tap of a button, EPC information is automatically populated, saving you time. All for FREE.

Are you on the correct lodgement package?

The more lodgements you do, the cheaper they become. Contact our friendly accreditation team today to check you are on the correct package.

FOREWORD

Well, what a year so far and it's only going to get busier!! We have already begun seeing changes to the industry with the release of new building regulations, which sees SAP, as well as iSBEM updated. We are eagerly awaiting the confirmation of when RdSAP10 will be released. All of which have been very much awaited.

The updates have and will include updated calculations, carbon emissions and fuel prices which at have had a detrimental effect on the output of EPCs. Updated methodologies will allow people to make correct choices on how to improve the energy efficiency of their property, as well as give some more accurate ways to reduce their energy use, carbon emissions and save money.

Due to this, we have all found that there has been a renewed interest in the content of the EPC. It is no longer the tick box exercise that it was in years gone by. People want to understand how these figures are created and the impact they have.

This has meant the role of the Energy Assessor is also no longer what it was. It has become even more important. With fuel prices increasing and a tough winter ahead, we as an industry are one of the best placed to be able to assist homeowners/tenants with advice via their EPC.



The Future Homes Standard has recognised the change needed and set a goal for 2025. We hope that this commitment by Government is stuck to and we will endeavour to help in any way we can. But, we also hope and will press for the Government to go further with Retrofit as well as further changes to the EPC methodology.

At Quidos, we feel that we are able to provide our members with the required training, guidance and approval required to be prepared for what lies ahead. Our aim is to bring our members on this journey of change and I really do believe we are living in exciting times in our industry. We are part of the bigger picture of change required to meet Net Zero and we need to hold on to our braces and be prepared for fast times ahead.

Quidos will be with you every step of the way!

Catherine Garrido, Operations Director

INDUSTRY NEWS

ECO4 Update

With the constant stop start implementation of ECO4, it's easy to understand why our members have been asking a lot about the scheme. Promising £4 Billion until 2026 to improve homes, estimates suggest that the funding will be able to improve up to 450,000 homes.

But what is different to ECO3? **WHOLE HOUSE RETROFIT**. No longer are you restricted to focussing on a couple of measures, you now look at a fabric first approach improving the whole property, with a new scoring system too. Now this is not the only difference, but ECO4 will use a whole house approach with a requirement for a post-install RdSAP assessment in order to show that the property has been improved by two SAP bands.



As part of the changes, retrofit assessments must be submitted to Trustmark's Data Warehouse before a project can be started. This software update from Trustmark has been released and Quidos have partnered with ECOSURV to allow for direct lodgement of retrofit assessments to the Data Warehouse. You can book their training session [here](#).

There are still a few grey areas within ECO4 and with a new Government, we eagerly await more information.

ECOSURV



TRUSTMARK
Government Endorsed Quality



INDUSTRY NEWS

Scottish Building Regulations update

The [new version of Building Regulations for Scotland](#) has been published and the Scottish Government expect these changes to come into force from 1st December 2022.

For non-domestic assessors, iSBEM 6.1.d has now been released and will need to be used from December 1st. The [NCM Modelling guide](#) has also now been released. It would be useful to make yourself aware of these now.

For SAP assessors, Quidos have been provided with the test cases for Scottish SAPIO and have began working on the engine to support the lodgement of SAP EPCs and compliance reports.

- You can read up on the changes using the [Domestic Building Services Compliance Guide](#) and [Technical handbooks for 2022](#).



Decent Homes Standard Review

On the 2nd September, the Government released [The Decent Homes Standard Consultation](#) which industry professionals, landlords and their tenants as well as other industry stakeholders are able to respond to.

In June 2022, the Government published "A fairer private rented sector" white paper which "sets out this government's commitment to introduce a legally binding Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector for the first time."

The consultation seems to state that the private rented sector and the social housing sector will become more consistent in their standards (where applicable) - retaining the minimum energy efficiency standard.

Quidos are of the opinion that the EPC can play a vital role within this standard. There is an enormous amount of data available from the EPC ready to be utilised to assist in reducing and ending fuel poverty whilst also protecting the environment.

We encourage all of our members to look at the consultation and respond where able. The deadline is 14th October.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS, FUTUREBUILD & INSTALLER SHOW

Quidos nominated for Energy Efficiency Award

Our year kicked off with a fantastic start with Quidos given a special commendation for 'National Quality Management, Compliance & Training company of the year' at the postponed National Energy Efficiency Awards 2021.

The National Quality Management, Compliance & Training Company of the Year Award recognises companies that provide training, compliance or quality management services to people in the energy efficiency sector or certifies the products and practices of an organisation if they meet a certain standard.

We have been recognised again for the 2022 awards for the same category. The ceremony takes place on 14th October. Can we go one better this year? Wish us luck!



Futurebuild

February 2022 saw Quidos exhibiting at Futurebuild 'The future of the built environment' at London Excel. A great opportunity to connect with other industry schemes and professionals. Catherine Garrido, Operations Director and Billy Say, Technical Director from Quidos were invited to talk on the Ecosurv stand to network with Retrofit Coordinators and Assessors who use the software. We met lots of new faces and it was great to connect with familiar ones!

Installer Show 2022

In June 2022 Quidos exhibited at The Installer Show, Birmingham. The UK's biggest heating, plumbing and electrical trade show. The team were on hand to meet industry colleagues to offer guidance about accreditation and scheme updates. We shared the stand with Quidos partners zPlan and JPA Technical and Salus Certification. We noted a lot of focus was the future of Heat Pumps, and we had numerous conversations about the future of alternative technologies.

QUIDOS PARTNER WITH NATWEST GROUP

Ideal Home Show

Quidos are proud to announce a recent partnership with the NatWest Group. As part of this partnership, we have attended the Ideal Home Show in both London and Glasgow offering energy efficiency advice to their mortgage customers as well as other members of the public. It brought together full-scale show homes, over 600 brands, free talks and the latest technology.

Quidos staff members were on hand to discuss the EPC rating of your current or potential property with helpful tips on how to make homes energy efficient, greener and more comfortable to live in, whilst lowering the emissions produced.



Quidos 'Energy experts' are also well versed in giving advice and support with 'Retrofit Projects', which appeared to be a hot topic of conversation at all events we have exhibited at this year.

Catherine Garrido, Quidos Operations Director states: "It's great to see a high street bank taking an interest in the energy efficiency of their property stock. By providing advice to customers, we are not only contributing to the countries net-zero carbon aims but also suggesting ways for customers to save money on their energy bills"

ACCREDITATION & TRAINING

Continued Professional Development

As an Accreditation scheme, Quidos aims to support the knowledge base and development of our assessors; this includes the completion of Continuous Professional Development (CPD). All assessors have a minimum requirement to complete 10 hours of CPD throughout their year of accreditation.

If your accreditation anniversary is approaching (Oct/Nov/Dec), we are required to check whether you have completed the required number of CPD hours.



CPD deadlines 2022:

October 21st

November 24th

December 20th

If you have uploaded CPD prior to your deadline, please do drop the Quidos Accreditation team a line and we will note this.



Not yet completed your CPD?

Check our Online Training Modules

Starting at just £12+VAT we have quick 30 minute to 1 hour courses as well as CPD bundles which include all round master-classes and practical guides to enhance your professional development.

<https://quidos.co.uk/our-courses>

ACCREDITATION & TRAINING Proficiency

Professionals in efficiency

Quidos are happy to announce that we will be working more closely in partnership with Proficiency (formerly DCHI).

By offering additional benefits to Proficiency members, Quidos are demonstrating our commitment not just to our own members but to supporting the wider energy assessor community. We recognise the important role Proficiency play in cross-industry discussions and representing the interests of assessors. Quidos welcomes assessor representation in communication and dialogue across all levels of industry and Ian and his team have established a great and impartial foundation to provide exactly that.

“Proficiency is a membership organisation for qualified and accredited Energy Assessors and associated professions. It exists to support its members with providing the highest quality services to meet the changing needs of the public and local communities; not just in complying with national legislative requirements but ultimately in doing our part to protect the planet for future generations.”

Billy Say Quidos Technical Director states “The work Proficiency do across the industry is fantastic. Quidos have long believed that assessors need to be heard in the industry. At the end of the day, they are the people on the ground day to day and have very valid opinions and ideas. Proficiency enables that to happen. We believe the industry should be about multiple voices working together for the common good and Proficiency have that same ethos. They look after their members in a number of ways, and we look forward to participating in more Proficiency hosted events in the future.”

Proficiency membership can add significant additional benefits for Quidos members which is why we encourage our members to consider joining them as well. Together we can achieve more for you.

To become a member of proficiency or see the benefits, head to their [website](#)

In recognition of our closer working relationship, Proficiency is offering a £20 discount for Quidos members who join during October. To use this discount you need to login to the members area or contact us to find out more.

ACCREDITATION & TRAINING

Quidos Merchandise

Checkout our Merchandise store!

Our store features a variety of clothing and essential tools for an energy assessor, whether you're new to the industry, or have years of experience.

New to the industry? Kick-start your career with our energy assessor starter pack, featuring the essentials you need to get you started!

Click [here](#) to view our full range of products.



Retrofit Renewals

If your annual Retrofit Renewal for Retrofit Assessor and Retrofit Coordinator accreditation is approaching then you will be contacted by the Quidos Accreditation team regarding what we require from you to continue your accreditation with Quidos. If you would like more information or your renewal date, please contact qas@quidos.co.uk.



QUIDOS TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Quidos pride ourselves in the support we give our members. It improves the knowledge of the assessor and in turn improves the quality of EPCs across the industry. Each edition of Quidos Quarterly will play host to a whole host of technical support tips, hints and reminders to keep our members on their toes. This edition we have the following:

Support Team Tip of the Quarter - Use of the SAP 2012 Table

In the latest version of the RdSAP convention a new convention was introduced - Convention 4.07.

Under this convention, it states: "If a boiler or a heat pump is not in the PCDB, use default.". This means, that you must have the exact make and model of the boiler/heat pump. If you do not, then this default is obtained by using the SAP 2012 table.

But what does the SAP table do? Unfortunately, the majority of the time it will make a "worst case scenario" assumption. For a modern condensing combi, this shouldn't have a big effect on the rating. However, for heat pumps the effect can be catastrophic.

As an example, some heat pumps can be up to 300% efficient when selected from the database. Select them from the SAP table however and you get 100% efficiency.



With a methodology that already doesn't look too kindly on electric systems, losing that efficiency makes it worse.

So, the moral of the story is always go above and beyond to find the exact make and model of the system. It can have a big effect on the SAP rating and perhaps could be the difference between meeting MEES requirements and not.

DID YOU KNOW?

Quidos' software is available on iOS and Android. Linking to floor plan software through zPlan, you can draw a plan and it self populate your EPC data inputs, create an EPC and lodge within minutes. Try it out today!



QUIDOS REWIND - LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed Building Guidance

It would appear that listed buildings have made a return to one of the most common queries our support team have received this quarter. With this in mind, we thought it appropriate to remind our members of the guidance we released in 2018 for this quarter's re-wind.

The subject of whether listed buildings do or do not require an Energy Performance Certificate is a common area of confusion & misunderstanding.

Unlike Scotland, where all buildings require an EPC, irrespective of listing, the official guidance elsewhere has been particularly difficult to make a black-and-white decision on the subject.

Unfortunately, it is not necessarily down to the Schemes or Energy Assessors to decide whether, for sale or rental/MEES purposes, an EPC is a requirement.

EPB Regulations state that an EPC is not required for "buildings officially protected as part of a designated environment or because of their special architectural or historical merit, in so far as compliance with certain minimum energy performance requirements would unacceptably alter their character or appearance."

It is the final clause of the Regulation, as underlined, where the issues arise.

The only way to determine whether the compliance to energy performance requirements would unacceptably alter the dwelling's character or appearance is to lodge a valid EPC, take that to the planning officers and see whether those recommendations would have an impact. If they would, the EPC would not need to be provided for sale/rental purposes, however, if the recommendations have no impact, the EPC must be used in line with the Regulations.

The start point, it would seem, would be the lodgement of a valid EPC. The decision, ultimately, for whether a listed property shall have an EPC should be made by the property owner. If an Energy Assessor is contracted to complete an EPC, it should be done, but as to whether it is required is a decision to be made by the property owner/agent.

As meeting the MEES requirements also hinges on whether an EPC is required, the above logic would also be used.

Take a look at our full guidance [here](#).



TOP TIPS FOR USING LESS ENERGY

Whilst one of the best ways to reduce energy bills will always be to thermally upgrade your home using the recommendations on an EPC, or via a retrofit assessment, we understand that this can cost a lot of money. Therefore, we have produced a low cost list of tips for reducing your energy and water usage.

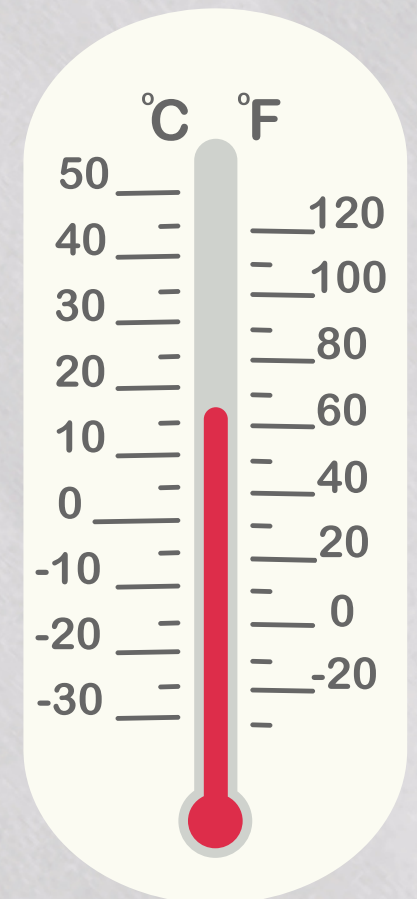
1. Set your room thermostat to between 18-21. Turning down your thermostat by just 1 degree can save up to £80 a year.

2. Look at installing smart thermostats/radiator valves - the more control you have over your heating system the more money you can save. Set the temperature of individual rooms based on their usage. Use less, spend less.

3. Draft Proof Gaps - Any gaps where external air is getting through will mean you need to heat that area more. Filling these gaps according to EST can save £45 a year.

4. Reduce your time in the shower & switch your bath for a shower - Having a 4 minute shower according to the EST can save the average household £70 a year.

5. Purchase an Aerator for your tap - These small attachments can be installed on 95% of taps and control the flow of water from your tap. According to sources, the average tap runs at about 15 litres per minute. An Aerator can make your tap run at 6 litres per minute - which can save you up to £25 a year.



TOP TIPS FOR USING LESS ENERGY



6. Switch off of standby, purchase smart plugs - This can save up to £35 a year.

7. Insulate, insulate, insulate - Topping up levels of insulation within your property can have huge savings. In particular, adding a jacket to your hot water cylinder can save £35 a year.

8. Switch to LED bulbs - The cost of doing this is made back in less than a year in energy savings.

9. Don't put furniture tightly up to the radiator - Heat your home not your furniture and the heat will be able to radiate more of the room meaning you need to use it for smaller periods of time.

10. Avoid the tumble drier - even in winter we have fair days where you can put washing outside for free. Doing this can save up to £60 a year according to EST.



QUIDOS ASSESSOR ZONE - EVENTS

MEP Annual Conference - TO BOLDLY GO

Wednesday 12th October 2022 (10.00 to 16.00).

SSDC HQ, Wolverhampton Rd, Codsall WV8
1PX

Members £50 - Early Bird Ticket £40

Non-Members £75 Early Bird Ticket £60



To book email:

membership@midlandsenergyprofessionals.org

PEPA - Annual Conference

Tuesday 29th November 2022 (10.00 to 16.30).

The Riverside Centre, Riverside Road ,Derby,
DE24 8HY

Early Bird Ticket £85

Standard Ticket £95



To book head to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pepa-conference-november-2022-tickets-406796367887>

QUIDOS ASSESSOR ZONE - SUCCESS STORY

Bishwajit Shaha Climbs Mount Kilimanjaro

Bishwajit (Bish) Shaha, one of Quidos' longest standing domestic energy assessors, used all of his energy efficiency to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and sent us this amazing photo as proof!

We pride ourselves on our customer care and support and love to keep up to date with what our assessors are up to inside and outside of work! Big congratulations to Bish from all of us at Quidos! Everest next?



Do you want your success story in the next edition?

This area of the newsletter, will have the sole purpose of recognising Assessor feats both within the industry and externally. If you wish to tell of your achievements in the next edition, please contact qas@quidos.co.uk

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