

GREEN DEAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY

SUMMARY REPORT: WAVE 2 HEADLINE FINDINGS









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Executive summary Background and objectives



- The Green Deal was officially launched on 28th January 2013.
- The scheme aims to enable consumers to make energy saving improvements to their properties without having to pay all the costs up front.
- The first step is to have a Green Deal Assessment, the resulting Green Deal Advice Report explains what improvements can be made and estimates energy bill savings.
- Around 44k households in Great Britain had a Green Deal Assessment up to the end of June. Of these, around 9k took place in England and Wales between January and March, with the remaining 35k mostly taking place in England and Wales between April and June. For the latest information on assessments see the Green Deal and ECO statistics webpage
 https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/green-deal-and-energy-company-obligation-eco-statistics
- GfK NOP was commissioned to conduct two surveys of households which had had a Green Deal
 Assessment in order to find out more about the experience and what households have done and plan to
 do since having the assessment. Findings from the first wave of the survey were published in June
 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-deal-assessment-survey-summary-report
- This report is a summary report and reports only headline findings from the wave 2 survey. A more detailed report showing findings from waves 1 and 2 will be published at a later date.

Methodology and sampling

- For each of the surveys, a clustered (semi random) sample of 900 addresses was drawn from the Green Deal Assessments database (supplied to GfK NOP by DECC).
- All sampled addresses were written to and invited to take part in an online survey. Non-responders were
 contacted by trained face-to-face interviewers to encourage completion on a CAPI machine. To
 minimise mode effects the same survey was completed by respondents, not by interviewers.
- 507 households took part in the first wave of the research (56% response rate) and 499 households took part in the second wave (a response rate of 55%).

Executive summary

The assessment experience

Department of Energy & Climate Change

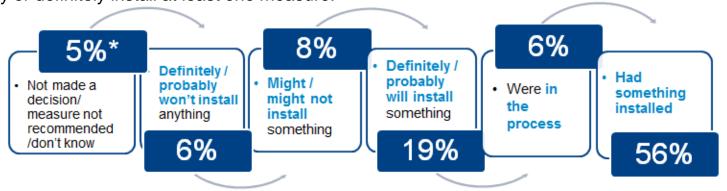
- The main motivations for having a Green Deal assessment were broadly the same across both waves of research (Wave 2 percentages shown):
 - to save money on energy bills (61%),
 - because the assessment was free (58%), and
 - to find out how to make properties more energy efficient (40%).
- Paying for an assessment: At Wave 2, 80% of respondents said they did not pay for an assessment, with 63% saying the assessor did not charge a fee and 17% saying it was paid for by a landlord, local authority or other organisation. Twelve per cent paid for their assessment in full.
- Accessibility of assessments: The majority of consumers who had had a Green Deal assessment were satisfied with how long they had to wait for an appointment (73%) and with the ease of finding an assessor (65%). Levels of satisfaction were unchanged from Wave 1.
- **Usefulness of and confidence in assessments**: Similar to Wave 1, the assessment itself was highly rated in relation to its usefulness (78%) whilst consumer confidence in the recommendations made by the assessor increased between waves (from 77% at Wave 1 to 82% at Wave 2).
- Clarity of advice: Households were asked which things were made clear to them in either the Green Deal Assessment Report or in discussion with the assessor. At Wave 2:
 - 78% said it was clear which energy saving improvements were recommended during the assessment (compared with the 74% observed at Wave 1),
 - 74% said it was clear what the improvements would entail (up from 64% at Wave 1),
 - 73% said the next steps were clear (up from 61% at Wave 1), and
 - 67% said the costs of the improvements were clear (up from 59% at Wave 1).
- The likelihood of **recommending a Green Deal assessment** to friends and family increased significantly from Wave 1 (up from 64% to 72% at Wave 2).

Executive summary

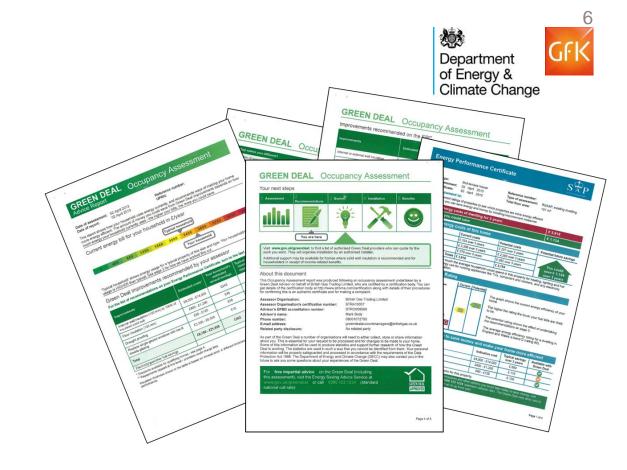
Post-assessment actions and intentions

Department of Energy & Climate Change

Post assessment actions and intentions. All households were asked what they had Climate Change
done or intended to do after their assessment: 56% claimed to have installed at least one of the measures they
were recommended, whilst 6% said they were in the process of installing. A further 19% said they would
probably or definitely install at least one measure.



- Paying for measures: Households were asked how they funded installations (and were able to choose multiple
 answers) and indicated a large range of payment methods. The most common payment method amongst those
 who had had something installed was for an energy company (ECO) to have paid in full or in part (19%).
 Fourteen per cent had used their own savings or regular income and 13% said their local authority had paid in
 full or in part, whilst the same proportion (13%) mentioned having used the Green Deal cashback scheme.
- For those in the process of having a measure installed the most common potential payment methods were from their own savings/regular income (27%) or for the local authority funding (25%).
- Amongst those who said they will <u>definitely/probably install</u> something in the future, 31% expected to pay from their own savings/regular income, 24% expected to use the Green Deal finance scheme and 17% the Green Deal cashback scheme.
- **Barriers**: Amongst those who probably or definitely won't install a particular measure 63% mentioned financial barriers. The need for more information and time to decide as well as practical issues were the main reasons why respondents might or might not install key measures. For those who probably or definitely will install a key measure the key reason for not having done so yet was not having got round to it yet.



BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

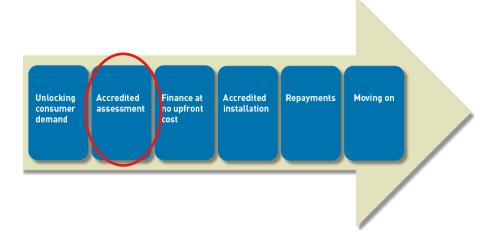
Background to the research

Department of Energy & Climate Change

The Green Deal was officially launched on 28th January 2013 with the aim of helping households to make energy saving home improvements to their properties. The scheme enables households to make energy saving improvements to their home without having to pay all the costs up front.

The Green Deal process comprises a number of steps, each of which is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The Green Deal Process¹



Because this is a brand new scheme it was crucial to understand how well the process was working for customers.

As such, GfK NOP was commissioned by DECC to undertake an initial survey about the Green Deal Assessment customer experience in April 2013 and a second survey of customers in August 2013. The findings from wave 1 of the research can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-deal-assessment-survey-summary-report

The objectives for each of the surveys were to gain an understanding of the following issues:

- The assessment experience: How they heard about Green Deal assessments, why they had an assessment and satisfaction with the assessment.
- Post assessment actions and intentions: What, if anything, they have done or intend to do as a result of the assessment and likely actions for those who may make improvements in the future.

Department of Energy & Climate Change

Questionnaire

- Questionnaire designed by GfK NOP and DECC.
- A small cognitive pilot was conducted by telephone to ensure the questionnaire was 'fit for purpose'.
- A small number of changes were made for the second wave of the survey in order to improve the data collected. These are indicated in the slides.

Target Group

- Consumers who had a Green Deal assessment carried out at their property.
- Wave 1 = assessments between launch and end of March 2013.
- Wave 2 = assessments between 1st of April and end of June 2013.
- Includes owner occupiers, private and social renters.

Sampling

- DECC provided GfK NOP with complete files of addresses from which to sample. No names were provided as part of the sample file.
- GfK NOP analysed the files in order to create efficient 'clusters' from which to draw the sample.
- For the purposes of practicality and timings, clusters were formed from addresses which were sufficiently close to other addresses. As a result, some addresses were excluded from the sampling frame because they were impractical.
- All potential 'eligible' addresses were stratified by Region, Core City* vs. Non-Core City, Urbanity, Tenure, Property Type and EPC rating.
- Following stratification, a random sample of 900 addresses were selected for each survey.

^{*} In 2012 eight cities across England were awarded funding of around £13 million to help them kick-start the Green Deal in their regions. The cities also sought matching funding and/or providing direct support themselves. For more information see: https://www.gov.uk/local-authorities-and-the-green-deal

Survey Method (2)



Data Collection

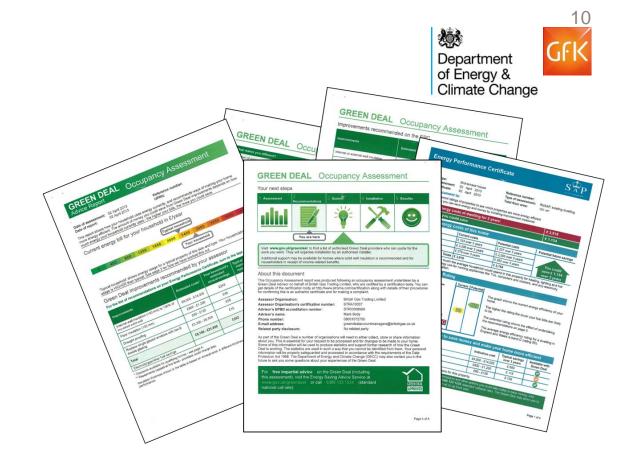
- All sampled addresses were sent an advance/invitation letter which informed them about the study and asked them to take part in an online survey. Nonresponders were contacted by trained interviewers in order to encourage selfcompletion). To reduce the impact of mode effects the questionnaires were exactly the same.
- Respondents were offered a £10 incentive for taking part (condition on completion).
- In Wave 1, 507 households took part in the research (56% response rate)
- In Wave 2, 499 households took part in the research (55% response rate)
- Wave 1 fieldwork took place between 26th
 April and 2nd June and Wave 2 fieldwork took place between 26th July and 26th
 August.

Reporting conventions

This report provides selected headlines and highlights statistically significant differences between the different waves of the research. Throughout the report, whenever the word significant is used it is done to express a statistically significant difference. This means that any differences between results are likely to be down to an actual change, rather than something related to sampling or methodology.

This report uses the following conventions:

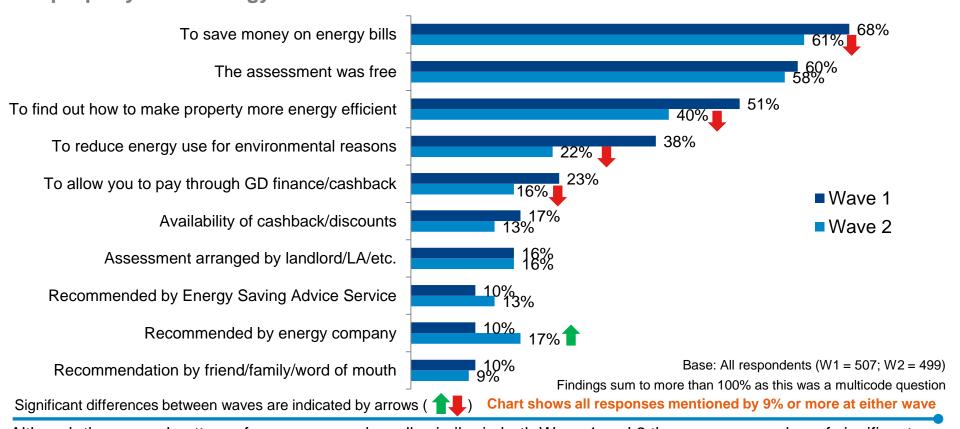
- All differences commented upon are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.
- Statistically significant differences between waves are indicated by arrows () within charts.
- All base sizes quoted in the report are unweighted.



THE ASSESSMENT EXPERIENCE

Reasons for having an assessment: The main reasons for having an assessment were broadly the same across both waves of research; saving money, free assessments and finding out how to make the property more energy efficient were the most common motivations.

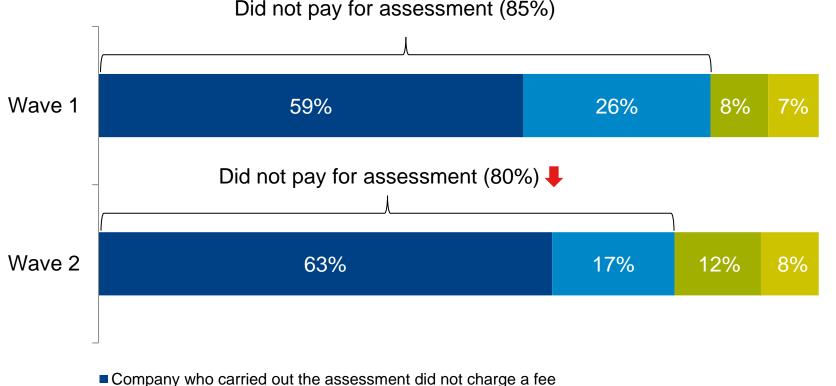




Although the general pattern of response was broadly similar in both Wave 1 and 2 there were a number of significant differences observed between the waves:

- The proportion saying they were recommended the assessment by their energy company increased from 10% at Wave 1 to 17% at Wave 2.
- A significantly lower proportion of respondents mentioned saving money, finding out how to make the property more
 efficient or reducing energy use for environmental reasons at Wave 2, although these remained key reasons for
 having an assessment.
- Green Deal finance/cashback was also mentioned by a significantly lower proportion at Wave 2 (16% compared with 23% at Wave 1).





Assessment fee paid in full by landlord/local authority

■ Paid assessment fee in full myself/paid in full but the fee will be refunded if the improvements are made

Other *

Base: All respondents (W1 = 507; W2 = 499)

Significant differences between waves are indicated by arrows (

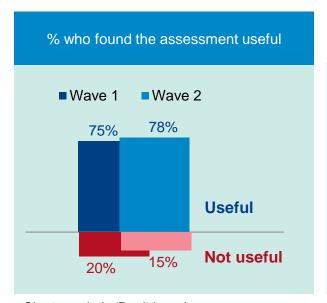
^{*} Other category includes those whose assessment was paid for partially themselves/partially by landlord/local authority, those who answered 'Don't know' and those giving 'Other' responses

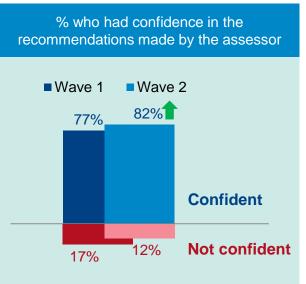
¹ http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/ECO/Pages/index.aspx

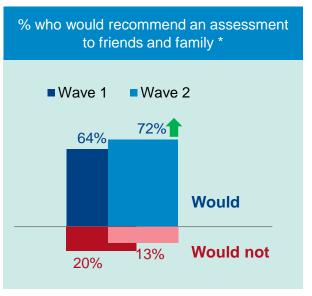
² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65570/6712-local-authority-competition-fund-application-pack.pdf

Assessment experience satisfaction: Confidence in the recommendations made by the assessor and the likelihood to recommend an assessment both increased significantly from Wave 1.









Charts exclude 'Don't know' responses

* Response 'Might or might not' not shown

- Similar to Wave 1, 78% found the assessment very/somewhat useful compared with 15% who found it not very/at all useful.
- Confidence in the recommendations (very/somewhat confident) made by the assessor increased significantly to 82% (up from 77% at Wave 1). Twelve per cent were not very/at all confident at Wave 2.
- Likelihood to recommend a Green Deal assessment to friends and family also increased significantly, from 64% at Wave 1 to 72% at Wave 2. Thirteen per cent said they would not recommend an assessment at Wave 2.

Significant wave on wave increases are indicated by a green arrow (1)



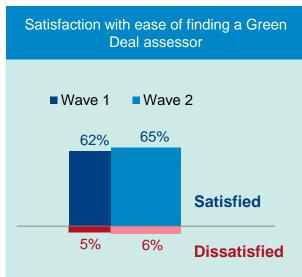
Assessment experience satisfaction: Customers' perceptions

of the clarity of the advice received during the assessment also increased at Wave 2

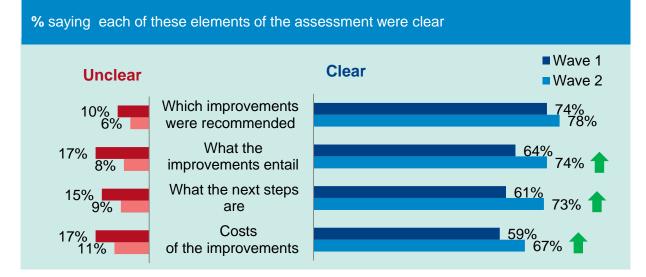


 Satisfaction with how long respondents had to wait for an appointment and the ease of finding an assessor remained unchanged from Wave 1.



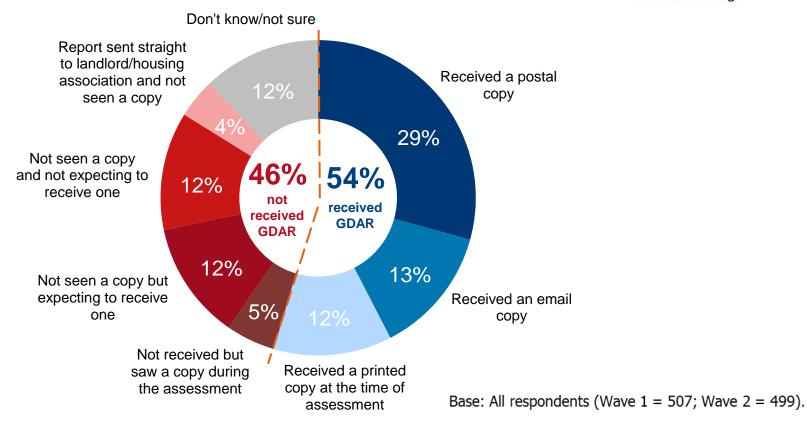


However, there were significant increases at Wave 2 in the clarity of particular elements of the assessment, namely what the improvements entail, what the next steps are and the costs involved.



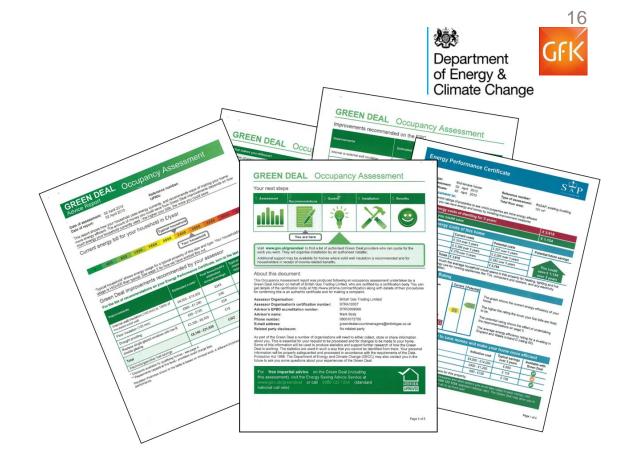
Receipt of the Green Deal Advice Report: 54% of Wave 2 respondents had received their Green Deal Advice Report at the time of their interview (at least 4 weeks after their assessment took place).





- This question was amended after Wave 1 in order to understand whether those who had not received their Green Deal Advice Report had at least seen a copy or expected to see a copy. Comparisons between waves should therefore be treated with caution.
- At Wave 1 64% of households said they had received their Green Deal Advice Report, 7% said it was sent directly to a landlord/housing association/other organisation, 24% said they had not received it and 6% said they do not know or were not sure.

Note: Energy companies are using Green Deal assessments to deliver ECO measures, which could explain why households are not receiving their GDAR's. This is particularly the case for those that have not seen a copy and are not expecting to receive one.



POST ASSESSMENT: ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS

Household's post-assessment actions and intentions: More

than half of households in the Wave 2 survey claimed to have already installed at least one energy saving home improvement.



In Wave 1 those who had not received their Green Deal Advice Report were not asked follow-up questions about their post-assessment intentions. Since that time it has become apparent that some households have had measures installed despite not receiving their report.

As a result, those respondents who had not received their report were asked about their post-assessment intentions in Wave 2.

Because the rest of this report is based upon the full sample – rather than just Green Deal Advice Report recipients – <u>apart from slide 18 no further comparisons with Wave 1 data are made.</u>

- The chart shows the furthest point that customers had reached following their assessment (for at least one of the measures recommended to them).
- It should be noted that it is possible that customers had reached different stages for two or more measures, for example if a customer had installed one measure and was in the process of installing another they are only shown under 'Had something installed'.



Base: All Wave 2 respondents (499). * only those who had not received a GDAR were able to give these responses.

Notes: Findings are based upon all measures that were recommended as part of the Green Deal Advice Report. A comparison with Wave 1 findings is not shown because changes to the questionnaire mean comparisons are not valid for this question.

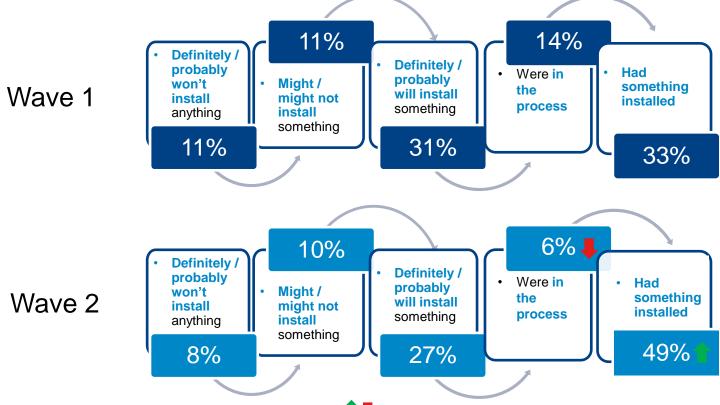
Household's post-assessment actions and intentions: 49%

of customers who had received their Green Deal Advice Report had installed at least one measure, compared with 33% at Wave 1.



The chart shows the furthest point that customers had reached following their assessment (for at least one of the measures recommended to them) amongst those that had received their Green Deal Advice Report only.





Significant differences between waves are indicated by arrows (

Base: All respondents that had received their GDAR (W1 = 285; W2 = 258).

Notes: Findings are based upon all measures that were recommended as part of the Green Deal Advice Report. Because the sample frame for wave 1 covered two months (February and March 2013), while wave 2 covered three months (April-June 2013) data was analysed to establish whether the increase in the proportion claiming to have installed a measure arose simply because there had been a longer period since their assessment. This showed no significant difference in likelihood to install measures between those who were assessed in April compared with those assessed in May and June. Therefore the increase in those that had something installed in wave 2 is <u>not</u> down to the longer time period.



The table below shows the overall post assessment actions and intentions to install for <u>all</u> <u>recommended measures</u>. This is the 1259 measures recommended to the households that were interviewed in Wave 2 of the survey.

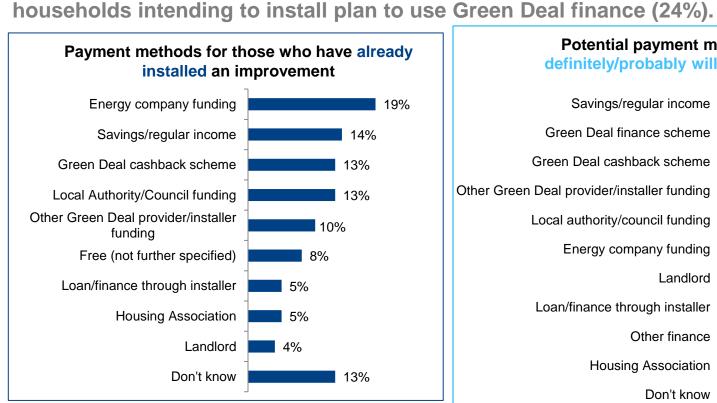
	Stage of post assessment journey and intention to install					
Measure (brackets show the number of respondents recommended each)	Not made a decision/ measure not recommended / don't know *	Probably/ definitely will not install	Might or might not	Definitely/ probably will install	In the process of installing	Already installed
All measures (1,259)	11%	28%	11%	17%	4%	28%
Cavity wall insulation (179)	7%	12%	6%	12%	3%	61%
Loft insulation (208)	8%	7%	9%	13%	4%	60%
Boiler (129)	10%	22%	9%	21%	7%	31%
Heating controls (93)	10%	20%	14%	29%	3%	24%
Solid wall insulation (158)	11%	23%	16%	20%	9%	20%
Solar photovoltaic (111)	17%	53%	9%	15%	3%	5%
Solar thermal (63)	13%	64%	6%	11%	2%	4%
Floor insulation (108)	15%	63%	12%	8%	1%	1%
Other measures* (210)	16%	33%	13%	25%	5%	9%

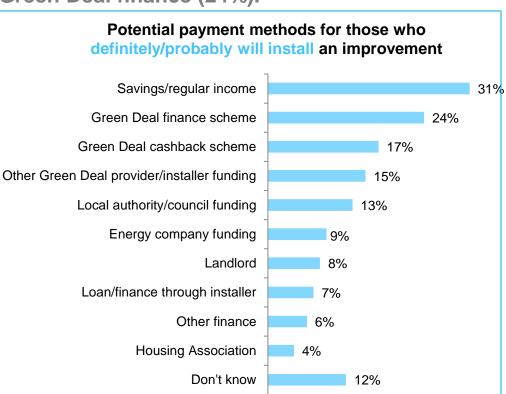
Base: All Wave 2 respondents (bases shown on table). * Only those who had not received a GDAR were able to give these responses.

^ 'Other measures' includes Flat roof insulation, Room in roof insulation, Hot water cylinder insulation, Draught proofing, Other heating upgrade, Double/triple glazing, Secondary glazing, Replacement doors, Ground Source Heat Pump, Air Source Heat Pump, Biomass boiler, Wind turbine (roof mounted) and Waste water heat recovery.

Paying for improvements: energy company funding was the most frequently mentioned payment method for those who had already installed a measure. Those who were likely to install it were more likely to think they would self-finance the measure(s) and there is evidence that





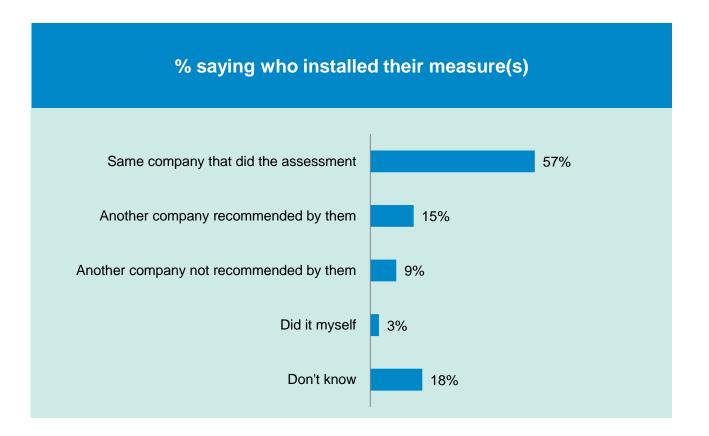


For those in the process of installing the measures the most common potential payment methods were savings (27%) and the Local Authority/Council (25%). It should be noted that the base size for this group was small and numbers should be treated with caution.

Charts show all responses mentioned by 4% or more

Base: All respondents who have installed a recommended key measure (259) / definitely/probably will install a recommended key measure (87). Notes: In some cases households were answering about more than one key measure. It should be noted that base size for those who were in the process of installing measures is small (38), as a result these findings should be treated with caution. Additionally readers should note that many measures will be covered by a combination of finance/funding and therefore householders may be confused about the source of funding to report. Had something installed: findings indicate that the installation of measures is carried out by the same company that did the assessment for majority of households (57%). A further 15% used a company recommended by the assessor to carry out the installation.





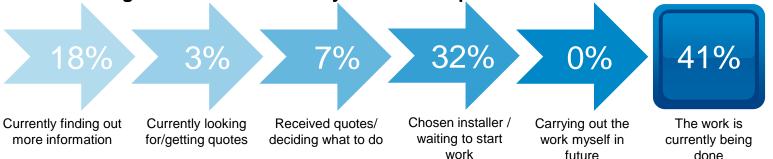
 The majority of those who had had a measure installed said it had been done by the same company that had carried out the assessment.

Base: All respondents who have installed a recommended key measure (259). Note: In some cases households were answering about more than one key measure.

In the process of installing: Most households that were in the process of installing were well into the customer journey, with 32% waiting for the work to start and 41% currently having work done (and therefore have already got more information/received quotes).



You said you were in the process of having a measure installed. Which of the following best describes where you are in the process?



- Around half of those in the process of installing had already decided who would carry out the work:
 - 28% said the installation would be carried out by the same company who did the assessment;
 - 19% said the installation would be carried out by a company which had not been recommended by their assessor:
 - 14% said the installation would be carried out by another company recommended by their assessor
- A sizeable minority of those in the process of installing energy saving measures had yet to decide who would carry out the work (33%) or said don't know (13%).

- 37% of those in the process of installing energy saving home improvements said they had had no significant delays in starting work.
- 33% mentioned delays related to a supplier:
 - 17% said delays had occurred because the company carrying out the work could not start straight away.
 - 14% said it took a long time to get quotes.
- 27% mentioned other practical reasons for delays in starting work:
 - 18% needed to wait for their landlord/local authority/housing association to approve the work.
- 20% mentioned any finance issues in relation to delays in starting work.

Base: All respondents in the process of installing key measure (38). Because of the small base size these findings should be treated with caution. Note: In some cases households were answering about more than one key measure.

Intend to install: When those that said they will definitely or probably install were asked why measures had not yet been installed a variety of reasons were mentioned. The key reason was not having got round to it yet.



Of the measures which will definitely or probably be installed 50% were intended to be installed within 6 months and a further 11% were intended to be installed in between 6 and 12 months' time.



- Not got round to it yet (24%)
- Need more time to decide (15%)
- Not had enough time to think about this (7%)

- Need to get quotes (17%)
- Need more information about what to do next (15%)
- Need more time/information to make a decision (5%)





- Awaiting information from landlord/ local authority/ housing association (12%)
- Need to carry out work before this can be done (12%)
- Supplier carrying out the work could not start straight away (10%)
- Need to speak with my landlord/ local authority/ housing association before making a decision (7%)
- Had difficulties finding someone to provide quotes/carry out the work (5%)



- Applied for or enquired about Green Deal/ECO finance but haven't heard if successful yet (11%)
- Need to find out if I can finance this (7%)
- Looking for alternative ways of financing it (6%)

Chart shows all responses mentioned by 4% or more

Base: All respondents who definitely/probably will install a measure (87). Households were able to choose more than one option and in some cases were answering about more than one key measure. Because of the small base size these findings should be treated with caution.

Practical

(37%)



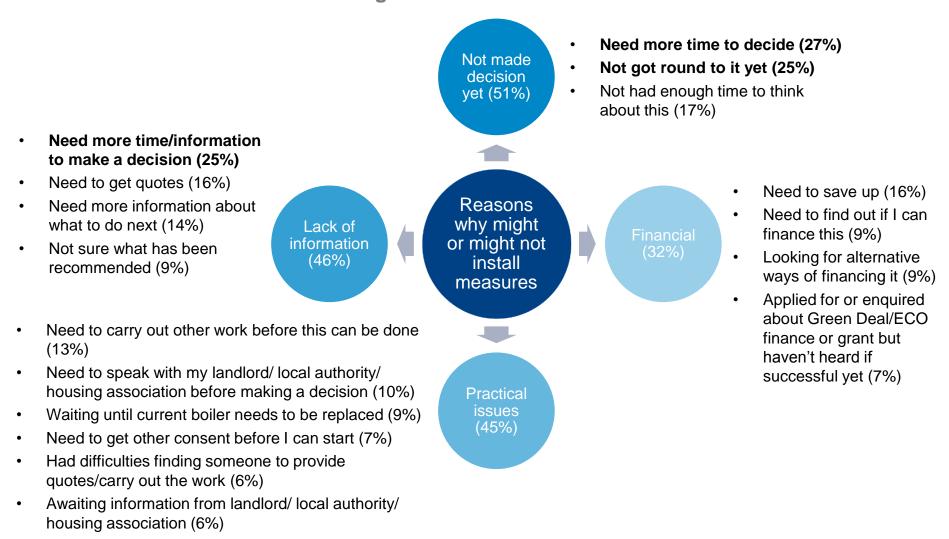


Chart shows all responses mentioned by 4% or more

Base: All respondents who might or might not install measures (69). Households were able to choose more than one option and in some cases were answering about more than one key measure. Because of the small base size these findings should be treated with caution.

Reasons why improvements won't be installed: Cost and

concerns about money savings from measures were the main barrier for those who probably or definitely won't install a key improvement.



Structural considerations and hassle/disruption were also prominent

Lack of

information

(22%)

barriers.

OTHER RESPONSES:

- Won't stay here long enough (11%)
- Already have this/already done (9%)
- Other priorities at the moment (5%)

 Need more time/ information to make a decision (9%)

Not sure what has been recommended to me (8%)

- Confused/don't know what to do now (7%)
- Need more information about what to do next (6%)



- Would not save enough money to make it worthwhile (26%)
- No guarantee that it would save me money (20%)
- Cannot access finance for it (12%)
- Green Deal finance options are not attractive (7%)
- Green Deal finance not available for this improvement (6%)
 - Worried that having Green Deal repayments linked to my property will make it harder to sell (5%)



- Structural considerations (17%)
- Hassle/disruption of making improvements (16%)
- May change character/appearance of my house (13%)
- May lose space (5%)

Chart shows all responses mentioned by 4% or more

Base: All respondents who definitely/probably won't install measures (133). Households were able to choose more than one option and in some cases were answering about more than one key measure.

Financial