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Ulster Farmers' Union takes time out to support Energy Saving Week

The Ulster Farmers' Union has backed the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Saving Week, which is taking place from 19 to 25 October.

The UFU has highlighted that many rural dwellings don't have enough insulation and urged farming families to consider improving the insulation in their roof space if necessary.

Kathryn Graham of the UFU said: "We are delighted to support the thirteenth Energy Saving Week and would ask everyone to take time out over the next week to take a few simple steps to cut down on the amount of energy you waste. This will reduce your carbon footprint and increase the money in your pocket."

"At a time when energy prices are high and there is concern about our environment, this is the ideal way to make a difference."

Energy Saving Week is designed to promote energy saving action among householders through a concentrated programme of events across Northern Ireland, working with a range of partner organisations, including the Ulster Farmers' Union.

As Siobhán Purnell, Marketing Manager of the Energy Saving Trust advice centre explained: "The aim of Energy Saving Week is simple: to encourage consumers to reduce their carbon footprint and to demonstrate how to cut down on waste in terms of money, energy, and of course our precious time. At the Energy Saving Trust we recognise that time and money are something most of us do not have in abundance."

"There is no better time to save energy than right now. It is clear, not only from our research, but also from the tens of thousands of calls that come into our NI Energy Saving Trust advice centre every year, that there is growing concern about the long-term effects of our energy use on the environment.

"If you'd like more information on how to reduce energy wastage around the home, you can visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or freephone 0800 512 012 to speak to the Energy Saving Trust advice centre. Our advisors can also provide information on the many incentives available to help meet the costs of installing energy saving measures such as loft insulation."

Noel Williams, Head of the Energy Saving Trust in Northern Ireland, added: "Across the UK around £8bn of energy is wasted every year because of homes that are poorly insulated, have inefficient or poorly controlled heating systems, and use electricity unnecessarily.

"On average, each home in Northern Ireland can save around £300 a year every year by insulating, improving their heating system and being energy efficient."

Mr Williams continued: "Householders are responsible for almost half of our carbon emissions, so if we are half of the problem then we need to be half of the solution."

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For further information please contact:

- Noel Williams, Head of Energy Saving Trust in Northern Ireland, Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
noel.williams@est.org.uk
- Gary McKeown, Stratagem, Tel: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry gary@stratagem-ni.com

About The Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is the UK's leading organisation set up to address the damaging effects of climate change by helping everybody to cut carbon dioxide emissions – the main greenhouse gas causing climate change – from their homes. It promotes the efficient use of energy and a more low carbon lifestyle.

The Energy Saving Trust, through its Northern Ireland 'One-Stop-Shop' advice centre, provides free and impartial advice to consumers on saving energy, domestic renewables, greener transport and waste reduction.

The Energy Saving Trust also works with retailers, builders and industry to make sure that energy efficient products are available for people to choose as well as advising government on policies that are needed to cut greenhouse gases.