| Net zero measure | Main features | Financials |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Loft insulation to 300mm | Top priority measure Easy and cheap Most commonly a 200mm top up to existing 100mm insulation laid between joists May save 10-15% of heating bill Simple measures available to combine with boarded loft space. | 3yr payback / ROI 33%. Investment £300 (DIY), Saving ~£100 pa in average house |
| Solar PV | Easy bolt on measure Clear financial returns. Need to pair with smart export tariff. Requires suitable roof, without too much shading Extra value if paired with heat pump or electric car Likely to enhance home value | ROI 10-20%/ Payback 5-10 years Investment £2-£10k for 2-7kW array. (average size 4kW) |
| Heat pump | The only net zero heating tech Great paired with solar PV Need to get installation and operation right to make returns Suitable for all houses UK Government grant available (£7.5k) Lasts longer than a boiler (~20 years). Saves as much carbon as an EV for much less £! | ROI 10%, better still if combined with solar PV. Payback ~10 Years (nb gas boiler has no return/payback) Investment £1-4k with grant |
| Draught proofing | Low cost, instant results Vital for comfort as well as energy saving | A few f to £200. |
| Replacement windows | Refurb measure Only for when windows need replacing anyway, full capital cost will not pay back on energy savings alone Heat efficient windows (eg triple glazing) may be little/no pricier than standard windows Improve comfort and reduce condensation Impact on house appearance and value is the most important financial factor. | Main investment factor is incremental cost (if any) for high efficiency windows, vs likely energy savings. See Refurb for more details Investment £10k+, incremental cost may be +0-20%. |
| External Wall Insulation | Refurb measure. Only for when render replacement needed, full capital cost unlikely to pay back on energy savings alone. UK VAT saving for insulated render vs plain render may mean no extra cost for insulated version Impact on house appearance and value is the most important financial factor. | Returns from house value > energy savings Investment 10-15k |
| Solid wall insulation (internal) | Refurb measure. Can be used for individual / problem cold rooms Potentially disruptive | Returns from comfort > energy savings |
| Floor insulation | Refurb measure Essential for extension but hard to retrofit. Carpets with thick underlay can also work to insulate floors | |
| Battery | Can generate returns through increasing self-use of solar, or import/export with smart tariffs. Does not generate power, in fact some small losses (~5%). Financial returns currently marginal if you have a strong export tariff for solar PV (15p/kWh+). Will not normally work during power cuts, unless this capability ("islanding") is designed in, normally at extra cost. Costs likely to reduce | Investment £3-10k Payback (if any) depends on energy tariffs and battery management approach. |
| Electric car (EV) | Carbon savings similar to impact of heat pump: 1.5-2t pa, for average 7400 miles. If you can avoid owning a car altogether this is better - consider car club. Not strictly within Net Zero Home scope! | Cost & carbon savings dependent on vehicle being replaced: eg greater for large petrol vehicle than for hybrid (HEV), and annual mileage. |