

Cost Of Living Causing Consumers To Think Again About Windows

71 per cent of homeowners believe double or triple glazing is their best energy saving option. However, more and more say they will abandon home improvement plans because of the cost-of-living crisis.

This is according to a RICS and YouGov survey which also comes to the conclusion this in turn will hit the UK's net zero ambitions.

'Retrofitting has obvious benefits, such as being able to maintain a constant temperature in the home, as well as increasing the desirability of your property' – RICS' December 2019 Residential Market Survey found this to be the opinion of the majority of those surveyed with almost two thirds of respondents believing the willingness to pay for energy efficient homes would rise in the next three years.

However, the latest consumer research from RICS and YouGov shows that homeowners are looking to concentrate spending on escalating household costs.

The research found that while 34% of homeowners said they would invest in green technology to lower bills in the future, 45% would be focusing on using any savings to pay for their existing living expenses.

RICS says there must be more policy measures to incentivise industry and consumers to retrofit the UK housing stock.

Sam Rees, Senior Public Affairs Officer at RICS, says: "The retrofitting of millions of UK homes will be essential to meet our net zero ambitions, however homeowners' immediate concerns are understandably with the rising cost of living, especially their energy bills. It is important to recognise that retrofitting and the



cost of living are not mutually exclusive issues.

"A suitably retrofitted, low-carbon home can help with the long-term challenges of the cost of living and reducing high levels of energy consumption. Achieving this however is not cheap. With the UK Government giving financial support to homeowners to support them with rising energy prices, RICS is calling on the government to extend this support and provide additional financial incentives to homeowners to encourage retrofitting and ultimately helping to tackle the cause of high energy usage." [i](#)

GGF Appoints New Health, Safety & Environmental Manager

The GGF has welcomed a new Health, Safety and Environmental Manager, Lauren Mawford, to the team to make sure the Federation stays on top of wellbeing and sustainability issues.

Mawford brings with her a wealth of experience in the field, so is well placed to provide expert advice to Glass & Glazing Federation members.

"The GGF aims to be the industry authority on best practice in all areas of business, including the

highest technical and health and safety standards. To achieve this goal, we need in-house expertise," says as John Agnew, GGF MD.

"Lauren joins us with 6 years of experience in helping companies achieve better health and safety practices, improved staff wellbeing and positive environmental strategies."

Mawford adds: "My experience not only lies in ensuring compliance but going above and beyond to identify trends within

businesses to help prevent problems and achieve

best practice. I can help design and deliver staff training and provide HR support as well as more traditional health and safety duties such as the production of fire risk reports and company-wide risk assessments. To offer this support to all the GGF's members, is a fantastic opportunity." [i](#)



Animated Answer To Common Installer Problem

Windowlink has added a new animation functionality to Focus and Vector, the firm's software packages for windows, doors and conservatory sales.

As a result, installers will be able to more clearly demonstrate to customers how their products work – and communicate the benefits.

"We'd been approached by a number of different installers who explained that their homeowner clients often struggle to visualise how more complex products like bi-folds and sliding doors operate," explains Mark Dudley, Windowlink MD. "The visualisation aspect of Focus and Vector has always been one of the most powerful tools the software has to offer, so we decided to enhance it with animations that

show how a huge range of different products open and close."

Focus and Vector help installers make their pitches quicker, easier and more effective. Helping



companies manage the sales process from quote through to contract and delivery, they allow homeowners to customise their ideal product, choosing from an array of different styles and configurations. This can then be translated into personalised quotes, contracts and reports.



With Vector, you can also significantly streamline the conservatory survey process, too. Quotations can be turned into a job file that's sent directly to a surveyor, who can then make any modifications, then send an order to suppliers. [i](#)

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Installers Still Need Part L Info

It might be more than two months since the rules changed on Part L of the Building Regs, yet AluK says there is still a real hunger for knowledge and information at the sharp end of the industry.

AluK is now talking directly to installers to help ensure that the messages about how to respond to the tougher thermal efficiency requirements have reached the people who actually have to demonstrate compliance via Building Control or any of the certification agencies.

Michael Williams, AluK's MD, says that fabricators are still reporting relatively low levels of awareness amongst their customers of what Part L means for them in both the retail and the



new build sectors and in the different regions of the UK.

This is borne out by AluK achieving a record 36% open rate on its most recent email to installers about the topic and almost 350 downloads of its two Part L Guides covering England and Wales.

Williams explains: "A significant minority of installers have been caught out by the speed at which the updated Regs have

come into force. Many in fact are still questioning whether they need to go down the U-Value or WER/DSEERs compliance route and whether they now have to fit triple glazing. They are looking for answers from their suppliers.

"We've given installers full access to our dedicated Part L website which contains all they need to know and have created a useful guide to Part L specifically for them which shows exactly what they need to do in order to comply." [i](#)

Installers can download the free AluK Part L guides via www.alukgb.com/learning/what-is-doc-l or they can request a printed copy from: info.uk@aluk.com