



Proficiency

Professionals in efficiency

LEARN MORE

Your future is with us

November update

The national organisation supporting and representing energy assessors and associated professionals



Support

Here when you need us with our peer support

Highly regarded industry forum

Extensive knowledge and experience you can draw upon

Help, advice and guidance

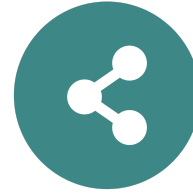


Representation

The national voice of energy assessors

Engaging with accreditation schemes and government departments on your behalf

Representing the interests of assessors on the conventions and other similar groups



Other Benefits

Industry leading Find A Member directory to generate enquiries for members

Access to free and reduced cost training or CPD

Discounts on software, training, CPD and registration fees with a number of organisations

12 hours of CPD every year included in your membership

As part of Proficiency membership, 12 hours or more of CPD every year is included for our members at no additional cost. This is mainly via monthly speaker sessions on

relevant topics and lasting one to one and a half hours. For some this could cover your entire annual CPD requirement.

This month's CPD is a state of the industry address from Elmhurst, which should be extremely valuable for everyone attending. It will be on **Tuesday 15th November at 6:00 pm**.

We are pleased to be welcoming Josh Wakeling, Head of Operations at Elmhurst to speak to us with news and updates on what is happening across the industry. There are developments which will be relevant to Domestic Energy Assessors, On Construction Energy Assessors, Non-domestic Energy Assessors and Retrofit Assessors & Coordinators. Something for everyone.

As one of our regular monthly events this is available at £20 for non-members and included for Proficiency members.

Booking for this event is [here](#). The booking system will close early afternoon on Tuesday 15th so please do not leave it to the last minute.

This CPD event is also available at no cost to Elmhurst members. To access this event free as an Elmhurst member, email events@proficiency.services with your name and Elmhurst accreditation number and once verified you will be sent a discount code to use when booking.

(This will be a manual process so please allow a reasonable period for it to be processed; and please check your junk/spam folder before contacting us to say you haven't received the code).

Recent sessions include Insulation types and suitability, an update on Retrofit from Trustmark themselves, Part L and SAP 10 changes, Reports and Surveys, Best Practice and Further Income Streams, Hot Topics for the Industry.

Attend just a few of these online sessions and you will save much more than the annual cost of your membership.

[For more details or to book](#)

The PEPA conference is back and it is face-to-face

Proficiency will be at the PEPA Conference in Derby on 29th November 2022. Visit our stand to meet some of the Proficiency team, and talk to some of our members.

Sessions will include Retrofit, Green Finance Accelerator, Fuel Poverty and an update from Jessica Skilbeck, Director, Net Zero Buildings & Industry at BEIS.

This is likely to be a high value event for energy assessors across all strands and is a high point in the CPD calendar. Tickets are £95 + VAT

Tickets can be booked on Eventbrite using the link below.

For those who don't already know them, the Property Energy Professionals Association (PEPA) is essentially the trade body for the Accreditation Schemes. They have also been

involved in the launch and implementation of the PAS 2035 standards, which involve Retrofit Assessors (RAs) and Retrofit Coordinators (RCs) via the TrustMark Quality Scheme.

Proficiency supports and represents Energy Assessors involved in the production of EPCs, DECAs and ACIRs. PEPA represents the Accreditation companies that oversee Energy Assessors in the production of EPCs, DECAs and ACIRs. The benefits of maintaining a close working relationship are clear.

[Book PEPA Conference Tickets](#)

Inconsistent PCDB versions

It has come to our attention that there are inconsistencies in the process of getting updates to the Product Characteristics Database (PCDB) into the software being used by assessors. This can create different EPC results depending on which software you are using which is something that should not be happening.

The specific instance that brought this to our attention, was an assessor unable to select a newly installed heat pump in their tablet-based software. It was a model that was available in the same scheme's desktop software and in another scheme's tablet-based software.

Read the [full article here](#)

[Proficiency News](#)

Assessors are reporting Audit problems

Assessors will always complain about audits. We don't like having to do them and we never will. However, they are a fact of life that we accept serve a valuable purpose. We must do our job correctly; but so also must the auditors.

Inevitably there is a turnover of staff in auditing roles, so it is important that schemes are adequately training and monitoring new auditors. We are picking up instances of audits being failed where it is the auditor not the assessor who has not correctly applied the conventions. We are also seeing instances of inexperienced auditors applying highly inappropriate interpretations to everyday situations. These are things that should be picked up well before a "you have failed" message is sent out to the assessor.

Under normal circumstances, audits should be called relatively soon after lodgement, so the job is still 'current' for both the assessor and the client at the point of audit. For Retrofit however, audits will often be called some time after the original lodgement, simply because of how the process works. Where this is causing a problem is where the audit is being done against the principles and standards that apply now and not the ones that applied at the time of the survey. This is totally unacceptable, and schemes need to be auditing against what the assessor should have done at the time, not what the assessor would be expected to do now.

The clear message to schemes is that they need to perform better in terms of providing fair and robust auditing.

Proficiency members can report issues with questionable auditing, and where appropriate we will support them with their appeal.

Proficiency Membership Benefits

Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2

BEIS have updated the clarifications questions and responses for the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Phase 2. These are a useful FAQ type reference for understanding how it works. The HUG will provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating via local authority funding, to households in England that:

- are low income
- are off the gas grid
- have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G

Up to £700 million of funding will be made available to local authorities to help them deliver HUG 2 until March 2025. Funding will be released to successful local authorities in the financial years 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025.

Local authorities need to apply for the funding which if successful, they can then use to install energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating to eligible homes in their area. Measures could include for example home insulation with an air source heat pump if suitable. Upgrades should be tailored to individual homes so that the most appropriate measures are installed.

The updated document is [here](#)

Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2

Proficiency and Qidos working well together

Since Qidos became a Proficiency partner earlier this year, we have had several opportunities to work together to resolve issues for the energy assessor community and have successfully done so. This sort of collaboration is essential for our industry and benefits everyone.

We would like to remind all Proficiency members (and anyone considering membership) that part of our benefits package is a 20% discount on all Qidos CPD modules. There are also introductory benefits for Proficiency members joining Qidos for the first time and full details are visible to members in the Members Area of the website.

The benefits of this partnership with Qidos don't just stop there. We are also able to bring you special prices on zPlan floor plan software if you are a zPlan user and Proficiency member. Details are on the Discounts and Special Offers page [here](#).

Quidos joined Elmhurst and Stroma as accreditation scheme partners and details of the benefits our members enjoy with all three of the schemes who have chosen to work proactively with us can also be found [here](#).

Proficiency membership could just be the best decision you make for your business this year, whoever you are accredited with. The sooner you join us the sooner you will start to gain from the included CPD and extensive range of benefits.

With the discounts and benefits we have in place, it is a pretty safe bet that it will be costing you more not to be a Proficiency member than it would to be a Proficiency member.

Proficiency Partners

You can stick your solar panels where the sun doesn't (need to) shine

Proficiency is calling for a more sensible approach to solar farms. It is not as simple as allowing or banning large scale solar farms. It is necessary to be smarter about where they are sited, and potentially financially incentivising placement where they will have the least impact.

Read the [opinion piece here](#)

Proficiency News

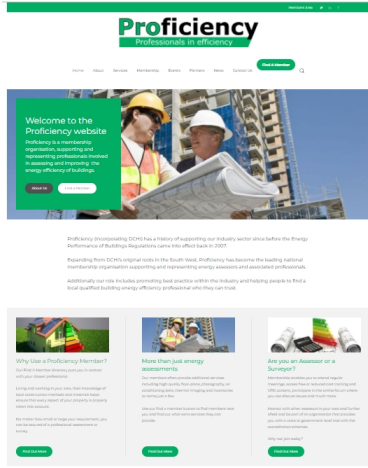
Where has Proficiency come from and where is it going?

Our story is one where a small group of proactive people have made a significant difference to the industry they work in. As we grow, the more of a difference we can make, and you can be a part of that.

Read the [full story here](#)

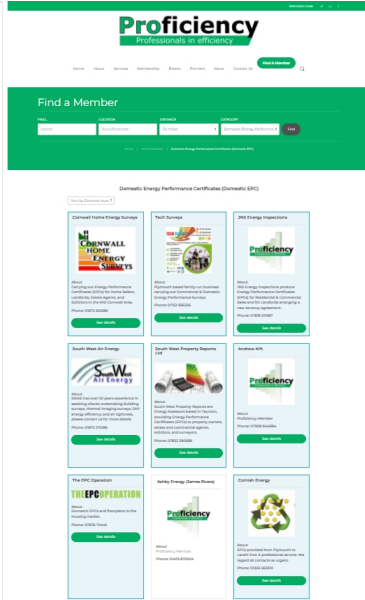
Who are Proficiency

The all new Proficiency website
Your portal to a more successful future



Home

Public facing home page



Find a member

Searchable and filterable directory for generating local enquiries direct to members



Content

Relevant content pages

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