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To help reduce the nation's energy use, and to make our homes more comfortable, the government will soon launch the Green Deal. Coordinated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which is also a project partner, the Green Deal will enable households to take on loans to pay for energy efficiency measures. The loan will be paid back through the energy bill, which must be less than it would have been without the refurbishment; the so-called Golden Rule. Companies like B&Q, another project partner, plan to refurbish many thousands of homes a year.

Unfortunately, refurbishment often saves less energy than expected, risking contravention of the Golden Rule. This would be upsetting to households and, if widespread, it would fatally damage a refurbishment business and the credibility of the national Green Deal programme. DT can help because it enables energy use before and after refurbishment to be monitored, which helps us predict what the energy demand would have been had the refurbishment not taken place. Compliance or otherwise with the Golden Rule can therefore be tested. The second aim of the project therefore, is to find out how best to use DT to improve the effectiveness of Green Deal refurbishment.



