

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) delivery and proposals for 2015-2017



Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Council priorities	3
3.	National context	4
4.	Environmental performance	9
5.	Fuel poverty	11
6.	HECA action plan 2013-2015 outcomes	12
7.	HECA action plan 2015-2017	15



1. Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises that local authorities are well placed to assess the needs of the area and residents, and to use this position to drive change to improve energy efficiency of all residential accommodation within the local authority area.

Within this capacity the Act requires councils to publish an energy efficiency report identifying how the council intends to promote change and submit this plan to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

North West Leicestershire District Council's initial proposal for 2013-15 was due for submission in March 2013. A copy of the 'Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) delivery proposals for 2013-2015' has been available on the council's website since that time, at www.nwleics.gov.uk/the_green_deal

The Act requires councils to publish a progress report at two yearly intervals. This report identifies the council's achievements against those 2013-2015 proposals and identifies the council's aims for 2015-2017.

2. Council priorities

North West Leicestershire District Council is committed to our Green Footprints agenda through which we aim to make people feel proud to be a part of a greener district. We do this by enabling businesses, visitors and residents in the district to make it a greener and cleaner place by working with them on initiatives such as environmental improvements to their communities, our free tree scheme and litter picks.

We want to ensure that,

- Businesses are motivated to be greener
- Residents are inspired to live a greener lifestyle
- The council demonstrates community leadership in being green.

For more information please visit www.nwleics.gov.uk/greenfootprints



www.nwleics.gov.uk/greenfootprints

3. National context

Various initiatives have been introduced to support local authorities to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in domestic properties. These include;

3.1 Green Deal

The Green Deal was launched in January 2013 to provide householders and businesses with an opportunity to take advantage of green technologies to improve their energy efficiency and therefore reduce fuel bills and impact on the environment without, having to pay up front for installations.

Within the national scheme each household receives a full assessment to determine bespoke measures for that specific property and occupants to improve their energy efficiency. The cost of installing these measures is paid over time through electricity bill from the proposed saving made from reduced energy consumption.

By the end of January 2015, 473,666 Green Deal household assessments completed had been nationwide but only 9,583 had converted to actual Green Deal plans in progress at that time.

In June 2014 the Government launched the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund, from which households can claim up to £7,600 back after installing energy saving improvements like solid wall insulation and new heating systems.

By the end of January 2015, 15,696 measures had been installed to a total value of £65.9 million.



3.2 Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) was launched in autumn 2012. ECO requires the larger energy providers in the UK to fund works that reduce carbon emissions and enable affordable warmth by reducing fuel bills in customers' homes.

ECO works alongside the Green Deal to provide additional support to householders who require this. The focus has been vulnerable and low income households and those living in harder to treat properties such as homes with solid walls.

By the end of December 2014 1,296,441 measures had been installed nationally through ECO. Predominantly these were cavity wall insulations, loft insulation and boiler upgrades.



3.3 Feed in Tariffs

Feed in Tariffs (FITs) have been designed by Government to encourage the take up of electricity generating technologies (like, solar panels and wind turbines).

A FIT means that if you generate more energy that you need, you can be paid for the surplus energy that is exported back to the national grid. This means that households are encouraged to be energy efficient.



3.4 New build homes

From 2016 the minimum standard for energy efficiency for all new build homes will be a 'zero carbon standard'. There remains some debate as to what can realistically be classed as 'zero carbon', therefore it is expected that an element will be apportioned to off-site renewable. The Building Regulations were recently amended and from 2018 developers will need to consider the use of community heating systems.

The shift to zero carbon homes does not mean that all new homes built from 2016 will be zero carbon, since many existing consents will be in place and changes to the regulations are not normally retrospectively applied.

3.5 Energy Performance Certificate (EPCs)

EPCs consider, for example, loft insulation, domestic boiler, hot water tank, radiators and double glazing to provide information about how energy efficient a building is.

Homes are ranked on a scale of A to G. The most energy efficient homes, which should have the lowest fuel bills, will be in band A.

The certificate also provides information about the impact of carbon emissions from the building on the environment using a scale of A to G.

3.6 Smart meters

Smart meters record energy consumption (electricity, gas or water) at hourly intervals or less and communicate this information, at least daily, back to the utility provider for monitoring and billing purposes. This will bring an end to estimated billing.

Smart meters also provide customers with this accurate information about their energy consumption, which could help them to more effectively control and manager their energy use, reduce emissions and potentially increase savings.

A mass roll out of smart meters originally planned for 2014 should now start in 2016.

4.0 Environmental Performance

The environmental impact of North West Leicestershire's residents is summarised as follows:



4.1 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions

Year	Industry and commercial	Domestic	Road transport	Total
2005	5.2	2.8	5.9	14.0
2006	5.0	2.8	5.7	13.6
2007	4.6	2.7	5.8	13.1
2008	4.3	2.7	5.2	12.2
2009	3.8	2.4	5.1	11.3
2010	4.1	2.6	5.1	11.8
2011	3.7	2.3	5.1	11.1
2012	4.1	2.5	5.0	11.5

Table 1.0

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates

The table provides a summary of carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes) in the district. Since this was first recorded in 2005 there has been a reduction in all areas in North West Leicestershire.



4.2 Electricity consumption

Year	Average domestic electricity consumption (kWh) per consumer
2005	4756
2006	4658
2007	4631
2008	4392
2009	4342
2010	4351
2011	4480
2012	4221
2013	4139

Table 2.0

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011

Average domestic electricity consumption has decreased due to better awareness and energy efficiency.

4.3 Gas consumption

Year	Average domestic gas consumption (GWh) per consumer
2005	20734
2006	19593
2007	18880
2008	18131
2009	16462
2010	16358
2011	15413
2012	15363
2013	14944

Table 3.0

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority

Average domestic gas consumption has decreased due to better awareness and energy efficiency.

5.0 Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty occurs when a household spends more than 10% of its net income on fuel to heat their home to an adequate standard of warmth as well as meeting other fuel needs (i.e. lighting, appliances, cooking and water heating).

The convergence of the following four factors leads to fuel poverty:

- Low income
- High fuel prices
- Poor energy efficiency of homes
- Under occupancy.

The table below shows fuel poverty levels in North West Leicestershire.

Year	% Households in fuel poverty
2008	18.8
2009	20.6
2010	16.8
2011	12.5
2012	15.7

Table 4.0

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-subregional-data-under-10-indicator

The schemes outlined in section three above include measures introduced by government to improve the energy efficiency of homes and therefore reduce poverty, whilst simultaneously reducing carbon emissions.

6.0 HECA action plan 2013 - 2015 outcomes

	Responsible team	Target completion date	Achieved in 2013 - 2014	Achieved in 2014-2014 (up to December 2014)
H1	Strategic Housing	March 2014	64 grant funded affordable homes were built. All of these met the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency space standards.	A further 56 grant funded affordable homes were built which met the current standards.
H2	Strategic Housing	March 2014	All non-grant funded affordable homes (eg s106 agreement sites) will be built to the same standards as market houses. Where these properties are provided as affordable rented properties, they will be fully compliant with current HCA standards and meet current applicable Code for Sustainable Homes levels.	A further 46 affordable homes have been built through s106 agreements, all meeting these standards.
H3	Building Control	March 2014	Compliance with Building Regulations will be ensured through plan checks, site inspections and where necessary, enforcement.	One enforcement case is progressing to court following breaches of Building Regulations.
H4	Building Control	March 2014	Advice on the standards that need to be achieved and how to meet them will be given	Building Control continued to provide pre-planning application advice to residents who are considering home improvement works.
H5	Building Control/ Approved Inspector	March 2014	All new homes will have an Energy Performance Certificate on completion	All new properties had an Energy Performance Certificate on completion.
H6	Building Control	March 2014	We will promote any changes in standards to relevant professions through CPD type training sessions.	There were no changes in standards.
H7	Building Control	March 2014	We will define and publicise on website the council's role in delivering the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation	Information about the Green Deal is available on the council's website at www.nwlincs.gov.uk/the_green_deal

6.0 HECA action plan 2013 - 2015 outcomes

		Responsible team	Target completion date	Achieved in 2013 - 2014	Achieved in 2014-2014 (up to December 2014)
H8	We are committed to Climate Local and will develop our delivery plan and targets	Community Focus / Sustainability	March 2014	In October 2013 the council signed up to Climate Local. Information is available at www.nwleics.gov.uk/climate_change	The council's Climate Local Action Plan was developed and submitted to the Local Government Association.
H9	Energy efficiency, Green Deal and measures to tackle fuel poverty will be promoted through our Green Community network and planned events across the district	Community Focus / Sustainability	March 2014	Energy efficiency, Green Deal and fuel poverty initiatives have been promoted at community events in the district including Measham's Heart of the Forest Festival in June, Castle Donington's Music in the Park in July. 4 Ways to Warmth information was publicised through Clockwise Credit Union and the council's newsletters.	
H10	Smart meters will be provided to schools in priority areas and support them to develop a loan scheme	Community Focus / Sustainability	March 2014	Six schools have received smart meters and guidance to enable them to loan them out to households, enabling them to monitor and manage their electricity consumption.	
H11	Support 4 Ways to Warmth through Warm Homes Officer	Street Protection Team	March 2014	The council's Warm Homes Officer made 462 referrals to the 4 Ways to Warmth scheme throughout the year. These referrals have allowed local residents to access a number of energy efficient measures and receive advice on how to be more energy efficient in their homes.	Funding for the Warm Homes Officer post concluded in March 2014. However there are now 3 Warm Homes Officers working countywide, receiving referrals through First Contact.
H12	Support delivery of a countywide Department of Energy and Climate Change bid.	Street Protection Team	March 2014	Delivery of the DECC funded projects resulted in 18 boilers, 72 Jam jar account appointments at the Citizen's Advice Bureau, £4,655 distributed in fuel debt vouchers, 16 emergency fuel deliveries and 115 Green Deal assessments.	
H13	Countywide crisis funding for energy measures will be distributed to those in fuel poverty	Street Protection Team	March 2014	11 food hampers delivered, five emergency heaters provided, 41 loft insulation and draught proofing measures, nine boiler services and repairs.	The crisis fund can now be accessed by residents through First Contact referrals to the three countywide Warm Homes Officers.
H14	We will work alongside Home Improvement Agency Papworth when bringing homes back into use.	Street Protection Team	March 2014	In 2013/14 we had no cases that required bringing a property back into use.	The crisis fund can now be accessed by residents through First Contact referrals to the three countywide Warm Homes Officers.

6.0 HECA action plan 2013 - 2015 outcomes

	Responsible team	Target completion date	Achieved in 2013 - 2014	Achieved in 2014-2014 (up to December 2014)
H15	Street Protection Team	March 2014	A revised Affordable Warmth Strategy and action plan for NWL was launched in autumn 2014. This assists the council in targeting our private sector residents that are most likely to be at risk of Fuel Poverty and associated health problems so that these residents have a better understanding of how they can access ECO and Green Deal.	
H16	Street Protection Team	March 2014	Delivery of the DECC funded projects resulted in 18 boilers, 72 Jam jar account appointments at the Citizen's Advice Bureau, £4,655 distributed in fuel debt vouchers, 16 emergency fuel deliveries and 115 Green Deal assessments.	
H17	Housing Services	March 2015	490 A-rated boilers were installed in council owned homes.	A further 205 A rated boilers were installed in council owned homes.
H18	Housing Services	March 2015	549 central heating systems with A-rated boilers will be installed in council homes by March 2015.	A further 233 central heating systems with A-rated boilers have been installed in council owned homes.
H19	Housing Services	March 2015	996 new doors will be installed in council owned homes by March 2015.	A further 996 new doors have been installed in council owned homes.
H20	Housing Services	March 2015	267 new roofs will be installed in council owned homes by March 2015.	A further 147 new roofs have been installed in council owned homes.
H21	Housing services	March 2015	£125,000 pilot study retrofitting green technologies will be completed by March 2015 to inform a retrofit program in council homes for 2015/16 onwards.	By the end of December 2014 7 out of 13 properties to be used in the pilot had their installations completed. The remainder will be completed by the end of March 2015.

7.0 HECA action plan 2015-2017

		Responsible Team	Target completion date
H1	Home and Communities Agency grant funded or NWLDC funded affordable homes will meet the current HCA space and energy standards as a minimum.	Strategic Housing	March 2016
H2	All non-grant funded affordable homes (s106 agreement sites) will be built to the same standards as market houses. Where these properties are provided as affordable rented properties they will be fully compliant with current HCA space and energy standards.	Strategic Housing	March 2016
H3	Compliance with Building Regulations will be ensured through plan checks, site inspections and where necessary, enforcement.	Building Control	March 2016
H4	Advice on the standards that need to be achieved and how to meet them will be given.	Building Control	March 2016
H5	All new homes will have an Energy Performance Certificate on completion.	Building Control	March 2016
H6	We will promote any changes in standards to relevant professions through CPD type training sessions.	Building Control	March 2016
H7	We will work alongside Home Improvement Agency Papworth when bringing homes back into use.	Street Protection Team	March 2016
H8	Residents will be signposted to grants and loans available to improve energy efficiency and to reduce fuel poverty.	Street Protection Team	March 2016
H9	200 A-rated boilers will be installed in council owned homes, of which 100 will involve a full replacement of the central heating system.	Housing Services	March 2016
H10	50 replacement doors and 300 windows will be installed in council owned homes.	Housing Service	March 2016
H11	Results from the Green and Decent Pilot will be used to inform a renewable technology retrofit programme in 2016/2017	Housing Services	March 2016
H12	An Energy Strategy will be agreed which will detail how the Housing Service will improve the energy efficiency of its stock and tackle fuel poverty amongst its tenants.	Housing Services	March 2016

**North West Leicestershire District
Council
Council Offices
Coalville, Leicestershire
LE67 3FJ**

www.nwleics.gov.uk

01530 454545

