North West Leicestershire District Council

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) delivery proposals for 2013-2015

North West Leicestershire District Council

Contents

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 intentions are captured within this document and an annual progress report will be published to reflect progress and achievements across owner occupied, privately rented and social housing across the district.

http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/

2. Council Priorities

North West Leicestershire District Council is committed to our Green Footprints Challenge through which we aim to make people feel proud to be part of a greener District

We want to ensure.....

- 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.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk

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.

Each house received 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 the electricity bill from the proposed saving made from reduced energy consumption

3.2 Energy Company Obligation

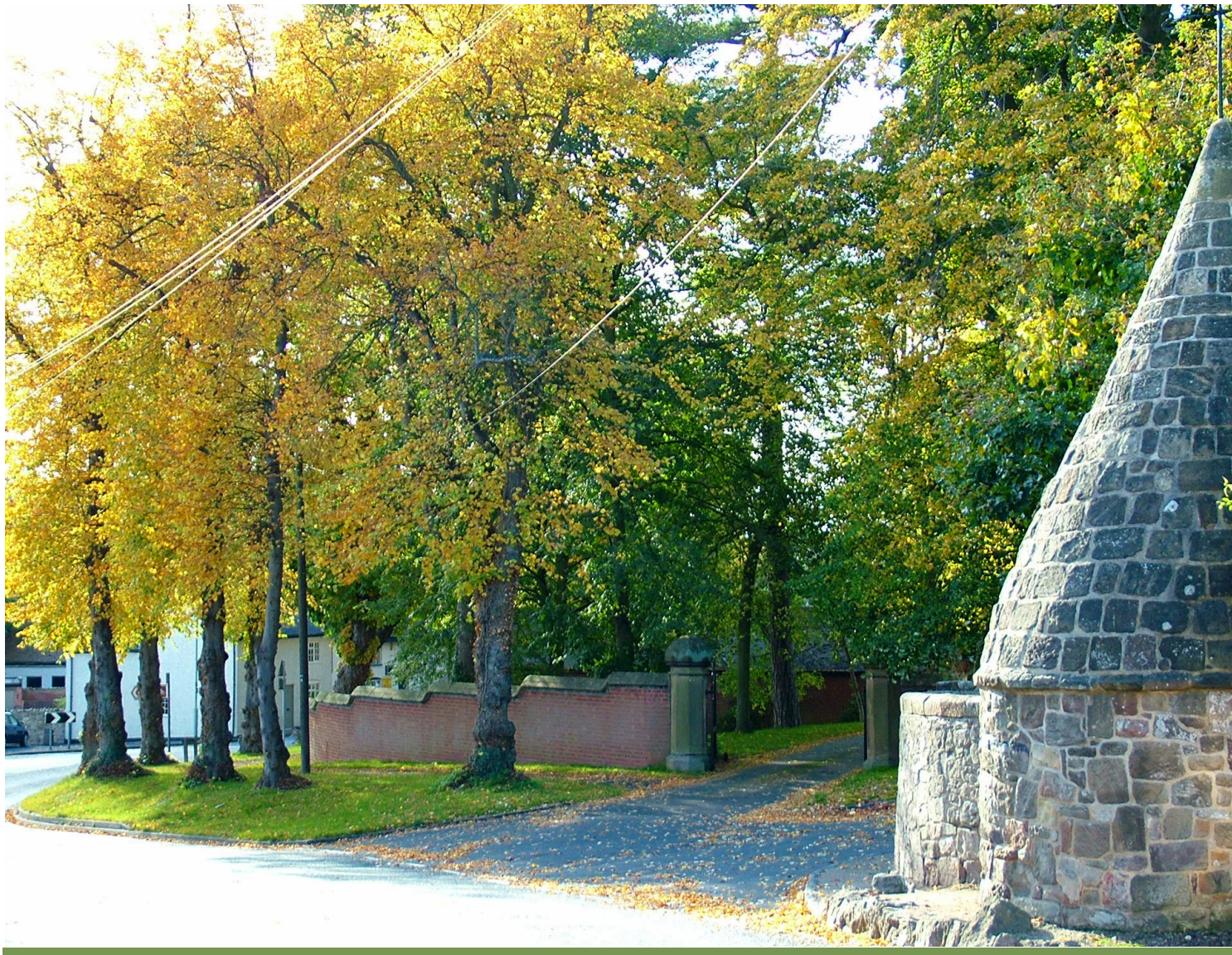
The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) was launched in autumn 2012. ECO requires the larger energy providers in the UK to fund works that reduce the carbon emissions and enable affordable warmth by reducing fuel bills in customers' homes.

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

3.3 Feed in Tariffs

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

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



3.4 Renewable Heat Premium Payment

This scheme provides a one-off payment to householders to help them buy renewable heating technologies (for example, solar thermal panels, heat pumps and biomass boilers).

The money does not have to be paid back but you may have to agree to provide information about your energy usage (for example, by completing a survey or having a meter installed) so that government can learn more about what people think of these technologies and how they perform in a variety of conditions

3.5 Renewable Heat Incentive (Domestic)

The Renewable Heat Incentive will be available from summer 2013. As with FITs, the incentive is a payment for generating heat from renewable sources. The scheme is designed to provide financial support to encourage individuals, communities and businesses to switch from using fossil fuel for heating, to renewable sources such as ground source heat pumps and wood chip boilers.

Savings are made through eliminating or reducing use of gas or oil, both of which are becoming increasingly expensive year-on-year. Payments are made for the hot water and heat generated and used by households.

3.6 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 renewables. 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 in from 2016 will be zero carbon, since many existing consents will be in place, and changes to the regulations are not normally retrospectively applied.

3.7 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.

3.8 Smart meters

Smart meters record energy consumption [electrical, 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 manage their energy use, reduce emissions and potentially increase savings.

A mass roll-out of smart meters is expected to start in 2014 and be completed in 2019.

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 & Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total
2005	5.40			
	2.60	3.10	11.10	
2006				
	5.20	2.60	3.00	10.90
2007				
	4.80	2.50	3.10	10.40
2008				
	4.70	2.50	2.80	10.10
2009				
	4.40	2.30	2.80	9.50
2010	4.60	2.40	2.80	9.80

Table 1.0

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121217150421/http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_stats/gg_emissions/laco2/laco2.aspx

Table 1.0

The table provides a summary of carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes) in the district (previously reported as national indicator 186).

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	4760
2006	4660
2007	4630
2008	4390
2009	4340
2010	4350
2011	4270

Table 2.0

http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/domestic_ge/index.html

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

4.3 Gas Consumption

Year	Average Domestic Gas Consumption (GWh) per consumer
2005	20730
2006	19590
2007	18880
2008	18130
2009	16460
2010	16360
2011	15410

Table 3.0

http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/domestic_ge/index.html

Average domestic gas consumption has decreased due to increased 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 the 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 (households experiencing the most extreme fuel poverty live in larger than average homes)

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

Year	% Households in fuel poverty
2006	12.4
2007	no data available
2008	18.8
2009	20.6
2010	16.8

Table 4.0

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/regional/regional.aspx

The schemes outlined in section 3 above include measures introduced by government to improve the energy efficiency of homes and hence reduce poverty whilst simultaneously reducing carbon emissions.

6.0 HECA Action Plan

		Responsible Team	Completion Date
H1	HCA grant funded or NWLDC funded affordable homes will meet the current Code for Sustainable Homes level and meet the HCA space standards as a minimum	Strategic Housing	March 2014
H2	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	Strategic Housing	March 2014
H3	Compliance with Building Regulations will be ensured through plan checks, site inspections and where necessary, enforcement.	Building Control	March 2014
H4	Advice on the standards that need to be achieved and how to meet them will be given	Building Control	March 2014
H5	All new homes will have an Energy Performance Certificate on completion	Building Control/ Approved Inspector	March 2014
H6	We will promote any changes in standards to relevant professions through CPD type training sessions.	Building Control	March 2014
H7	We will define and publicise on website the Council's role in delivering the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation	Building Control	March 2014
H8	We are committed to Climate Local and will develop our delivery plan and targets	Sustainability	March 2014
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
H10	Smart meters will be provided to schools in priority areas and support them to develop a loan scheme	Sustainability	March 2014
H11	Support 4 Ways to Warmth through Warm Homes Officer	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H12	Support delivery of a countywide DECC bid	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H13	Countywide crisis funding for energy measures will be distributed to those in fuel poverty	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H14	We will work alongside Home Improvement Agency Papworth when bringing homes back into use.	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H15	We will undertake a review of the Council's approach to tackling fuel poverty	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H16	Residents will be signposted to grants and loans available to improve energy efficiency and to reduce fuel poverty	Street Protection Team	March 2014
H17	334 A rated boilers will be installed in council owned homes	Housing Services	March 2015
H18	549 central heating systems will A rated boilers will be installed in council homes	Housing Services	March 2015
H19	996 new doors will be installed in council owned homes	Housing Services	March 2015
H20	267 new roofs will be installed in council owned homes	Housing Services	March 2015
H21	£125,000 pilot study retrofitting green technologies will be completed to inform a retrofit program in council homes for 2015/16 onwards	Housing services	March 2015

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

www.nwleics.gov.uk

01530 454545