

HECA Progress Report 2017

Cotswold District Council

Introduction and Background from Further Report (2013)

HECA requirements

This 'Progress Report' is required as per the 'Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities (ECA's) pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 issued by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in July 2012. A 'Further Report' was produced in March 2013 and thereafter a progress report is produced at 2 yearly intervals up to and including 31 March 2027.

General profile

The background data for the report shows the following performance:

- The district has a relatively average per capita domestic CO₂ emission rate of 2.5 tonnes.
[UK local authority and regional CO₂ emissions](#)
- Using the Low Income, High Cost indicator of fuel poverty, 14.5% of households are living in fuel poverty across the district. 11.5% of households are in fuel poverty across Gloucestershire. [2014 sub-regional fuel poverty data](#)
- The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is used to measure housing conditions. Excess Cold is a HHSRS hazard often relevant to energy efficiency and fuel poverty. 28 Category I excess cold hazards were removed 2015-17.

Targets

Housing Conditions are dealt with on a case by case basis with advice and/or enforcement used as appropriate through a referral system by a variety of organisations. Consideration will be given to how we can respond in a more targeted way to deal with excess cold as part of a wider county wide partnership. The Warm and Well Plus scheme with Severn Wye Energy Agency will target some households to remove excess cold as a category I hazard.

Summary: The table shows the aims from Cotswold District Council's HECA Further Report 2013 and the activities taken to meet the aims over the last 2 years.

Measures we are taking to result in significant energy efficiency improvements of our residential accommodation

HECA 2013 Further Report: to Facilitate Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Local Authority Partners.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

CDC is a partner authority and funder of Gloucestershire's Warm and Well programme which is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency. Severn Wye met with several energy suppliers and contractors to initiate ECO funding agreements. This provided access to ECO funding through their installer partner.

- Warm and Well and its contractor has faced difficulties securing grant funding through the ECO as experienced by other stakeholders across the country. Fortunately extensions have been made in funding and ECO3 is available until April 2017.
- ECOt: will follow on from the series of ECO funding programmes from the energy companies. This will run from April 2017 for 18 months, to deliver higher targets of solid wall insulation, target a slightly higher threshold of those with income based on Universal Credits, and those struggling financially to meet bills other as well as heating. Social Housing at EPC rating of E, F, or G rating, will be targeted. The flexibility mechanism will allow local authorities to target residents in need, on behalf of suppliers, to up to 10% of their contributions. There will also be a rural sub obligation of 15% under CERO.

The Energy Company Obligation was split between 3 elements:

ECO HHCRO (Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation) – the affordable warmth part of the obligation provides funding support to the most vulnerable. Clients must be in receipt of certain qualifying benefits as well as receiving another qualifying component (E.g. a child under 5 or low income). To date, the majority of measures being installed under this obligation were replacement G rated gas boilers, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation.

ECO CERO (Carbon Emission Reduction Obligation) – this obligation focuses on the insulation of 'Hard to Treat' properties. These include hard to treat loft and cavities as well as properties with solid walls. As of April 2014, standard loft and cavity wall insulation measures were eligible for ECO CERO funding.

ECO CSCO (Carbon Saving Communities Obligation) – which is an area based Carbon Saving Communities (CSC) target focused on the delivery of carbon reduction measures to the 25% most deprived areas and eligible rural households.

Using a combination of Department of Health **Warm Homes Healthy People Fund**, and a single grant scheme **Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Grants (GEEG)**. Stroud and South Gloucestershire also provided GEEG funding for clients.

The **NHS** has aided the development of promotional materials and funded home visits to vulnerable households.

Link to energy is a free-to-use online database which helps customers to find suitable sustainable energy installers and tradespeople in their local area.

2015-16 7 homes received measures to remove category 1 excess cold hazard.

2016-17 21 homes received measures to remove category 1 excess cold hazard.

2015-16 CSCO and **GEEG** scheme: 18 properties were improved, 17 measures were installed – 12 cavity wall insulation, 2 loft insulation, 1 solid wall insulation, 1 heating improvement.

2016-17 CERO: 31 insulation installs, 3 BEIS Central Heating Fund, 3 heating improvements, 10 home visits, 18 client funded and 12 GEEG health funded via Warm & Well installers and Link to Energy.

HECA 2013 Further Report: Support and facilitate the provision of the Green Deal.

Working with National Energy Foundation through the Green Deal Community Interest Company (CIC) consortium.

Green Deal and Green Homes Together (GHT)

35 Green Deal Assessments were carried out county wide. The demand for assessments has decreased significantly over the reporting period. This can be attributed to the removal of the need for a Green Deal Assessment Report to apply for the Renewable Heat Incentive and the digression of the Feed In Tariff and subsequent drop in PV system installs.

2015-16 CDC received only one advice report.

25 October 2016: Government stops funding to scheme.

HECA 2013 Further Report: Support and facilitate the provision ECO.

We are working in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) and other Gloucestershire local authorities to provide a Gloucestershire Warm and Well scheme. This provides access to ECO funding.

Warm and Well

Warm and Well launched in 2001 led by Severn Wye Energy Agency and Gloucestershire local authorities. It aims to improve energy efficiency in the home and reduce the risk of fuel poverty by raising awareness, providing advice and making referrals into grant and discount schemes.

Warm and Well also supports customers in accessing other sources of funding from schemes such as Department of Health **Warm Homes Healthy People Fund**, and a single grant scheme **Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Grants (GEEG)**. Stroud and South Gloucestershire also provided GEEG funding for clients.

The **NHS** has aided the development of promotional materials and funded home visits to vulnerable households.

It also provides a “hand holding” service for vulnerable customers when applying to have measures through the various schemes. Outreach activity is provided through a mixture of public meetings, briefing and events and through home energy advice visits for the most vulnerable customers.

Warm and Well activity in Cotswold district

Warm and Well held 7 events and 2 briefings as part of their wider promotional activity. This included briefing Village Agents, volunteers in the community who were then able to give appropriate advice and information to the clients they visit.

Marketing and promotion of Warm and Well has included a variety of approaches including adverts in the local media, social media, staff briefings and events. 9 events and briefings were held in the district. As well as local authority endorsed mail outs to parish councils and community groups.

The helpline referral service across the County sign-posted mainly to partner organisations such as:

2015-16: 19 Care & Repair, 46 Fuel Supplier, 47 Health Through Warmth, 18 Priority Service Register, 125 Link to Energy and 72 Turn 2 Us

2016-17: 13 Care & Repair, 43 Fuel Supplier, 27 Health Through Warmth, 7 Priority Service Register, 41 Link to Energy and 49 Turn 2 Us
Advice provided in-house consisted of : 505 BEIS Central Heating Fund, 471 Heating enquiries, 459 Insulation, 119 Smart Meters, 263 Tariff Switching.

Within the Cotswold District 100 residents in 2015-16 and 192 residents in 2016-17 made contact to the Warm & Well helpline.

The BEIS Central Heating Fund was run between March and August 2016, where DECC was abolished and replaced by BEIS with a review of funding and policies.

Since the scheme began in 2001-2016, a total of 65,120 measures have been installed in 41,297 properties in Gloucestershire.

In Cotswold, a total of **5,308** measures have been installed in **3,444** properties. This includes cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, small central heating measures and condensing boilers.

HECA Further Report 2013: Renewable Energy

There are no specific local schemes as a result of the introduction of the Feed in Tariff or Renewable Heat Premium Payment. The domestic Renewable Heat Incentive will be monitored to see if its operation presents opportunities for local authority support

Renewable Energy

There hasn't been any specific activity on the promotion of renewable energy. Since the withdrawn funding of the Green Deal in 2016, and the reduction in Feed-in-tariff, there has been a focus on community organised projects and grant funding such as the Rural Energy Development Fund.

Public sector organisations are now liable to revenue taxation from the Feed-in-tariff, unless a registered charity, the leisure centres and community interest organisations would benefit.

HECA Further Report 2013: Minimum Standards in the private rental sector

Fit to Rent is a countywide scheme. It is a voluntary and free service for landlords in the county which recognises good quality, well managed private lettings. The scheme aims to encourage good practice in the private rented market by giving approval to landlords and lettings that meet the property standard

Fit to Rent

30 landlords are signed up to [Fit To Rent Cotswold](#) approved scheme list and more are in the process of signing up for accreditation.

Private landlords and letting agents have also been targeted by Green Homes Together as part of their loft and cavity wall insulation offer.

Gloucestershire has a relatively large student population from the university, student renting would be typically close to the city. The type of renting in Cotswold district is likely to be from the Royal Agricultural University, and collaboration from [Urban fox](#) for community integration.

HECA Further Report 2013: Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Partnership

The Council will continue to attend this partnership which considers the implementation of targeted assistance to the fuel poor particularly the elderly.

CDC continues to attend the Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Partnership meetings. Representatives are from different services which reflects the cross cutting nature of affordable warmth work.

The Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth partnership launched a strategy Action for Affordable Warmth. The Partnership is key to ensuring that fuel poverty and its effects remain on the agenda for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The four key aims are:

1. Co-ordinate delivery, work in partnership and influence policy;
2. Improve energy efficiency across all housing tenures;
3. Promote and provide advice and information;
4. Identify and help people at risk of fuel poverty.

Recent topics for the partnership have focused on the private rented sector, park homes, young families and hard to reach vulnerable clients.

The Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Partnership has offered free fuel poverty advice line to all residents to access advice on energy efficiency and improvements for over 10 years. The Warm Homes, Healthy People funding increased access and take uptake to this scheme, specifically for vulnerable clients, and assist residents with the latest information as the national energy efficiency funding framework changed. It achieved an increase of awareness of the free phone advice line; provided local vulnerable people with funding towards energy efficiency measures and trained front line staff on ECO and signposting from the Housing departments, Housing Associations and Citizens Advice.

HECA Further Report 2013: Warm and Well

We are also working with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) and other Gloucestershire local authorities, to provide ECO and other energy efficiency improvements as part of Warm and Well

See Warm and Well details above

[Severn Wye Energy Agency](#)