



HECA Progress Report 2015

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 (EVS's) pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 issued by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 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 high per capita domestic CO₂ emission rate of 2.9 tonnes.
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates
- Using the Low Income, High Cost indicator of fuel poverty, 9.7% of households are living in fuel poverty across the district. 8.9% of households are in fuel poverty across Gloucestershire.
www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/regional/regional.aspx
- 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. An excess cold category I hazard is estimated to be present in 21% of private dwellings in the District. www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent?a_id=14300&tt=cotswold

Targets

Targets for both domestic CO₂ emissions and fuel poverty have not been established at the time of writing but will be considered when the framework and scope of relevant reduction activity is clearer. Housing Conditions are dealt with on a case by case basis with advice and/or enforcement used as appropriate. 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 in 2014/15. 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: Support and facilitate the provision of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
<p>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.</p> <p>Warm and Well and its contractor has faced difficulties securing grant funding through the ECO as experienced by other stakeholders across the country. In Q1 and Q2 of 2013/14, there was a focus on promotion of the Affordable Warmth ECO because there was substantial carbon prices through the national ECO brokerage scheme which meant the installations were predominantly 100% funded. As 2013/14 progressed, the rates of funding decreased significantly as energy companies reached their ECO targets. By January 2014, there was no Affordable Warmth ECO activity on ECO brokerage and very few installations going ahead through Warm and Well.</p> <p>2013/14 - 8 measures were funded by ECO in the district.</p> <p>2014/15 (up to December 2014) - 11 residents were referred for grant funded insulation measures. 10 under the CERO (Carbon Emission Reduction Obligation) (able to pay) scheme and 1 under the CSCO (Carbon Saving Community Obligation) scheme. 7 measures were installed – 2 cavity wall insulation, 2 hard to treat cavity wall insulation and 3 loft insulation.</p>
HECA 2013 Further Report: Support and facilitate the provision of the Green Deal.
<p>We are working with National Energy Foundation (formerly USEA) to set up a Green Deal Community Interest Company (CIC) consortium. Through the CIC we will provide the full range of Green Deal services to local residents</p>
<p>Green Deal and Green Homes Together (GHT) CDC is part of a consortium of local authorities investing in Green Homes Together CIC (a Green Deal Provider). GHT launched in 2014 and CDC is supporting marketing activities to promote their energy efficiency initiatives. This includes loft and cavity wall insulation (potentially free for some residents) through ECO funding and a fixed price boiler scheme recently launched in March 2015. The fixed price boiler offer enables good quality, A-rated boilers to be installed by a qualified heating engineer for a set price.</p> <p>So far 53 referrals have been made from the district to an installer for loft (34) and cavity wall insulation (19). CDC has promoted offers through the website and social media. GHT has also engaged with parish councils, church and community groups and the business sector via</p>

letting agents and private landlords.

HECA 2013 Further Report: Support and facilitate the provision of the Green Deal and 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 will provide 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 and its contractor, Thermabead has faced difficulties securing grant funding through the ECO as seen across the country. Warm and Well also supports customers in accessing other sources of funding from schemes such as Npower's Health Through Warmth heating fund for vulnerable customers.

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.

2013/14 – Warm and Well activity in Cotswold district

- 32 Green Deal Assessments were carried out. A large volume of GDAs were paid for using DECC Green Deal Pioneer funding.
- Warm and Well held 10 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.
- 15 measures were installed in 12 properties in the district this includes HTT cavity wall insulation (3), cavity wall insulation (1), loft insulation (3), heating upgrades (3) and heating repairs (5).
- 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. 12 events and briefings were held in the district. As well as local authority endorsed mail outs to parish councils and community groups.

2014/15 – Warm and Well activity in Cotswold district

- 92 residents from the district made an enquiry to Warm and Well's advice hub. The advice hub is a Freephone advice line as well as text number and email for residents to make enquiries. These enquiries include insulation, heating, Green Deal and energy efficiency measures such as glazing. The advice hub also signposts customers to other organisation such as energy suppliers, Age UK, debt advice and Link to Energy. Link to Energy is a free-to-use online database which helps customers find suitable sustainable energy installers and tradespeople in their local area.
- 13 events and briefings were held in the district.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Green Deal surveys were completed and 7 measures were installed through Warm and Well using ECO grant funding. • 12 self-financed measures were installed. • In total 9 properties were improved. <p>Since the scheme began in 2001, a total of 3,304 measures have been installed in 1,665 properties in the district. This includes cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and condensing boilers.</p>
<p>HECA Further Report 2013: Renewable Energy</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>There hasn't been any specific activity on the promotion of renewable energy. However, Green Homes Together is investigating the business case for a fixed price solar PV offer. If there is a viable business case this would be promoted to residents later in 2015/16.</p>
<p>HECA Further Report 2013: EPCs</p> <p>15,060 Energy Performance Certificates from the District has been lodged with Landmark Information Group as of 31/10/12 according to Exeter University data. Cotswold District Council can access bulk data from Landmark but there is a charge and this information has not been requested.</p>
<p>Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)</p> <p>CDC has not used bulk EPC data but can now access individual EPCs to help when assessing housing conditions and recommending remedial works.</p>
<p>HECA Further Report 2013: Minimum Standards in the private rental sector</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Fit to Rent</p> <p>45 landlords have signed up to Fit To Rent and more are in the process of signing up for accreditation. A landlord event was held in September 2014 to promote the scheme.</p> <p>Private landlords and letting agents have also been targeted by Green Homes Together as part of their loft and cavity wall insulation offer.</p>
<p>HECA Further Report 2013: Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Partnership</p> <p>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.</p>

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 Green Deal.

Measures we propose to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street roll out

HECA Further Report 2013: Green Homes Together

We will become a founder member of a new Green Deal Community Interest Company "Green Deal Together"

DECC Green Deal Communities project – street by street approach to delivering solid wall insulation

CDC was a partner in a successful bid to the DECC Green Deal Communities fund to promote SWI insulation in targeted streets. The project is underway and target streets identified in the district. 600 households have been targeted and offered a grant and ECO funding towards External Wall Insulation, Internal Wall Insulation or Hybrid system. The initial leafleting was completed in February which resulted in 4 referrals for assessments so far. The project is due to be completed in September 2015.

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