

HECA Report 2019

Tendring District Council

Question Title

Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?

- Yes
 No

Question Title

If you answered no, are you planning to develop one?

- Yes
 No

Question Title

What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented (or is planning to implement) in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017?

Tendring District Council is working with a number of ECO installers to provide energy saving measures to both privately rented and owner-occupier properties. It is also funding heating measures for people with disabilities or illnesses affected by the cold through the Disabled Facilities Grant. Owner-occupiers can also be assisted to install heating, double glazed windows and door or roof insulation (and roof repairs) through a Discretionary Renovation Loan.

In our own stock we have an on-going heating refurbishment programme that includes upgrades to more energy efficient boilers, systems and controls. We also have a programme to install LED fittings to the kitchens, bathrooms and WC's in our properties and the communal areas. Each year the lights in one of our Sheltered Housing Units are also upgraded to LED's. In addition, our electric heated properties are upgraded to new Herschel infrared ceiling mounted heaters when the property becomes void or the current heating is beyond economic repair.

Question Title

What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of the scheme(s)?

Approximately £72,000 of DFG money was awarded for heating measures and £32,000 of loans in addition to officer time. The ECO scheme has required officer time but negligible financial cost.

140 Tendring District Council properties have been upgraded through the heating refurbishment programme at a cost of £366,686.47. LED fittings in TDC properties cost between £55-£75 each and communal upgrades cost on average £2,000 - £4,000. Each Sheltered Housing Unit lighting upgrades cost approximately £25,000 - £30,000. Herschel heating per property costs around £2,500 - £4,000.

Question Title

What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme?

We currently work with seven ECO providers to progress LA Flex applications and to refer households for assessments. Through a Clacton based Multi-Disciplinary Team we also liaise with Social Services, GP Care Advisors, NHS, Community Agents and the Voluntary Sector to promote and progress ECO and DFG funding. For the relevant DFG cases we also work with a Home Improvement Agency and local contractors.

Question Title

What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. in terms of economic impact such as job creation, societal impact such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc)?

40 Declarations have been signed for ECO - LA Flex and 140 households have been referred to ECO providers. These works have enabled households to save money, reduce their carbon output, as well as increase their thermal comfort and relieve cold related illnesses/conditions. It has employed a number of local contractors and we are in discussions with one of our ECO providers to offer an apprenticeship/training to local people. A total lifetime saving of £410,917 was made during the ECO2t phase of our Jaywick Sands engagement reducing fuel poverty in the most deprived neighborhood in England.

16 households have received DFG's for heating and a further 8 have been given loans. Local contractors have been used and the work has enabled predominantly elderly and/or people with disabilities to remain in their homes.

Where new Herschel heaters have been installed in council properties the tenants' energy costs have dropped by a third on average.

Question Title

What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?

In retrospect the issues with Warm Front were quite minor and the benefits that scheme had, in particular where maintenance and accountability were concerned, are superior to the current system. The ECO system is misunderstood by most households who assume it is local government run and therefore a lot of time is wasted having to explain this over and over again to complainants. The need for a central list of vetted ECO providers/installers is also necessary to curtail the large number of cowboy operators preying on vulnerable people.

Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018 all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will

then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS's published [guidance documents](#) for the full details on the standard).

The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.

Question Title

If your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?

- Yes
- No

Question Title

Which team within your authority is responsible or will be responsible for leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard, and what are their contact details?

Private Sector Housing - 01255 686 617 or pshousing@tendringdc.gov.uk

Question Title

What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standard and other related issues?

We discuss and advise tenants and landlords as part of our enforcement and grant/loan process.

Fuel Poverty

Question Title

What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties as being in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if appropriate)

Fuel poor households were identified through the stock condition survey undertaken by the BRE in 2014.

Question Title

What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty and if so what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken?

We have partnered with Essex County Council to offer energy switch with a total of 131 applications and 43 acceptances. We are also working with seven ECO providers/installers to offer insulation and heating works to people in fuel poverty.

The Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures. Following the Spring 2018 consultation, the Government asserted in its response that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.

The recently introduced ECO [“flexible eligibility”](#) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO. LA involved are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

Question Title

Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility? If yes, please include a link to your SoI below.

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/energy>

Question Title

Please the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.

40 declarations have been signed and 140 households have been referred to ECO providers for heating and/or insulation. We have also supported Aran Services, Anesco, Capture Carbon and Work Work Ltd. to target specific areas of deprivation with mailshots and social media announcements. We are also in talks to attend roadshows with ECO providers to raise awareness of the scheme.

Future Schemes and Wider Initiatives

Question Title

Please outline any future schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has been doing or is planning to undertake to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation or businesses in your area, for example, within your LEP Energy Strategy.

11 businesses in the Tendring area have been awarded 'Low Carbon Across the South East' grants to tackle and adapt to climate change.