

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995

Report By: Head of Strategic Housing Services

Wards Affected

County Wide

Purpose

1. To consider the seventh annual progress report on the Home Energy Conservation Act project.
2. The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) puts a duty on Energy Conservation Authorities to draw up strategies to improve energy efficiency in all housing and to report annually on progress made in implementing them. This report introduces the seventh annual progress report and outlines Herefordshire's progress against the baseline energy consumption in April 1996. The progress report is enclosed separately for Members of the Committee and is available to the public on request.

Financial Implications

3. None within this report, as it is for information purposes only.

Background

4. This report outlines measures and activities undertaken within the reporting period, which have had a direct saving on domestic energy consumption and a reduction of greenhouse gases associated by the burning of fossil fuels. The report was submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands on the 29th of September 2003.
5. In 1996, the District Councils of Herefordshire pledged to help reduce domestic energy consumption by 30% over a 15-year period. In year seven we can report that there has been an overall improvement of 11.18% since the baseline taken in 1996.
6. Examples of projects found within this report are as follows:

Herefordshire Council Special Energy Efficiency Scheme (SEES)

Private Sector Housing, Special Energy Efficiency Scheme was in its fourth year up to this reporting period and has provided energy efficiency grants to 5146 properties to a value of approximately 1.55 million pounds between April 1999 and March 2002. Within this reporting period measures have been installed to 1815 properties. Typically measures have included loft & cavity wall insulation, draught proofing window & doors, 'A' rated condensing boilers, heating controls, and hot water tank jackets. This year also included solar hot water heating and external wall insulation. The Local Authority has set up a partnership with Scottishpower who have pledged £500k towards this scheme over the next three financial years with Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funding.

No & Low Carbon Technologies for Mobile Homes in Rural England and Wales

On 10/02/03, the Authority was successful in obtaining funding for a feasibility study from the Energy Savings Trust (EST) for their 'Innovation Programme'.

The project entitled 'No & Low Carbon Technologies for Mobile Homes in Rural England and Wales' was a successful application to the Energy Savings Trust and has received 70% grant funding of £10,000 for a feasibility study to investigate the potential for mobile homes to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The project was in competition with 32 other applications from across the country, and was one of only 18 successful projects to be chosen.

The project partners include our neighbouring Authority in Wales, Powys County Council, two Energy Agencies and two Energy Efficiency Advice Centres.

The project, which is targeted on 'hard-to-heat' homes situated off the gas main network, is looking at mobile home parks and tying this in with energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies such as ground source heat pumps, wind turbines, solar hot water heaters, photovoltaics, and the sale and purchase of green electricity.

The feasibility study has been a success with EST and therefore on 31st of October 2003, the partnership was able to submit its bid to EST for the Innovation Programme Implementation fund (up to £90,000).

If successful, this bid would pay for management of the project over two years. The scheme is looking at six mobile home parks across Herefordshire and Powys, targeting up to 180 homes to a works value of over one million pounds. Pending the success of this bid the Partnership will also apply for the DTI, Clear-Skies Community Fund (up to £100,000) for capital measures.

Development of Computer Software for Primary Schools for Key Stage Two of the National Curriculum

A project in partnership with the software company, MVM Ltd, has been commissioned to develop software for Primary Schools and Key Stage Two pupils (7 to 11 years of age). This is looking at energy efficiency in the home, which is part of the National Curriculum under the subject heading of Sustainability. The Authority has secured 'fi-School' primary schools of Herefordshire. Our Energy Efficiency Advice Centre will deliver the fifty percent of the funding from the energy supplier Npower (£5000) for the development of this programme. The remaining fifty percent of the funding will come from the software company themselves. The software is due to be ready in December 2003 where it will be piloted next year in the 20 'Eco training.

Recommendation

THAT the latest position of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 progress report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, Herefordshire Councils Seventh Progress Report from the 1st April 2002 to March 31st 2003