

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) biannual report 2022-2023

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities to report on their plans to promote energy efficiency improvements locally. Digital responses are submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and a copy of the West Suffolk Council's (WSC) responses is outlined below.

Questions that are not relevant have been removed.

Headline and overview

Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

- Yes.

Q2. If yes, please provide a link.

- All the Suffolk local authorities work together with other partners as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. The partnership's climate change action plan has gone through a lengthy consultation and update over the last year considering the Councils' Climate Emergency Declarations, details are here: [Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan – Green Suffolk](#)
- WSC's Climate Emergency Action Plan is here: [West Suffolk Environment and Climate Change Taskforce – Final Report](#)

Q4. In the last two years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency?

We have a range of initiatives. Their annual costs are approximately:

- Warm Homes Healthy People - £100,000
- Solar for Business - £1.348million
- Green Business Grant - £8,200
- Local Authority Delivery Scheme 1b - £1,493,028
- Local Authority Delivery Scheme 2 - £328,924
- Local Authority Delivery Scheme 3 - £708,987
- Home Upgrade Grant 1 - £528,987
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - £266,775
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund - £1.7million
- WSC decarbonisation fund - £1.792million

Q5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes, and services? Please select all that apply.

- Energy savings
- Carbon savings
- Job creation
- Increased business competitiveness
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes

Consumer advice and information

Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

- Yes.

Q7. If yes, please select all that apply:

- Local authority website
- Local advisory service
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Local energy hubs

Local retrofit supply chain

Q8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

- Yes.

Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

The cyclical nature of some of the funding has created issues with installer capacity.

Q10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply.

- Providing installer networking opportunities or other business support for growing companies.
- Careers advice or similar involving local businesses doing schools outreach to encourage young people into the sector.

Q11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

- Yes.

Q12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

- Yes – but rarely.

Q13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

- Yes.

Q14. If you answered yes to question 13, please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

- Installers of insulation
- Retrofit assessors
- Retrofit coordinators

Q15. If you answered yes to question 13, please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

- Supporting training and upskilling more generally
- Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff)
- Delivering in-house for example by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams directly employing retrofit coordinators and so on.

Social housing decarbonisation

Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- No.

Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?

- Don't own enough stock.

Q19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- Yes.

Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- Internal funding
- Funding from other Government schemes

Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

- One.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

- Yes.

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- Yes.

Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

- Yes, but I haven't used it.

Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- 123.

Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

- 90.

Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

- 59.

Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- Two.

Green Home Finance

Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

- [Green Suffolk - Low Impact Living](#)
- [West Suffolk Council - What you can do](#)

Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- Yes
- Interest free loan, see: [West Suffolk Council - Domestic energy efficiency funding](#) and [Eastern Savings and Loans – Suffolk Green Loans](#)

Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- No

Fuel poverty

Q33. Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?

- Yes

Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out
- Other – EPC database and IMD statistics

Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.

Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

- Yes.

If yes, please can you explain how it does this?

- We have specific links to carbon reduction and fuel poverty in our climate emergency plan, see: [Green Suffolk - Suffolk-Climate-Emergency-Plan-Summer-23.pdf](#)

Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- Yes.

Home Upgrade Grant

Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

- Yes.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

- Yes.

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

- 0.

Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

- 0.

Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

- 0.

Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your SoI?

- £26,800

Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

- Not applicable.

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- No.

Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

- Yes.

Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex (or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)?

- No.

Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

- Route 1,2,3

Smart metering

The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

Q56a. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

- Yes.

Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- Yes.