

LOW CARBON HOUSING AND FUEL POVERTY ACTIVITY PLAN

Progress on Activities – latest updated 30.06.08

This document details the progress on activities identified in 2006 by stakeholders in the region. The following charts are those included in the Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Activity Plan. For details of the Plan and the workplan for 2008 -10 funded by the NWDA see www.nwdea.org.uk

North West Domestic Energy Alliance



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH WEST



Campaigning for Warm Homes



Summary of themes and identified needs by regional stakeholders at workshops and conference in 2006

Theme	Needs
1. Develop effective regional communication and co-ordination	<p>1.1 Consistent messages to stakeholders are communicated in the region</p> <p>1.2 Consistent and accurate information and advice is promoted and available to householders in the region</p> <p>1.3 Good practice within the region is shared</p> <p>1.4 Multi agency work is co-ordinated</p> <p>1.5 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working</p>
2. Establish robust targeting and monitoring methodology for low carbon housing and fuel poverty	<p>2.1 Monitoring and reporting methods for domestic energy efficiency and CO₂ are agreed and utilised</p> <p>2.2 Baseline mapping and indicators for fuel poverty are identified</p> <p>2.3 Targeting tools / schemes are utilised</p> <p>2.4 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working</p>
3. Access sustainable funding for low carbon housing and fuel poverty eradication	<p>3.1 Maximum use made of locally available funding</p> <p>3.2 Maximum use made of regionally available funding</p> <p>3.3 Maximum use made of nationally available funding</p> <p>3.4 Maximum use made of European funding</p> <p>3.5 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working</p> <p>3.6 Lobbying is undertaken to ring fence funding and / or make funding more long term</p> <p>3.7 Benefit take up is maximised to increase incomes and 'passport' low income households into grant schemes</p>
4. Encourage the installation of microgeneration and energy efficient technologies	<p>4.1 Planners, architects and developers are informed and supportive of low carbon housing</p> <p>4.2 Microgeneration technologies are understood by, accessible and affordable to the public</p> <p>4.3 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working</p> <p>4.4 Lobbying for higher energy efficiency standards on domestic appliances</p>
5. Encourage the further development of skills and training to deliver low carbon and affordably warm housing	<p>5.1 Skills and training gaps in the supply chain for low carbon housing are identified</p> <p>5.2 A trained workforce is established to deliver the technology for low carbon housing</p> <p>5.3 All stakeholders understand the need, and implementation methods, for low carbon and affordably warm housing</p> <p>5.4 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working</p>
6. Encourage the integration of low carbon housing and fuel poverty into local and regional policy frameworks	<p>6.1 The domestic agenda is fully integrated into the North West Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>6.2 All local authorities and partners have low carbon housing and affordable warmth strategies and ensure that the issues are integrated into local strategic processes</p>

Theme 1 Develop effective regional communication and co-ordination

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress - Dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
1.1 Consistent messages to stakeholders are communicated in the region	1.1.1 Clear communication within and between agencies, highlighting the importance of climate change and fuel poverty, and the actions needed to combat them	Organise events, provide links, articles and newsletters	Conference March 07 DEA rep on Climate Change Partnership DEA on Energy Council Regular dealing with domestic queries	All BS or other DEA rep	EST EST From 2008 NWDA
	1.1.2 Clarification of the role of regional agencies to other stakeholders	Identify and clarify role of regional agencies	Presentations to NEA forum. Info on DEA website		
	1.1.3 Engagement of the health sector at all levels to be aware of the dangers of cold homes, and their role in the solutions	Hold senior meetings	Senior meetings held re fuel poverty in Cumbria and Lancs March 08	JG	NEA
1.2 Consistent and accurate information and advice is promoted and available to householders in the region	1.2.1 Engagement of stakeholders in the consultation and development of a Sustainable Energy Network in the region	Facilitate process group	March 07 Completed – SEN out to tender 01.08. Role of Process group complete	All	
	1.2.2 Collaboration between national and regional agencies (EEACs EST, local projects) on marketing and promotion of energy efficiency to the public to ensure a common message	Provide information on national agencies; encourage partnership working on common themes	Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres established and Merseyside and Cheshire workplan distributed to stakeholders..To be followed by other sub regions	PO/ CM	EST
	1.2.3 Provision of reliable and clear information about all aspects of domestic microgeneration as a matter of urgency	Gather good practice data and disseminate to stakeholders	Sub regional workshops – Oct 07 Info on DEA website (Numbers?)		
	1.2.4 Provision of reliable and clear information about efficiency and running costs of domestic appliances and products	Gather data and make available	Post EST and utility literature on DEA website	JG	
	1.2.5 Consultation with Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPfH), on engagement of sectors not mainstreaming in energy efficiency	Liaise with EEPfH	Contacts made with EEPH		

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1.3 Good practice within the region is shared	1.3.1 Investigation and utilisation of appropriate websites to disseminate and discuss good practice	Research websites and publicise to stakeholders	New DEA website – includes signposting www.nwdea.org.uk	JG	
	1.3.2 Promotion of existing Best Practice	Research existing guides and signpost	As 1.3.1 from Sept 07 ongoing	PO	
	1.3.3 Production of Best Practice guides on low carbon housing and fuel poverty for the region including those on acquiring funding and influencing change	Identify gaps, seek funding, develop and promote new guides	Advice note for NWR on Sustainable Housing 01.08 Factsheets planned for 2008 -9	JG	4NW
	1.3.4 Utilisation of existing meetings and fora for information sharing	Hold HEON and NEA fora and identify other meetings in the region for sharing information	3 NEA fora p/a 4 HEON meetings p/a NWRA Housing event 01.08 NEA seminar 12.07 DEA conference 03.08	JG /BS JG	NEA UK HECA 4NW NEA EST
	1.3.5 Showcase and demonstration projects are visited	Identify showcase visits and demonstration projects	1 st visit to Manchester Eco house 02.08 3 visits planned for 08/09	All BS	
1.4 Multi-agency work is coordinated	1.4.1 Encouragement of local authorities and partners to establish effective referral systems between agencies at local level	Identify and promote effective local referral systems	Case studies on website under 'Partnerships'	JG	NWDA
	1.4.2 Effective referral systems between agencies at a regional and sub-regional level are established	Identify and promote regional and sub-regional referral systems	Joint working at sub regional level in Lancs, Cumbria Merseyside & Cheshire	JG PO	NEA
	1.4.3 Co-ordination or streamlining of Warm Front and Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funds at all levels (marketing, delivery etc)	Meet and discuss with Eaga and energy suppliers	Meet Eaga Oct 07 discuss better info to LAs including coordination of WF EC	JG	

1.5. Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working	1.5.1 Development of working partnerships or consortia in areas / topics where economies of scale would encourage action. For example - training / awareness raising - purchase of microgeneration technologies	Bid for resources for training
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Theme 2. Establish robust targeting and monitoring methodology for low carbon housing and fuel poverty

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress Dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
2.1 Monitoring and reporting methods for domestic energy efficiency and CO ₂ are agreed and utilised	2.1.1 Monitoring tools, methodology and reporting format for HECA reporting reviewed and agreed	Discuss monitoring needs with stakeholders – suggest way forward	Common reporting for HECA June 07	BS	
	2.1.2 Utilisation of heating and insulation data collection by various professions (surveyors, health sector staff, etc) to inform housing authorities' databases	Collect and disseminate information on effective data collection methods	Publication of NWRA Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions study Oct 07	CM	4NW / NWDA
2.2 Baseline mapping and indicators for fuel poverty are identified	2.2.1 The most appropriate mapping and indicators for fuel poverty reviewed and agreed (CSE fuel poverty indicator, SAP 65 etc)	Meet with relevant stakeholders	Common structure for Baseline and target setting for LAA NI 187 established June 08	DC	
	2.2.2 Baseline fuel poverty figures for the region / local authority made available	Identify and publicise figures	Review reported figures	PS/ JG	
2.3 Targeting tools / schemes are utilised	2.3.1 Purchasing of HEON Targeting Toolkit by the region, if appropriate, for targeting various domestic customer groups	Seek funding	Toolkit acquired and training courses run in 2007	PO	EST
	2.3.2 Area approach investigated (e.g. Warm Zones)	Investigate opportunities and costs	4 CEEF applications successful in NW Investigate local authority status to identify low levels of activity	PS, JG	DEFRA
2.4 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working	2.4.1 Resources pooled in the region to help establish a common baseline and reporting method	Promote pooling of resources	Occurring at sub-regional level (Lancs NI 187)	JG	

Theme 3 Access sustainable funding for low carbon housing and fuel poverty eradication

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
3.1 Maximum use made of locally available funding	3.1.1 Inclusion of energy efficiency and affordable warmth in Local Area Agreement bids	Collect LAA data, if this results in additional funding	Collection of LAA data for promotion in round 4 bids. Presentation to NEA Fuel Poverty Forum 11.07, HEON 12.07, NEA Seminar 12.07	PS/DC/ JG DC	NEA/HEON
	3.1.2 Production of a list / directory of locally available funding and timing of funding rounds	Disseminate information	Funding presentation at NEA Fuel Poverty Forum Nov 07– into DEA website	JG	NEA
	3.1.3 Inclusion of energy efficiency targets in Housing Renewal budgets	Establish the extent of energy efficiency included in HMR areas	LA area status report ongoing – end 08		
	3.1.4 Consideration of the use of interest free loans	Investigate expansion of existing initiatives			
3.2 Maximum use made of regionally available funding	3.2.1 Publicising and promotion of regional funding opportunities	Co-ordinate and inform stakeholders of opportunities	Funding presentation at NEA Fuel Poverty Forum Nov 07– onto DEA website	JG	NEA
3.3 Maximum use made of nationally available funding	3.3.1 Reduction of duplication of approaches by utilities to local authorities and householders for EEC schemes	Liaise with utilities			
	3.3.2 Identification of areas of low uptake of Warm Front	Liaise with Eaga	Information on local authority basis identified Meeting with eaga to agree ways to improve takeup Oct 07	JG	NEA
	3.3.3 Increase in applications made for grants for microgeneration	Encourage the promotion of grants			

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3.4 Maximum use made of European funding	3.4.1 Experience of utilisation of European funding in the domestic sector is shared	Identify opportunities for, and effective use of, European funding	Energy Advice in Europe conference attended 11.07 contact with potential European partners	JG	Energy Inform
3.5. Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working	3.5.1 Utilisation of Warm Front Grants in conjunction with LA housing repairs to maximise funds available	Provide evidence of good practice	Start of local authority status research 09. 07	JG	
	3.5.2 Joint bids for funding encouraged, particularly neighbouring authorities	Signpost good practice			
3.6 Lobbying is undertaken to ring-fence funding and / or make funding more long-term	3.6.1 Lobbying is undertaken to devolve EEC and Warm Front funding to regions	Meet relevant bodies to determine if this is possible			
	3.6.2 Lobbying is undertaken to remodel EEC funding to target low SAP properties, particularly 'Hard to Treat' properties (See Theme 6)	Set out case for the region for funds to deal with hard to treat properties			
3.7 Benefit take up is maximised to increase incomes and 'passport' low income households into grant schemes	3.7.1 Organisations providing benefit checks are aware of the benefits which 'passport' customers into grants for energy efficiency and refer on	Publicise links between benefits and grants throughout stakeholders' region			

Theme 4 Encourage the installation of microgeneration and energy efficient technologies

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
4.1 Planners, architects and developers are informed and supportive of low carbon housing	4.1.1 Identification and organisation of suitable agencies to run awareness-raising and training sessions in the region for planners, architects and developers on all aspects of microgeneration	Identify agencies and assist in organisation of training	Workshops held throughout region Sept 10.07 Sustainable Housing event 01.08	PO JG	4NW
	4.1.2 Utilisation of the database the 'Carbon Connection' to identify and exchange information about showcase projects	Publicise Carbon Connection to region			
4.2 Microgeneration technologies are understood by, accessible and affordable to the public	4.2.1 Provision of reliable and clear information about all aspects of domestic microgeneration as a matter of urgency (repeated from Theme 1)	Discuss most appropriate way to disseminate information	Info on DEA website – also signposting (presentations from workshops on website)	PO	
	4.2.2 Promotion of the availability of financial support for microgeneration, and support for householders to apply, source and install the products	Promote availability of financial support and suppliers	Workshops website and microgen directory	PO	
	4.2.3 Consideration by local authorities of financial incentives for households who apply for grants for microgeneration	Make local authorities aware of existing schemes in region	Local authority area status research (08 -09) will identify LAs who provide additional funding		
4.3. Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working	4.3.1 Development of joint funding bids	Discuss with HEON and other bodies			
4.4 Lobbying for higher energy efficiency standards on domestic appliances	4.4.1 Lobbying is undertaken for better energy labelling on domestic appliances or for a levy for high energy use appliances (possibly through Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes)	Set out region's concerns using information provided by stakeholders			

Theme 5 Encourage the further development of skills and training to deliver low carbon and affordably warm housing

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
5.1 Skills and training gaps in the supply chain for low carbon housing are identified	5.1.1 Review undertaken of training and skills including the work of Summit Skills on “Horizon” the Sector Skills Agreement for the Building Services Engineering Sector	Maintain contact with Sector Skills and regional agencies			
	5.1.2 Familiarisation of stakeholders with the NW review and other work in UK, e.g. Skills and training review in London, and Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes	Relevant skills and training info posted on DEA website and pro-actively promoted	Info on skills included in the NWRA Housing Advice note 01.08	JG	4NW
5.2 A trained workforce is established to deliver the technology for low carbon housing	5.2.1 Promotion and consultation on the development of new courses and modules based on the findings of the review in 5.1	Inform stakeholders of available training			
	5.2.2 Local colleges establish links with SummitSkills regarding their work on developing the Sector	Assist in information dissemination			
5.3 All stakeholders understand the need, and implementation methods, for low carbon and affordably warm housing	5.3.1 Energy awareness training undertaken for increased numbers of staff both in related professions and ancillary organisations e.g. health and social services sectors	Seek finance for training and recruit trainees	NEA projects have trained ‘health trainers’ and provided briefings to Lancs and Cumbria	JG	NEA
	5.3.2 Specific training delivered to more staff to enable them to deliver the Energy Performance Certificates and identify dwellings with low SAP ratings	Liaise with training providers and potential trainees	Undertaken by existing training providers for domestic Energy Assessors in North West	External	Private – fees paid by trainees
5.4 Opportunities are taken for maximising resources by joint working	5.4.1 Survey is undertaken to determine the demand for training identified in Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2	Undertake survey			
	5.4.2 Negotiation of bulk purchase of training	Negotiate bulk purchase of training			

Theme 6 Encourage the integration of low carbon housing and fuel poverty into local and regional policy frameworks

Needs	Goals	Contribution of the DEA	Progress dates and comments	DEA lead	Funding
6.1 The domestic agenda is fully integrated into the North West Climate Change Action Plan	6.1.1 Integration of the domestic agenda into the North West Climate Change Action Plan	Submit response to the CCAP and be recognised as lead agency in the North West	DEA is lead on Action 7 in CCAP DEA workplan 2008 -10 agreed by NWDA See www.nwdea.org.uk	BS All	NWDA NWDA
	6.2 All local authorities and partners have low carbon housing and affordable warmth strategies and ensure that the issues are integrated into local strategic processes	6.2.1 Local authorities surveyed to determine any gaps in local policy and strategy development	Undertake survey	Local authority area status report to be completed by Dec 08	JG
	6.2.2 LAs encouraged to incorporate low carbon housing and Affordable Warmth into Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Renewal Policies	Promote good practice	Info prepared for DEA website	JG	
	6.2.3 LAs encouraged to incorporate fuel poverty indicators into Local Area Agreements	Distribute good practice information and encourage debate on best indicators	LAAs indicators NI 186 and 187 agreed for a number of NW LAAs	PS,DC, JG	