



**Private Sector Housing**

# **Sustainable Energy in the Home**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010**

***West Housing Market Area  
Partnership Standing Conference***

**Private Sector Housing Advisor (HECA)**

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# Introduction

- Background to political agenda
- Affordable warmth
- Grant schemes
- Council Initiatives
- Challenges ahead



# What is Fuel Poverty?

The inability to afford to adequately heat the home”

Brenda Boardman, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University

Fuel poverty occurs when people need to spend more than 10% of disposable income on fuel to achieve adequate levels of warmth in their homes

# Political agenda

- Strategy in line with Government Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001, written following Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.
- Government to end fuel poverty for vulnerable households in England by 2010. Other households by 2016.
- LAA National Indicator 187. Monitors proportion of households containing someone on means tested benefit and SAP less than 35 and greater than 65.
- LAA National Indicator 186. Per capita CO2 emission reduction in local authority area.
- Energy performance of buildings Directive 2005. Display Energy Performance Certificate.



# Herefordshire situation

- In 2005 estimated 8540 (10.7%) dwellings in fuel poverty compared to 11% in England ( House Condition Survey)
- Ageing population - Herefordshire older age profile than region and England and Wales. 60+ group also rising
- Rural isolation - difficult for vulnerable groups to access services
- Old properties, solid walls, isolation and off gas network approximately 52% in Herefordshire
- Low incomes
- Nationally about 25% fuel poor not on relevant benefit where large portion would be eligible. Likely replicated in Herefordshire

# Affordable warmth Strategy

- Since launch July 2007 6000+ thermocards distributed.4000+Grant information leaflets in libraries, info shops Age Concern offices
- 70 energy efficiency workshops with primary school children
- Energy advice - flu clinics, mobile library bus
- NEA Air source heat pump specifier and manufacturer training project
- Awareness raising presentations: Age Concern, Children's centres,Pulmonary rehabilitation programme staff and Community mental health team, OT's, District Nurses, Village wardens, Drug advisory unit



# Benefits of affordable warmth

- Warm house reduces risk of circulatory and respiratory disease. Reduction in burden on health service
- Disposable incomes increased due to lower fuel bills from more energy efficient homes affordable heating systems and the most suitable fuel payment arrangement
- Insulated, sufficiently heated home less likely to suffer from damp and mould growth reducing impact on building structure and occupant's health
- more efficient use of fuel reduces the emissions produced from burning fossil fuels = mitigation of impacts of climate change

# Grants

- Special Energy Efficiency Scheme(SEES)
- Utility funded schemes
- Warm front
- Low carbon buildings programme
- Boiler scrappage scheme

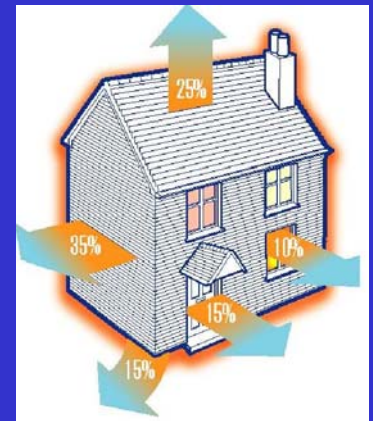


# Special Energy Efficiency Scheme (SEES)

- SEES 10<sup>th</sup> year operation. 11,000 households assisted. 2009-10 1130 SEES grants completed.
- Up to £500 – off gas households, 60+ age group, prepayment meters , benefit recipients.
- Measures – Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation, Draught Proofing for Windows and Doors, Hot Water Tank Jackets and Heating Controls, renewable technologies
- 2008/09 Domestic and General Insulation carried out 2262 Reduction Target (CERT) funded loft and cavity wall insulation installations.

# Thermal imaging Project

- Thermal imaging project 2009/10 with Heatseekers. imaging of 24,000 properties
- Identifies heat loss in roof and wall area.
- No charge to Herefordshire Council
- To continue 2010-11 followed by marketing process from Mark Insulations.



# Housing and Health Agenda

- Private Sector Housing report “Housing and Health”
- Emphasises strong links with health home and good health – Housing health and safety rating system  
Excess cold, damp and mould, falls. 459 excess winter deaths
- Aim to develop partnership working with PCT.
- Report sent to the Director of Health of Herefordshire PCT. Presented to senior staff at the PCT, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health national meeting “Better Housing Better Health, London 2009 and regional Government Office West M DOH Planning for a Healthier Region 2009.

# Housing and Health Agenda

- Fed into DOH Health Inequalities National Support Team 2010 excess seasonal mortality workshops.
- Importance of links between housing and health and interventions against excess winter deaths in consultation on development of Health Improvement plan for Herefordshire at Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group workshop
- Attended Worcestershire NHS event “ Dying to be warm Tackling Excess Winter Death in Worcestershire” to develop ideas for running similar event in Herefordshire

# Renewable energy assistance

- Low Carbon Building programme -Central Government renewable energy grant for all
- Solar thermal, ground source heat pumps and bio energy (room heaters, stoves and wood fuelled boiler systems) 0800 915 0990
- Feed in Tariffs and Renewables heat incentive
- SEES renewables £500 grant to 90 households.£529 000 external funding.

# Village Hall Energy Challenge

- £6500 for 3 parish councils with highest number of carbon footprints on [www.myherefordshire.com](http://www.myherefordshire.com)
- To help individuals become familiar with their own carbon footprint and encourage participants to consider how to reduce carbon footprints
- To catalyse a coordinated community approach to mitigating climate change
- Helping Parish Councils to lead by example by improving village hall energy performance
- Help contribute to local and national climate change targets

# Village Hall Energy Challenge

- March 15th 2010 to June 15th 2010
- 29 Parish Councils confirmed
- Prize money awarded through reimbursement up to value of £6500 upon production of invoices
- Prize money towards cost of physical plant or equipment to improve energy efficiency of parish/village hall building e.g the purchase of solar panels, new double glazing (replacing single glazing), new insulation, heat pumps, biomass systems and stoves.

# •Village Hall Energy Challenge

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the 'CO2 Wizard' website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www.myherefordshire.com/climatechange/Co2CalcWizard.aspx>. The website header includes the 'myherefordshire.com' logo and the tagline 'bringing us together'. A navigation menu contains links for 'logout', 'my profile', 'contact us', 'sitemap', 'help', and 'search'. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is titled 'create footprint' and shows the user's progress through a 'co2 calculator' with three tabs: 'co2 calculator', 'your footprint', and 'recommendations'. The current step is 'your household', which asks the user to enter the number of people living in their household. The input field shows the number '3'. Navigation buttons for 'back' and 'next' are visible at the bottom of the step.

On the right side, a 'your footprint' summary shows a total of '5.9 Tonnes CO2'. Below this, a progress indicator shows three steps: 'start' (Instructions), '1 household' (Household Size, Food Spend, Energy Sources, Energy Uses, Light Bulbs, Reductions), and '2 transport' (Car, Motorcycle, Public Transport, Air Travel). The final step is 'finish' (Congratulations). A 'Submit Feedback' link is at the bottom right.

The left sidebar contains a 'home' menu with links to 'jobs', 'news', 'travel', 'events', 'photos', 'who's who', 'youth zone', 'public services', 'climate change', 'emergency info', and 'our neighbours'. Below this are sections for 'accessibility' (listen to this page), 'what's new' (calculate your footprint, why not get involved?, find out about us?), and 'my stuff' (my profile, my alerts, my events).

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Done' and 'Local intranet'.

# Challenges

- Rising fuel prices— need to look forward towards renewable energy and ensuring new homes built to high energy efficiency standards, social tariffs
- Warm front scheme – long timescales, high costs, at times poor work
- Solid walled hard to heat hard to treat homes – Pay as you save pilots, Kick start loan schemes
- Awareness and understanding of behavioural energy savings – Energy Saving Trust funding for smart meters for number (100) of Herefordshire residents. Real time consumption displayed

# Help available

- Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Free phone 0800 512 012
- Herefordshire Council Energy Team 01432 260398/ 261887

