

HECA

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EEC 2002 - 2005 Completed, Looking to the Future

npower is pleased to report a particularly successful conclusion to a three-year energy saving programme. Through our balanced Savings for Life programme we have exceeded our energy saving target, met the 50% requirement to be delivered to customers categorised as priority group¹ and achieved a smooth transition into EEC 2005 - 2008.

The following is an extract from our forthcoming annual report by Mike Lock, npower's Energy Services Manager.

"During EEC 2002-2005 we have successfully implemented and managed a record number of projects. Our aims have been to provide an excellent level of customer service and to be a proactive partner to the organisations we've had the pleasure of working with during the last three years.

It is to our partner organisations that we wish to record our thanks for assisting us to expand the market for energy efficient products and services. Ever increasing energy saving targets have meant continuing pressure to design innovative propositions and new ways of targeting and reaching a greater number of customers. However, all of this would be to no avail if the delivery mechanisms of the energy efficiency industry were not able to cope with the increased volumes. And cope they have.

We must not forget the customers who purchase the energy efficient products. We are all subjected to a constant stream of marketing messages

each day. And we all know that energy efficiency is not the most attention grabbing of products on the market. So, to those who are enjoying the low running costs and improved comfort conditions that energy efficiency brings, thank you for doing your bit. And yes, you really have made a difference.

The level of activity during the latter stages of EEC 2002-2005 has been at a point where we are close to projecting energy efficiency into mainstream markets. The EEC 2005 - 2008 is again a doubling of energy saving target. To achieve these targets, energy suppliers will have to assess the routes to market and develop those that have the capacity to contribute significantly.

Our own investment in the growth of the energy efficiency market is not just through the substantial financial support we give to products and the delivery chain but also through the support of the dedicated team here at npower Energy Services. Growth has required increased activity and the introduction of programmes with greater complexity. I am, personally, pleased to be able to state that the team has responded magnificently to the challenge."

Developing the integrated approach through our unique partnerships, such as Warm Wales - Cymru Gynnes (described in Spring's HECA Network News) allows scope for the npower Energy Services team to build initiatives that meet the requirements of our partner organisations. Recognition of the varying criteria in this way is the platform for building and sustaining mutually beneficial relationships.

We especially encourage Social Housing providers to benefit from our programme and gain funding support

For more information on HECA, the Home Energy Conservation Association, visit www.hecafora.com



towards energy efficiency measures for their housing stock. The significant reduction in the cost of energy efficiency measures will greatly assist the progress towards targets such as the Decent Homes Standard, affordable warmth, sustainable housing and other environmental issues. Our insulation, heating and fuel switching projects have capacity for inclusion under the npower EEC 2005-2008 programme. Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to discuss the incorporation of your improvement initiatives into our programme; the Energy Services Team can be contacted via email at savingsforlife@npower.com

Copies of the EEC Annual Report 2004 - 2005 are available by request to the same email address.

Finally, whilst EEC is principally a carbon saving programme we must not forget the social benefits that are derived from installing energy efficiency measures. As we all know, energy efficiency has benefits that can transform the living conditions of the vulnerable and fuel poor, giving increased comfort and greater control that many of us take for granted. Keeping these social implications in mind, our continuing programme will strive to exceed our EEC 2005 - 2008 targets. Saving money. Saving Energy. Saving the environment.

¹ Under the EEC (2002 - 2005) a priority group household is one in receipt of at least one of the following benefits: Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit (with an annual household income of less than £14,200), Child Tax Credit (with an annual household income of less than £14,200), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (where it includes Constant Attendance Allowance), War Disablement Pension, Pension Credit.

Ockendon Students Play out the SAVE Message

Young actors from The Ockendon School, put on a very special theatrical performance for special guests last week. Following months of preparation, including dedicating their free time to rehearsals and designing and making their own costumes, the students presented their 30-minute play about saving energy on Tuesday, 5 April. Special guests at the performance included Thurrock's Mayor, Ian Harrison, Thurrock Council staff and representatives from United Utilities.

The theme of the play was how our current energy use is affecting our planet and what the future could be like if we do not make changes now. The show evolved from Thurrock Council's SAVE (Schools Acting to Value Energy) scheme which aims to educate both children and adults about the easy ways to be environmentally friendly, save energy and save money.

The performance was video taped so that other schools can learn from the important energy-saving messages



The students join their special guests to celebrate the success of the SAVE play

presented in the play. Schools from across Essex and the East of England have already asked for a copy of the video and there have even been enquiries from a school in Texas, USA.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the students involved in the production and the direction of Denise Fryer their drama teacher. I would like to say how impressed I am, not only with the show, but with the way the group has positively embraced the concept of energy conservation.

- Angela Hogg, Thurrock Council's Energy Manager

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Please send any news items, articles or pictures that you would like to see in this Newsletter to Helen Atkins at the UK HECA Secretariat, email: ukheca@leicester.gov.uk, Telephone: (0116) 299 5133, Fax: (0116) 299 5137 Address: UK HECA Secretariat, 2-4 Market Place South, LEICESTER, LE1 5HB.

SHECANE Plans for Sustainable Energy

The Southern Home Energy Conservation Action Network (SHECANE) have engaged their Local Authority Support Programme to provide a series of seminars for their Planning Departments, alerting them to the need to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy in future developments.

Sustainable energy issues are now high on the Government's agenda and last summer saw the publication of the final version of the Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (PPS22). PPS22 emerged from the Government's Energy White Paper (2003), which sought to bring the consideration of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developments more within the scope of the planning systems.

SHECANE has been a highly effective partnership working on sustainable energy initiatives since 1998 and is made up of representatives from all the Hampshire district authorities and, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Isle of Wight Council. The Network are aware that addressing sustainability is much wider than the remit of one HECA Officer in the council, and identified that their planning departments would benefit from a full understanding of the impli-

cations and issues surrounding planning and energy efficiency / renewable energy, and sought to address this through a series of seminars aimed specifically at planners.

SHECANE engaged their Local Authority Support Programme (LASP) from the Environment Centre (tEC), to organise tailored seminars for their authorities. These seminars, entitled 'Planning for Sustainable Energy' provided full training on renewable energy and energy efficiency for planners and members, followed by an illustration of how local planning authorities need to take account of the policies as set out in PPS22 in all their development documents and local development frameworks. The policies within PPS22 provide a much greater focus on the need to meet national and international targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and require that local authorities "promote and encourage, rather than restrict the development of renewable energy resources."

The LASP worked in association with Consultants from Future Energy Solutions and FPD Savills, and also obtained significant funding from Hampshire County Council to help meet the costs of these seminars. Each seminar included a facilitated discussion on taking things forward in the Council, and identifying the key next steps for the planners. The LASP also assisted one council in obtaining over £7000 from the Government Office for the South

East, which will be used to fund some consultants to undertake research into the potential for the various renewable energy technologies within the borough, and provide key criteria for new developments in the area.

Stephanie Evans, LASP Co-ordinator, was very pleased with the series of seminars. "The Government Office for the South East provided some money for some planning seminars in 2003. However, since the funding had to cover the whole of the South East Region, only two local authorities in Hampshire were able to receive a seminar. Therefore we are very happy that we have been able to provide eleven more seminars, ensuring that every planning department in the county has received an individually tailored Planning for Sustainable Energy seminar, including the unitary councils of Portsmouth CC and Southampton CC. It is important that planners know the significance of energy efficiency, as they are making development decisions now which will affect everybody's future." Stephanie went on to say that greenhouse gas emissions, as a result of poor energy efficiency in buildings, are greater than the emissions from transport, but are not given as much attention because they are unseen.

If you would like more information on the seminars, please contact Stephanie Evans, LASP Co-ordinator, at the Environment Centre on 023 8033 6207 or by email at stephanie.evans@environmentcentre.com



Delegates observing a hybrid car at the South Wales HECA Forum Conference

ampton. The gifts included low energy light bulbs, tank jackets, low energy kettles, re-usable canvas shopping bags, locally grown food, fair trade tea and coffee, and environmentally friendly cleaning products. The lucky Southampton families also benefited from a Fair Trade Hamper each, to celebrate Southampton becoming a Fair Trade City.

The Sykes family found the free energy meter most useful, which plugs into electrical equipment such as the kettle or the stereo. "It tells you how much energy is being used," said Mr Sykes. The meter has taught the family not to leave the video or computer on standby. "Now we try to remember to turn them off at night. They use a frightening amount of power."

Some families have gone a bit further and invested in energy saving measures such as loft insulation and cavity wall insulation. "There are grants available to fund these things and you can save hundreds of pounds a year," said Mr Sykes. But saving cash wasn't the main incentive for the Sykes family. "It's all to do with global warming."

David Hoadley from the Solent EEAC who visited the families regularly throughout the year was pleased with the results of the project. "All the families have made simple changes that make a big difference to our planet. Some of these changes may appear insignificant, but if everyone does them, the amount of energy saved mounts up. For example, if everyone in Britain turned off electrical appliances instead of leaving them on standby, one less large power station would be needed in Britain."

Annabel Preston, from the Environment Centre (tEC) in Southampton, who helped co-ordinate the project, was happy with the outcomes from the project. "Greenhouse gas emissions from the domestic sector are now the biggest contributor to global warming. Our Green Resolutions project has shown that by making small changes to our routines and habits we can all do our bit to help the environment and tackle climate change."

For more information on the Green Resolutions Project, please contact Annabel Preston on 023 8063 2729, or by email on: annabel.preston@environmentcentre.com.

Climate Change Hits Home

On Friday, 20 May 2005, a South Wales HECA Forum conference which sought to highlight the important issue of climate change in Wales, the role Local Authorities have to play, and some best practice already underway, was held at St Donats Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan.

More than 80 Elected Members and Senior Officers from 11 Local Authorities across South East Wales attended this prestigious event at the historic St Donats Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Speakers included John Smith MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, Mick Bates AM for Montgomeryshire and Chairman of the National Assembly Sustainable Energy Group, Cllr John Thomas of Vale of Glamorgan Council, Philip Sellwood - Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust, Steve Waller of the Improvement and Development Agency and Annie Thompsett of the Carbon Trust.

Allan Jones of Torfaen CBC and Janice Lyon of Aberdeen City Council also presented case studies of how significant energy savings can be made in both public and domestic council and privately owned stock.

A range of related industrial partners provided exhibitions and information displays on their work, and an opportunity was given to view up-close some of the latest dual-fuel and hybrid low-energy vehicles, which were on display outside the venue for the duration of the event.

Robust questions and answers completed what was a very interesting and informative day for delegates.

The event was organised and delivered by a consortium of organisations, including the South Wales HECA Forum, EnergyFocus Programme (S.E. Wales Local Energy Support Team), Energy Saving Trust Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, Welsh Local Government Association, with sponsorship from EAGA Partnership Wales.

Copies of presentations given on the day, along with information from the delegate pack can be obtained by contacting EnergyFocus on 01633 267824 or dilys@sewenergy.org.uk.



Speakers and HECA Officers pictured at 'Climate Change Hits Home'

Spreading the Word in Derby

Recently, we've been working out how many households have been taken out of fuel poverty in Derby up to 31 March 2005. We found that 18.7% of households are suffering from fuel poverty - that's almost 10% lower than in 2001. This means that, even though fuel prices have increased over the past six months, 3,192 households were taken out of fuel poverty over the past year. This has been done mainly through the Warm Front grant and Derby 'Homes Pride' programme. Other activities that have helped include better partnership working.

As we've said before, while this is very

good news, there's still a lot of work to do. The key areas that we aim to develop are getting health professionals to be more involved and frontline workers to refer more households to us. We've made some progress on both of these over recent months. We're especially pleased with the number of people who have attended our Fighting Fuel Poverty training course.

The Council's Home Energy Advice Service has had a busy few months. Our activities have included:

Home energy advice tour

We've just finished a tour of the city that took us to ten different places - from libraries to community centres. Our aim was to give residents the chance to come and get energy advice and information locally. We offered the incentive of a free energy-saving light bulb to everyone that filled in our home energy questionnaire. We

had 84 visitors in total, with 58 people taking a light bulb away. We plan to do another tour, later in the year, to get to the seven wards we missed this time.

Home energy advice surgeries

As well as the tour, we also held two advice surgeries at the Guildhall Club Room. These were great successes as well - we had over 170 visitors and gave out over 300 energy-saving light bulbs and 17 hot water tank jackets. We may well hold another surgery in April - if we have some light bulbs left!

Future activities

Our future plans to help Derby residents have warmer, more energy-efficient homes include:

- attending the EcoFest on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September;
- home energy advice tour - part two: we plan to visit the seven wards we missed in early 2005.

- Richard Murrell



all change for climate change national home energy conference 2005

held on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 May 2005
at the Highcliff Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth

Conference Steering Group Chair's Report

Preparations for the 2005 conference started in August 2004. Following a visit to check the hotel facilities at the Bournemouth Marriott, the steering group set about the hard work of planning the conference.

The theme 'All Change for Climate Change' was designed to reflect the important role home energy efficiency could play in alleviating the threat that continues to expose the environment and our planet.

Once again the conference provided an excellent opportunity for networking, which is one of the constant features of the National Home Energy Conference. We felt that the standard of plenary speakers was of a higher standard, and provided more choice with the workshops, especially with the new initiative of having best practice case studies from HECA officers from every region and devolved country.

Day One

Pre-registering a number of delegates during the previous evening proved helpful in welcoming delegates to the conference, and helped ease the burden on what is always a hectic time for the steering group finalising all the preparations.

The conference commenced with some technical difficulties, which were expertly overcome with the professionalism of the speakers and behind the scenes working from the steering group. Following the first session the rest of the day ran reasonably smoothly and no further technical difficulties were experienced. Bruce Pittingale provided an overview of the HECA forums annual activities, and informed delegates of the forums new identity 'the National Home Energy Conservation Association'.

Plenary session speakers for day one were:-

- Nigel Dewbery, Enact Energy - Sponsors Address.
- Peter Daley, Eaga Partnership - Warmfront.
- Joanne Carr, NEA - NEA strengthening focus on fuel poverty.
- Jim Skea, UK Energy Research Centre - The Role of Research.

- Aubrey Meyer, Global Commons Institute - Contraction and Convergence.
- Dr Brenda Boardman, Environmental Change Institute University of Oxford Housing & Energy Strategy.

During the breaks, it was pleasing to see delegates visiting the many exhibitors and there was a vibrant buzz coming from the exhibition areas. This also continued to be the case throughout the conference.

Conference Dinner & HECA Awards

It was pleasing to have The Mayor of Bournemouth and the Mayoress as guests for the Conference dinner along with Baroness Maddock and Professor John Chesshire. The evening entertainment (a closely kept secret amongst the steering group) proved to be a huge success with *Incognito*, which certainly had the desired effect of bringing a pleasant atmosphere to the hall prior to the presentation of the 2005 HECA officer awards, which was again very well attended by award winners.

Day Two

- Professor John Chesshire chaired the second day, and delivered this year's keynote address - 'The Pace and the Climate: both are getting hotter'. The Worshipful the Mayor of Bourne-

level power station heat through a grid power station, [Aberdeen sustainable energy projects.

The school and its using on-site renewable energy as well as a practical council). They stay open evening classes and

terrace housing

Local authority development control, building control and energy advice centres, are now a single merged one-stop Sustainable Building Support Service which gives advice to developers and sets locally - specific environmental standards higher than national ones, in response to local policies.

Existing housing has been brought up to the highest energy standards practicable at the point at which major refurbishment was taking place anyway, as first required in the 2005 building regulations. These standards often approach what new build can achieve. (RB Kensington and Chelsea Flagship Home and the Nottingham Ecohome.)

Thus the local authority mediates and manages a mechanism that requires and encourages the highest practicable energy efficiency standards in both new and existing housing, and pays for improvements out of energy sales and development gains.

water management

Climate change has reduced overall rainfall, requiring better water management. Most houses have large water butts to collect rainwater (Harrogate Borough Council).

household gardens

Supplementary planning guidance encourages tree planting, which provides natural shading in summer and also helps absorb excess groundwater. Under its local sustainable food policy, the council supports initiatives including a 'matchmaker' database to put keen gardeners in touch with people who have spare food growing space in their gardens but lack the time and energy to do it themselves, and a marketing collective to re-sell local organic produce, underwritten by a commitment by school, hospital and other public service kitchens to buy surplus produce (Bristol City Council).

PV panels

Building regulations require new housing to achieve zero net carbon emissions. Builders are free to use whatever combinations of technologies they wish to achieve this result.

lock-up compartments

Twice a week, reusable plastic crates of foods pre-ordered over the internet are delivered, leaving the boxes in a lockup cool compartment outside the house. The driver takes back empty boxes, milk bottles and a range of other standardised containers (jam jars, wine bottles) for washing and reuse in local plants (many of them modernised milk bottling factories).

transport

Land use policies have encouraged balanced communities where employment, education and other amenities are closer to where people live; the council subsidises the buses; high costs for longer-distance travel have encouraged people at all income levels to live nearer their work, making walking and cycling more feasible.

street layout

More extreme weather events such as flash floods require larger eaves, gutters and drains and unpaved soakaways to cope with more violent and concentrated rain. Paved areas are mostly permeable, and any solid paving has pebbled edges or other provision for rain to drain away. The local authority Sustainable Building Support Service advises on and agrees street layouts to achieve minimum hard surface and maximum tree cover (to reduce the 'urban heat island' effect) and permeable surface (to recharge groundwater and avoid run-off).



Enact Energy's Nigel Dewbery passes the mic to Bruce Pittingale

dependence in the housing sector;

- enable local authorities to access locally-meaningful real-time energy consumption data at six-figure post-code level.

Local authorities have a huge opportunity to help make this future a reality. Councils owe it to their communities to take on the challenge of climate change with strong commitment and leadership. Whatever a local authority has or has not done in the past, now is the time to start

action on climate change. The first step should be a political and senior

mouth also addressed the conference.

Other plenary session speakers were:-

- Peter Brunt, Energy Strategy Unit DTI Climate Change and Energy.
- Tim Garner & Baroness Maddock, Utilicom Southampton Community District heating system.
- Dr William Bird, Met Office Health Forecasting.
- Phillip Sellwood, Chief Executive EST Future of EST working with Local Authorities.

(Presentations of all plenary session speakers can be downloaded from the HECA for website: www.hecafora.com/conference).

As with tradition with the National Home Energy Conference the setting for this day is of an informal nature, as delegates continue networking.

Workshops

There were a variety of workshops for delegates to attend and participate in. One new feature for this conference was to have best practice case studies from all regions and devolved countries throughout the UK. The response received from HECA officers throughout the country on the many varied projects was excellent, and the steering group had a difficult job in selecting the case studies to be presented at the conference. It has been suggested that this feature should continue for the next conference.

Other workshops presented were: Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes conducted three different pre-

sentations:-

- 1 Scheme Integration,
 - 2 Private Rented Sector,
 - 3 Fuel Poverty & Public Health groups.
- Susan Crawley (EST) Sustainable Energy Centres undertook a workshop on the impact a Sustainable Energy Centre will have in replacing the Local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

Katherine Smith OFGEM demonstrated the effects the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2 will play in improving energy efficiency within the various housing sectors between 2005 and 2008-2011.

Enact Energy, Sponsors

For the second year Enact Energy sponsored the conference. Enact were pleased with how the conference was organised and how everything went. UK HECA were once again pleased with the sponsorship offered, and welcomed the continued partnership and support offered by Enact Energy.

Adrian Wright Enact Energy Managing Director quoted; 'The HECA conference is always a great opportunity for us to meet up with our partners from around the UK and to meet some of the many new faces now working in home energy conservation. This year's conference in Bournemouth was no exception and we were proud to have been able to act as sole sponsors for such a successful, well organised and fun event'.

UK HECA would like to thank Enact Energy for their continued sponsorship.

Exhibitors

The exhibition rooms were filled with

exhibitors from various companies, which helped create a friendly environment for networking amongst delegates. Therefore, we would like to thank all exhibitors for their help in making this a successful conference.

Conference Feedback

The conference has received a number of positive comments from delegates, which is pleasing to hear, and although the conference at Cardiff was a hard act to follow, it is believed that this conference further built on our previous success. This was borne by the many comments received and the results from the feedback forms.

However there are still improvements that can be made, which we recognise from your valued feedback and please continue to send in your comments. Constructive criticism is as valued as positive feedback; this enables the steering group to keep focused and deliver the conference that will benefit energy officers throughout the UK.

And Finally, the Steering Group

The conference could not go ahead if it were not for the outstanding work that the steering group undertakes. Therefore a special thank you to the group: Helen Atkins, Alison Hartley, Brian Sexton, Stewart Conway, Alison McCafferty, Paul Maplethorpe, Erica Pretty, Rob Leeson, Bruce Pittingale and myself (Steve Martin).

See you next year in Blackpool on May 16 and 17, 2006!

- Steve Martin
Conference Steering Group Chair

national HECA Awards 2005

This year's HECA awards were sponsored by the Energy Saving Trust and were presented at the National Home Energy Conference 2005 Gala Dinner by Baroness Maddock and Professor John Chesshire OBE. The awards, themselves, were designed by the UK HECA Secretariat and constructed by Roy Tam Design of Dorset using wood from sustainable sources. This year's HECA Awards winners are shown below.



Baroness Maddock (left) & Prof John Chesshire (right) presented the awards

London:
Jean Roberts, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Jeremy Hopkins, Westminster City Council

Wales:
Pam Walters, Swansea City Council

Enact Energy also presented their own award to Paul Bourgeois



East Pennine:
John Manton, North East Lincolnshire Council



South East:
Louise Shrubsole, Seven Oaks District Council



Northern Ireland:
Andrew Frew, Northern Ireland Housing Executive



HEON - Eastern:
Paul Bourgeois, Broadland District Council



East Midlands:
Benjamin Agbasi, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council



Scottish HECA Officers' Network (SHON):
Collected on behalf of Heather McQuillan, Dundee City Council



South West:
Peter Nobes, Kennet District Council



NEDEF:
Chris Mills on behalf of the Newcastle Affordable Warmth Steering Group



West Midlands:
John Burns, Birmingham City Council



HEON - North West:
Ed Kingsley, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council



Steve Martin dons a waiter's uniform (in a new scheme to get free drinks, perhaps?)

The winner of Enact Energy's champagne draw

Delegates attending the EEC2 workshop

Speakers Peter Daley, Joanne Carr and Jim Skea take questions from the floor on the first morning



all change for climate change

national home energy conference 2005

Conference Feedback Report

Conference

Although initially there were a few minor hitches with the audio-visual equipment, there was positive feedback about the wide range of main room speakers; delegates were especially pleased with presentations by Dr Brenda Boardman, Aubrey Meyer and Dr William Bird. There were some comments about the lack of governmental representation. This was due to the general election being held a week before the conference, so Members of Parliament were unable to commit to attending. Other comments included: "a lack of information about HECA and its future", "technical information sparse" and "timekeeping was poor on Q&A sessions". However, nearly all respondents rated the speakers and the conference overall as 'excellent' or 'good'. Comments included "The speakers were excellent, relevant and gave me energy to come back and do more!" With regards to comments about no handouts, the steering group made the decision not to put them in delegate packs, as they are difficult to obtain in time for printing and use up a lot of paper. Instead, the presenta-

tions, accompanying notes and website links were made available on www.hecafora.com. Comments made on feedback forms will be used when the steering group meets to decide on next year's speakers. If you would like to make suggestions for speakers, please contact the UK HECA Secretariat.

Venue

It is difficult for delegates to travel long distances, so, as HECA is a national association, the location for each conference is revolved around the UK each year. This enables HECA officers from all the regions to attend at least one conference close to their local authority. Bournemouth was chosen as this year's venue because of its good public transport links and because the previous two conferences were held in Wales and the North East. Next year we will be following the political conference trail again and will be holding the event in Blackpool.

Each year, we advertise to book early; this is not a gimmick! We are allocated a set number of delegate spaces, which include accommodation, at the venue hotel. Once these have sold, we use hotels in the vicinity to accommodate the remaining delegates. Unfortunately, each year we get feedback on the quality of the additional accommodation used in comparison to accommodation at the Marriott. This is noticeable on chart 3 with a small percentage ticking fair and poor boxes and around 80% rating excellent

or good. As the venue hotel provides special rates for delegates staying in-house, it is often more expensive for delegates to stay in other hotels than at the Marriott. If we provided 4-star accommodation for all delegates the cost of attending the conference would almost double! The conference is growing in success and capacity each year. It is therefore planned that next year the venue will be much larger and will enable us to accommodate up to 250 delegates on-site, reducing the amount of additional accommodation.

There was a 50/50 split on vegetarian and meat dishes on offer at the buffet lunches and all dietary requirements were met at the gala dinner. Unfortunately, we cannot cater for all tastes but tried to offer a varied and healthy choice of food. Generally the catering was rated as 'excellent or good', although there was a mixture of comments for and against meat/meat free dishes. It was also commented upon that labelling of sandwich fillings and vegetarian options was not clear. This point will be taken into consideration for next year.

Additional information

There were a number of changes to both the workshop and main room schedules, prior to the event, which

prevented us from publishing a pre-event brochure. Instead, both schedules were updated on the website as and when changes occurred. Next year, we will aim to produce a final brochure a month prior to the event but we suggest that the website is used as a reference for updates on any changes. This is also the same for the workshops, as some delegates commented that information was not made available soon enough. Although over 90% of delegates rated the conference literature as excellent or good, there were a few comments made about the accuracy of the information in the brochure. In response to this, there were some very last minute changes to the programme and it would have been impossible to reflect these changes in the brochure, since it has to be sent to print at least one week prior to the event.

The gala dinner was an eventful night, with the HECA award presentations and *Tenors & Divas Incognito's* surprise act. There were a significant number of positive comments about the networking opportunities at the Conference. However, although there was positive feedback about the entertainment and a lot of fun was had, the giant games split between the exhibition and bar area didn't prove as good a networking opportunity as the previous year's.

73% of delegates that responded thought that the organisation was 'excellent' and a further 23% ticked 'good'. Each year, the comments made on the feedback forms are put forward to the steering group and

action is taken where needed. We have had some constructive criticism, mainly regarding the workshops, which will also be taken into consideration next year. As can be seen in Chart 3, delegates were pleased with the conference overall with around 60% marking excellent. The most common comments, when asked what were the best aspects of the conference, were the networking opportunities, the main room guest speakers and the workshops.

Workshops

Chart 2 shows the feedback received about specific workshops. Unfortunately the majority of the workshop names weren't filled in by the delegates. It is therefore only a representation of some of the views received.

The HECA officer and EEC2 workshops had the most positive comments such as "Best practice workshops worked well, and gave us a practical look at what was going on elsewhere. I would also like to see these become a regular fixture". The other workshops had a mixture of responses ranging from excellent to fair; only the scheme integration workshop didn't fair too well but this can't be taken as a true representation with only four responses. Not everyone was in favour of the workshops; this is particularly true from the comments received about workshops not being interactive enough. There were also some points raised about the workshops becoming full and not being big enough. There were mixed responses to the workshop lengths, with some delegates wanting longer workshop sessions and less plenary presentations

and others suggesting scrapping workshops altogether.

With the introduction of HECA officer workshops, it meant that not all of the workshops could be attended. Some delegates noted the negative aspects of this but it did mean that there was a wider choice of workshops to attend. As the HECA officer workshops had good feedback, this may be repeated again next year with another range of best practice examples.

Exhibition

Although not specifically asked for, there were a few comments about the exhibition. These included making the exhibition area bigger to attract more companies and inviting more renewable suppliers by possibly reducing the exhibitors' price. One delegate suggested the idea of "ensuring suppliers have 'surgeries' so we can suss out EEC ideas (perhaps some designated slots during the lunch break after main session)".

Future Conferences

From the HECA Fora's conception it was agreed that conferences should rotate around England, N.Ireland, Wales and Scotland. So far, the majority of the conferences have been held in England and one held in Cardiff in 2004. With another conference scheduled for England in 2006, the possibility of holding a conference in Northern Ireland was discussed with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Members of the NIHE welcomed the idea, so we took this opportunity to ask HECA officers if they would attend a conference held in N.Ireland, at what cost and if they had any comments.

Chart 1: Opinions on Holding Conference in Northern Ireland

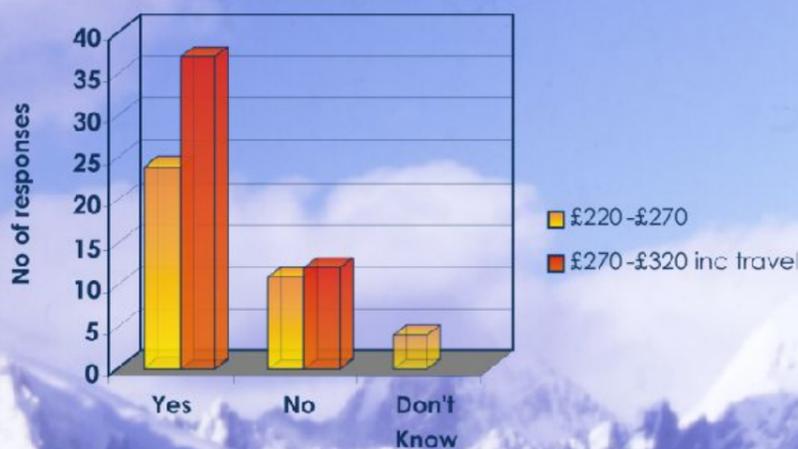


Chart 2: Workshop Feedback

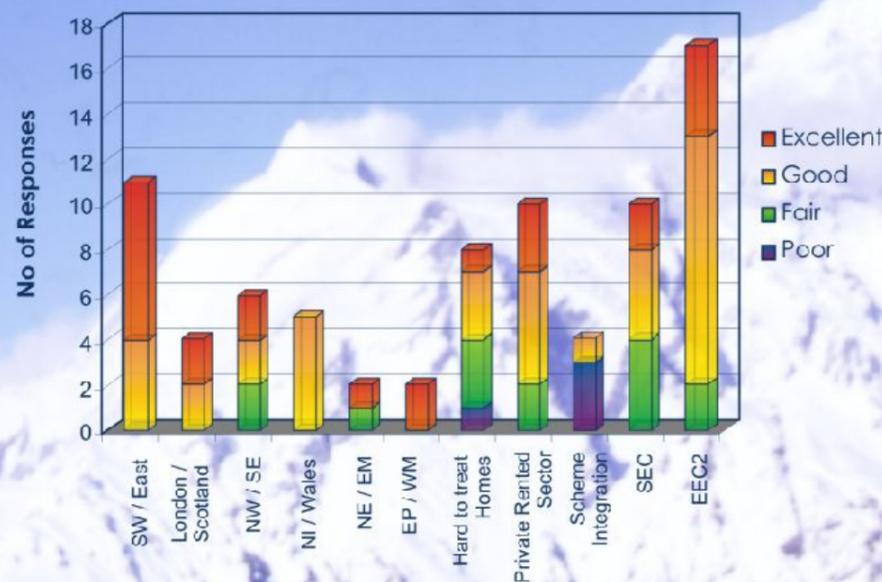
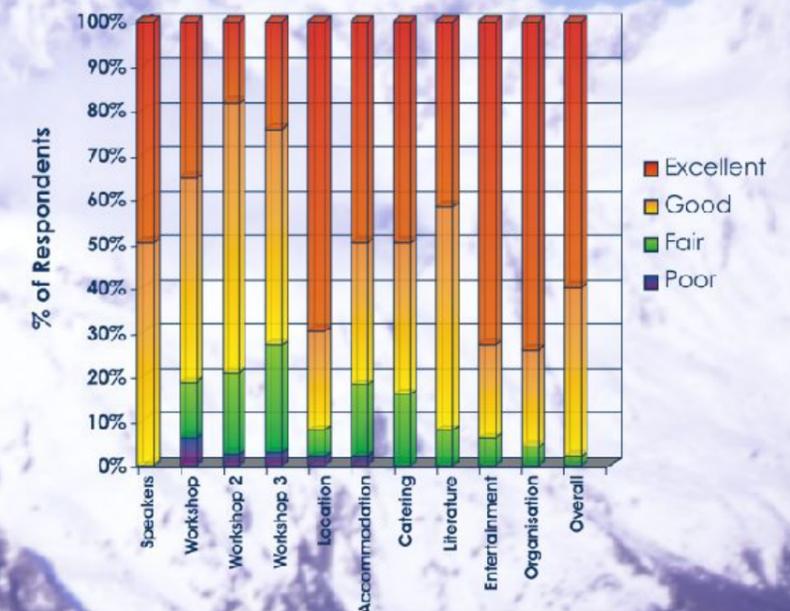


Chart 3: Delegate Feedback





all change for climate change
national home energy conference 2005



Chart 1 shows the number of respondents. it should be noted that delegates were able to tick both boxes for yes and no when prompted about costs. Although it was clear that the majority (61) of responses were for the conference being held in Northern Ireland, there were some concerns over the carbon emission implications and the need to set a good example. There will be an investigation into the cost and transport elements before the conference venue can be confirmed. Some delegates ticked both the yes boxes but stated that their council may not allow travel this far or the cost would effect being able to attend or not. A number of respondents suggested three night's accommodation, site visits and local attraction tours (not on a conference day). It has previously been discussed that if the conference took place it would include a number of site visits.

- Helen Atkins
UK HECA Secretariat

Thanks to everyone who supported the National Home Energy Conference 2006.
See you next year on May 16th and 17th in Blackpool!



Working with



The HECA Secretariat is funded by the Energy Saving Trust

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The National Home Energy Conference 2005 was Sponsored by:



HEAT is an Enact Energy managed project



Helen is serenaded by a mysterious stranger

♪ Baby, leave a light on for me... ♪

A delegate refuses to give up the mic during the Q&A session and is wrestled to the ground



From left to right: Baroness Maddock, Bruce Pittingale, Mrs Edith Prior, Mayoress of Bournemouth and Councillor Mrs Emily Morrell-Cross, the Worshipful the Mayor of Bournemouth

Delegates playing a voodoo doll version of Kerplunk

Leading the Way: How Local Authorities Can Meet the Challenge of Climate Change

The following article is taken from the document published by the Local Government Association entitled 'Leading the way: how local authorities can meet the challenge of climate change'. The full document is available to download online at www.lga.gov.uk by clicking on 'publications' and then 'L' from the alphabetical list.

executive summary

Political leaders are united about the urgency and importance of climate change. Local government has a key role to play in this agenda. We offer a vision of 'Anytown 2025', a sustainable energy future, adapted to the effects of climate change; and set out the steps, building on existing good practice, which local government can take to achieve it. Working towards this future can lead to multiple benefits for local authorities and their communities: improvements in health, community cohesion, social inclusion and quality of life. It does not rely on any technological breakthroughs. The various components of the scenario are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

The challenge for council leaders and chief executives is to make a political decision to start now. The scientific case, that humankind needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promptly and dramatically to avert dangerous climate change is now overwhelming.

The UK's target of a 60 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 should now be treated as the minimum responsible level of change.

There are already excellent local authority climate change initiatives. Because individual initiatives often have little effect in isolation, success in dealing with the problem depends on tackling all related aspects as well. Responding to the threats as well as benefiting from the opportunities of climate change cannot be achieved through incremental steps. We need

co-ordinated interventions to achieve a step change.

Local authorities can already do a great deal to co-ordinate action on climate change. Commitment from council leaders and chief executives is fundamental to success. Some positive steps they can take include:

- making a public commitment to tackling climate change, such as signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change;
- adoption of a council-wide strategy on climate change and sustainable energy and using a variety of management tools to deliver it;
- promoting sustainable energy and climate change objectives through community wide strategies and land use plans;
- adopting a 'whole life' approach to investment, including revolving funds which pay upfront for sustainable energy measures, and then reinvesting the savings in further projects;
- integrating climate change across all service areas within the authority;
- seek early wins: places where climate protection resonates with an area's needs and an authority's values and priorities, and where such action can achieve early benefits that will broaden support.

Central government can help and enable local authorities to respond to climate change.

Key actions for central local government include:

- sending a strong message that climate change is a priority within central government and that local authorities are key to delivering national climate change targets;
- correspondingly, inspection regimes must recognise good performance in this challenging area;
- using continuing increases in world energy prices as an opportunity to accelerate action on reducing energy consumption, especially fossil fuel dependence;
- regulating the energy sector to encourage energy suppliers to become energy service companies;
- encouraging emissions trading so that the most cost-efficient emissions reduction measures are taken first: trading regimes depend on other measures that enable companies or indi-

⌚ **Anytown 2025**

CHP plant
The houses get their heat and power from a neighbourhood le... which digests organic wastes and burns biofuels, and supplies of insulated pipes under the roads. It is also a partner in the po... City Council] which creates a source of revenue to fund other s...

school/community centre
Schools have become practical exemplars of sustainable living. grounds are a major teaching and demonstration resource, incl... power generation as a symbolic reminder of energy responsib... contribution (South Somerset District Council, Devon County C... later, offering sporting facilities, libraries with IT, and rooms for community groups.

car club
The local authority has supported the car club by allocating bays in residential areas free of residents' parking charges, using the club to provide a pool of cars for officer use (Edinburgh City Council) and providing preferential parking and access for club cars at public buildings.

electric cart/waste
Small electric carts (Haringey and Islington) with compartments for recyclable materials, organic wastes and combustibles (card, woody waste) are used for waste collection. The last two categories are delivered straight from the electric carts to the neighbourhood heat and power stations, where they are digested and card and wood incinerated. The waste collection contract pays for materials collected in a form that can be reused or recycled, accepts organic and combustible wastes at the power station for free, and penalises unrecoverable wastes.



viduals to reduce energy use, and are not a substitute for them;

- 'climate proofing' policies to avoid accidental perverse side effects;
- recognising the importance of collective choice about the kind of society we wish to live in: some of the most successful sustainable settlements are popular precisely because they set collective standards;
- seizing the opportunity that large-scale house building presents in order to achieve a step change in energy



Diana Maddock answers follow-up questions after her presentation on the Southampton Community District Heating System



Delegates networking amongst the exhibition stands

The Bournemouth weather held up long enough for delegates to enjoy lunch outside



Aubrey Meyer, rallying the "HECA army" with his powerful vision of 'Contraction and Convergence'

The Mayor of Bournemouth presents Mags Smith of the Bournemouth Churches Housing Association with a donation from HECA

New Database Allows Local Authorities to Spot the 'Green Gaps'

Local authorities will soon be able to spot the 'green gaps' in the housing stock within their areas with the aid of a new online tool from the Energy Saving Trust (EST), which will offer energy efficiency updates on 25 million UK homes.

The Homes Energy Efficiency Database (HEED) integrates a wide range of data from different sources, including the Government fuel poverty schemes, energy suppliers' Energy Efficiency Commitment activity and EST programmes, to build a map of the UK's energy efficiency progress.

Data on almost two million homes has already been uploaded, with another 1.5 million set to be added soon, and includes details such as building type, tenure and age, alongside information on insulation levels and heating system as well as what energy efficiency measures have been installed. The data is stored at individual address level to

by also, giving LAs the opportunity to provide data back to EST to enrich the database and help identify their own 'green-gaps'."

User access commenced in late June, with the roll-out continuing over the summer. Initial communications with regard to access will come from the UK HECA Secretariat.

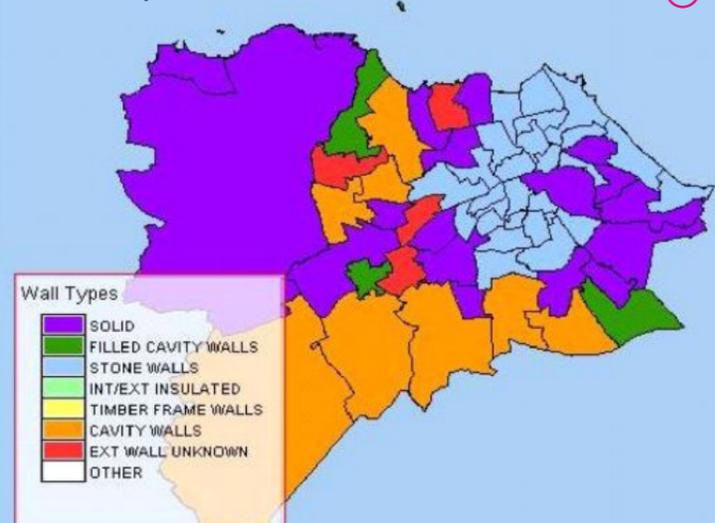
Using Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) methodology, users can also calculate the energy and carbon savings being made in their areas and, depending on access level, across the UK.

To help users maximise the potential of the database, EST has also produced a user guide that provides a detailed overview of how HEED works, the data currently available and an explanation of the 'limitations' of the data.

Matt Knight added: "The level of detail available through this database really is impressive and we hope it helps local authorities to make energy efficiency a key part of their housing strategy."

For further information on HEED or to obtain the guide, please contact Andrew Amato on andrew.amato@est.org.uk

The map interface of the new HEED database



ensure accuracy but outputs are aggregated by local authority and ward.

Matt Knight, Head of Community Partnerships at EST, said: "This database will provide an invaluable resource for local authorities, assisting them to monitor the uptake of energy efficiency measures in their areas, and assist in the households that are not adopting energy efficiency measures."

The database offers its users a wide range of options when running reports, such as the ability to filter by property age, type, tenure and heating fuel. A map viewer allows users to superimpose the data onto regional maps of local authorities and wards, as demonstrated in the illustration above, which shows wall types in the City of Edinburgh.

Andrew Amato, Data Services Manager at EST, who manages the project is in the process of presenting the project at regional HECA forum meetings, said: "This is a unique opportunity for EST to build on their work with local authorities by, not only providing LAs with a valuable resource but

Green Resolutions Resolved!

The Southern Home Energy Conservation Action Network (SHECANe)'s Green Resolutions 2004 Project concluded at the end of December, after a year-long energy audit of selected families in Eastleigh and Southampton. The project gave the families a 'green makeover' for themselves and their home, and they are now able to live in a more environmentally friendly way.

At the end of 2003, SHECANe began an initiative to help families who wanted to live a greener lifestyle but didn't know where to start. Families from Eastleigh and Southampton were signed up and, at the beginning of 2004, they all made a New Year's Resolution to live more sustainably. It's now one year later and the families are looking back over the year and seeing the changes that they have made.

The Sykes family from Bishopstoke have made small lifestyle changes which result in saving energy as well as helping to protect the environment. David Hoadley, a qualified Energy Advisor from the Solent Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) visited the family once a quarter, monitoring the family's energy consumption and advising on ways to reduce it, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. David provided energy saving advice on double glazing and low energy light bulbs, use of electrical appliances and keeping warm, as well as environmental advice on waste reduction, recycling and water conservation. However, the project also got Mr and Mrs Sykes thinking about food.

"We started asking where things in our fridge had been made," said Mr Sykes. "You can buy fruit and veg that has been grown down the road or you can buy produce that might be flown in from the other side of the world." Much of the fresh food on supermarket shelves is brought to Britain in the holds of passenger jets, which burn tons of fuel on every flight, so now the family tries to choose food that is not reliant on excessively polluting transport.

The families all received a number of free 'green' gifts over the year, sponsored by London Energy, SHECANe members Eastleigh Borough Council and Southampton City Council, and the Environment Centre (tEC) in South-

Micro Combined Heat and Power

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, in partnership with Northern Ireland Electricity, Phoenix Natural Gas, DETI and the Energy Saving Trust, are jointly funding a micro combined heat and power trial. As HECA Authority, the Housing Executive is always keen to test new and innovative technologies. The micro CHP units are for use in individual dwellings and are provided by Whispertech. The unit is gas fired and, although its primary function is to provide heat for the dwelling, whilst it is operating, it simultaneously generates electricity. Householders will, therefore, benefit from reduced electricity costs.

It is the intention of the project to install 50 of these boilers across the province - ten in Housing Executive properties, ten in Housing Association properties, with the remainder being made available to the new build and owner occupied sector where the contractor / householder will make a contribution towards installation costs.

The first seven units have already been installed in Housing Executive properties and all are functioning well so far, with tenants already reporting reductions in their energy bills. Monitoring of the units will be ongoing for a period of 12 months and will inform future policy in relation to their use.

**- Maureen Kerr
Northern Ireland Housing Executive**



A Micro Combined Heat and Power unit



Mr and Mrs Adam's newly insulated Park Home

The newly installed solar panel

Herefordshire Takes the LEAD in UK Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Residents of Park Home sites in Herefordshire are leading the UK in the innovative use of energy efficiency and solar power. The Park Homes, which are notoriously difficult to heat effectively, have proved to be ideal properties for these measures.

Mr and Mrs Adams moved into their Park Home five years ago to enjoy a quiet retirement in the peaceful surroundings of the development. Although the property offered this, the Adams noticed a difference in the warmth of their home compared to a 'bricks and mortar' house.

Using an interest free *Take the LEAD* loan provided by Herefordshire Council in association with Hestia Services, Mr and Mrs Adams have insulated the solid walls of their property, as well as fitting a gas condensing boiler and new radiators.

"The work has already made a difference to the warmth of the property, and we have also noticed a reduction in noise from outside," said Mr Adams.

Mr and Mrs Lerigo have used a grant, again provided by Herefordshire Council in association with the Energy Saving Trust, Marches Energy Agency, the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre under the Park Home Energy Efficient Living scheme (PHEEL Good), to install a solar panel to their property, which is believed to be the first home of its type in the country to benefit from this technology.

The solar panel will provide Mr and Mrs Lerigo with between half and three-quarters of their hot water requirements during the year, helping them to save energy, money and the environment.

According to Mrs Lerigo, the main advantage of the solar panel is the simple and effective way that it works: "We really don't have to do anything; there is still plenty of hot water even on a cloudy day. I can now take a bath when I like".

The solar panel will also help the Lerigo's to save power in their home, as they no longer need to use the heater on their washing machine. The Park Homes are typically powered by Calor Gas, the cost of which has doubled in the seven years the Lerigo's have lived in their property. The increased cost of the fuel means that the solar savings are likely to be substantial.

Stuart Davies, Home Energy Conservation Act Officer for Herefordshire Council said:

"The Park Homes have proved to be ideal properties for insulation and sustainable energy measures. It is fantastic to see Hereford leading the way in making technologies such as solar hot water available to a wider range of residents.

Hopefully the homeowners will really see the difference this winter, and the reduction in wasted energy will have a positive impact on the wider environment".

Further information about the Take the LEAD loan is available from Herefordshire Council. Please contact 0800 512 012 for further details.



Gosport Mayor, Councillor Graham Burgess and Annabel Preston, from Solent Local Energy Support Team with winners of the Climate Change Film Competition

Gosport Mayor Announces Winners of Climate Change Film Competition

On Friday 24 June at St. Vincent College's "Vincent Academy of Motion Pictures" (the VAMPS) Award Ceremony, the Mayor of Gosport announced the winners of a Climate Change Film Competition. The aim of the competition was to raise awareness of the serious threat posed by Climate Change. The young film-makers discovered that there is a serious lack of knowledge about the issue and people feel that there is little that they can do to tackle climate change.

The project was developed by Gosport Borough Council and Solent Local Energy Support Team, as part of a programme of work to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy and raise awareness of global warming. Students at St Vincent College were invited to produce a short film or newspaper article, relating to the issue. The winners of best environmental documentary were Kirsty Jones, Will Neal and Lizzy Lamburn and runner-up was Peter White. The winner of best environmental newspaper article was Megan Allen for The Spinnaker and the runner-up was Kirsty King for Gosport's News. This prize was announced by Annabel Preston from Solent Local Energy Support Team.

Annabel Preston, Assistant Co-ordinator of Solent Local Energy Support Team, said: "Climate change is one of the most serious environmental problems that the world faces. The films highlighted how people think they can do little or nothing to tackle the problem. 28% of greenhouse gas emissions come from energy use in the home. However there are simple things that each of us can do. By people ensuring that their lofts and cavity walls are sufficiently insulated, these emissions can be vastly reduced, as well as saving people up to £200 a year on their fuel bills." On announcing the winners, Annabel signposted the audience to the Energy Efficiency Advice Centres and encouraged them to take action.

- Annabel Preston,
Solent Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

LSP Works to Keep Salford Warm and Well

As we think about keeping cool this summer Salford City Council and its partners have been looking ahead to how we can keep warm and well during the winter months with the launch of the city's Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Salford is the first city in the UK to have used its Local Strategic Partnership to develop such a strategy and the launch event on 10 June was also unique in its use of workshops. Delegates from private, public and voluntary organisations discussed how they could work together to help almost 8000 households in Salford out of 'fuel poverty', i.e. those households which spend more than 10% of their income heating their homes.

A large proportion of people living in 'fuel poverty' are the elderly, very young and those with chronic illness. The Government has made a commitment to eradicate fuel poverty in all the UK's two million vulnerable households by 2010 and it considers local authorities and its partners at the right level to make an impact.

Eccles MP, Ian Stewart, was a key speaker at the event: "It is unacceptable that some people still face the choice between keeping warm and buying food or clothing. Partners IN Salford's Affordable Warmth Strategy has created a unique plan to address the problem in Salford, which I am sure can be used as a model for tackling fuel poverty throughout the UK."

Government Office North West and seven North West local authorities including Blackpool and Lancaster City Council were also at the launch event at Salford Quays to see the examples of best practice first hand.

Joanne Carr, The NEA's director of business development and Chair of the event, praised Partners IN Salford for being the first LSP to "fully embrace" the concept of using cross-cutting issues that surround affordable warmth to lever in funding to eradicate fuel poverty.

Angie Robinson, chair of Partners IN Salford, is also confident in its success: "The development of this strategy illustrates how diverse organisations can work together to shape a shared approach to tackling deprivation, reducing poverty and encouraging sustainable development in Salford. I'm very proud that Salford is the first place nationally to combat fuel poverty in this way and look forward to seeing the results of this approach as we implement the action plan."

Cllr Peter Connor, lead member for housing, added: We want to ensure the most vulnerable people have the support and the advice they need and have access to grants and funds that will go towards warming their homes or making them more energy efficient."

"This strategy incorporates great work that's already going on in Salford. So far, more than 820 homes in Central Salford are saving on heating bills after applying for a grant that has enabled them to have cut-price loft insulation installed. Hundreds more are benefiting from similar savings in cavity wall insulation."

- Liz Carridge, Public Relations Officer
Salford City Council

Renewable Energy Embraced by Merseyside – The Way Forward for all our Futures

An important step forward towards the development of renewable energy for Merseyside has been the formation of a new group - The Merseyside Renewable Energy Initiative or MREI. The need for the group is evident to many people. According to a recent DTI survey, more than eight in every ten respondents expressed support for the expansion of electricity generation from renewable sources.

The MREI decided to find out what Merseyside residents thought and conducted a random survey across the area. The results were startling, and decisive: 98% felt that we should do more to protect our precious environment, whilst nine out of ten people would welcome a renewable technology in their home. A prize winner was drawn from participants of the survey. Mr Rick Bramma of St Helens was the lucky winner of a selection of 'renewable and low-energy' prizes.

MREI aims to identify and encourage the installation of a wide range of renewable technologies throughout Merseyside. This will develop economic growth opportunities in addition to helping to win the battle against climate change, which is directly affected by the burning of fossil fuels for heating, lighting and transport in our homes and businesses. These alternative fuels need to be developed in order to secure future energy supplies and take away our dependency on finite fuels; for example, the UK is now a net importer of gas, after being a net exporter for many years.

Merseyside like all regions of the UK has renewable targets. The Government has committed the country to reducing its



MREI launch on 23 May 05 at the Tate Liverpool, Some of the members and participants of the MREI.

effects on global warming and climate change. Energy from renewable sources accounts for less than 3% of energy used at present while the UK target is set at 10% by 2010.

The MREI is an Energy Projects Plus initiative who are a local environmental charity. MREI was launched at a Renewables Northwest event at the Tate Liverpool on 23 May 2005 by Steve Lang. Steve is the coordinator of the Local Energy Support Programme.

"Renewable energy can be produced in many innovative ways, is clean, and is a viable alternative to the use of fossil fuels. MREI is made up of a broad range of organisations and will be the recognised champion of renewable energy on Merseyside, with interested organisations working alongside local experts within the energy field. It will also offer a conduit for partnerships with business prospects, linking Merseyside with regional and national initiatives."

- Nikki Mason



Many felt that Nikki often took protecting the Liverpool skyline to extremes!

Empowerment Conference Saves Energy

Croydon played host to the first African Economic Empowerment Conference on Saturday 18 December 2004. The Mitcham-based Centre for African Development organized the event and rounded up a string of inspirational speakers, rounded off with fabulous food and even entertainment in the form of music, singing and dancing from a youth group. Creative Environmental Networks participated and gave free impartial energy advice to delegates, most of whom completed a home energy survey and received a free low energy light bulb to start them on their energy-saving way.

Attendance was lower than anticipated, probably as this was the last Saturday before Christmas, but hopefully it will grow and become a regular and popular event. Indeed, the second conference is already being planned and CEN hope to be there to support and encourage delegates to save energy, money and the environment.

- Tracey Mills 020 8683 6658
tracey@cen.org.uk www.cen.org.uk