



HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA)

Progress Report

2015-2017

April 2016



CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1.0 | INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2.0 | COUNCIL PRIORITIES | 3 |
| 3.0 | ACHIEVEMENTS | 4 |
| 4.0 | NATIONAL CONTEXT..... | 4 |
| 5.0 | ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE | 8 |
| | APPENDIX A: PROGRESS MADE BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015..... | 10 |
| | APPENDIX B: HECA ACTION PLAN 2015-2017 | 12 |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises that local authorities are well placed to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within their local communities.

HECA requires local authorities to publish a report (known as a 'further report') setting out how energy efficiency will be promoted and encouraged within their areas. The HECA 'further report' was published [here](#) in 2013.

Subsequent 'progress reports' must be published every two years. This report identifies Charnwood Borough Council's achievements from the 2013 action plan at Appendix A and sets out the council's aims for 2015-2017 at Appendix B.

2.0 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Protecting the natural environment remains a priority¹ for the council. Reducing the impact of climate change through reduced carbon dioxide emissions will improve the environment, and health and wellbeing of all who live and work in Charnwood, and those who travel to the borough for leisure activities.

In 2013, the council reaffirmed its commitment to the green agenda and reducing the borough's carbon footprint through becoming a signatory to Climate Local, a Local Government Association initiative to drive and support council action on responding to a changing climate and its consequences.

Moving towards greater energy efficiency may bring a range of benefits to residents, from cleaner air to lower energy bills.

The action plan (see Appendix B) details measures that will be taken to raise awareness amongst communities and improve council housing.

¹ Our [Corporate Plan 2012-2016](#) provides more information about the strategic priorities for Charnwood Borough Council.

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

Improvements made to council homes between 2013 and 2015 include 456 external wall insulations, 563 new central heating systems, and 419 new UPVC doors. Photovoltaic panels have also been installed for 35 households experiencing fuel poverty.

Additionally, 163 referrals were made for Green Deal assessments and 46 customers were assisted with Green Deal and ECO applications.

More information about progress made between 2013 and 2015 is available at Appendix A.

4.0 NATIONAL CONTEXT

Since the publication of the further HECA report in 2013, the national energy efficiency landscape has altered considerably.

In November 2015, government announced its intention to phase out all coal-fired power plants by 2025 through a move to gas and nuclear power, the driving factors being a move towards energy security and affordable warmth for householders.

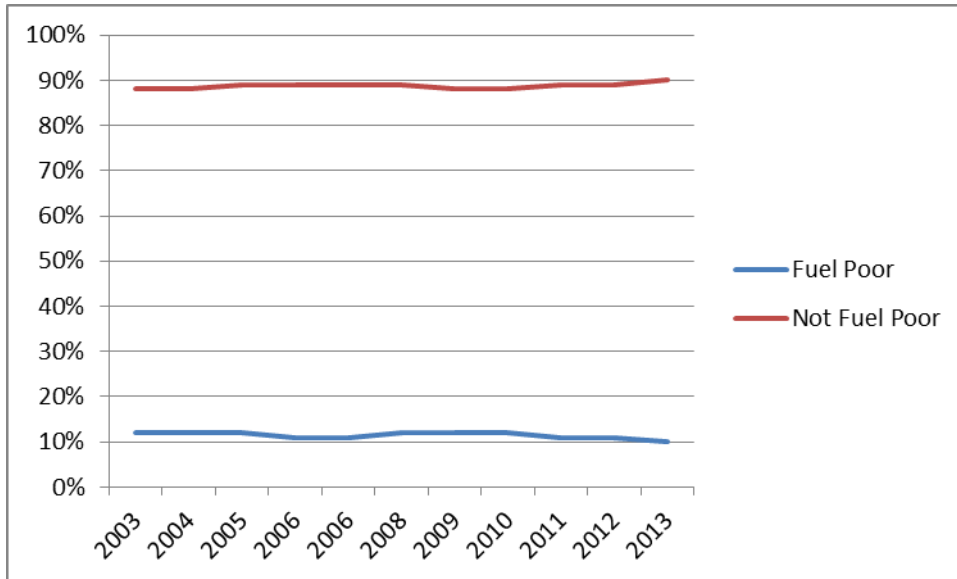
A further factor affecting many households in England is fuel poverty. A household is defined as being in fuel poverty if its essential fuel costs are above average and, should this amount be spent, the remaining income of the household falls below the official poverty line.

In this context, government has retained measures to address fuel poverty for vulnerable households (see 4.5 below).

Table 1 below shows that the overall level of households England in fuel poverty has remained stable between 2003 and 2013.²

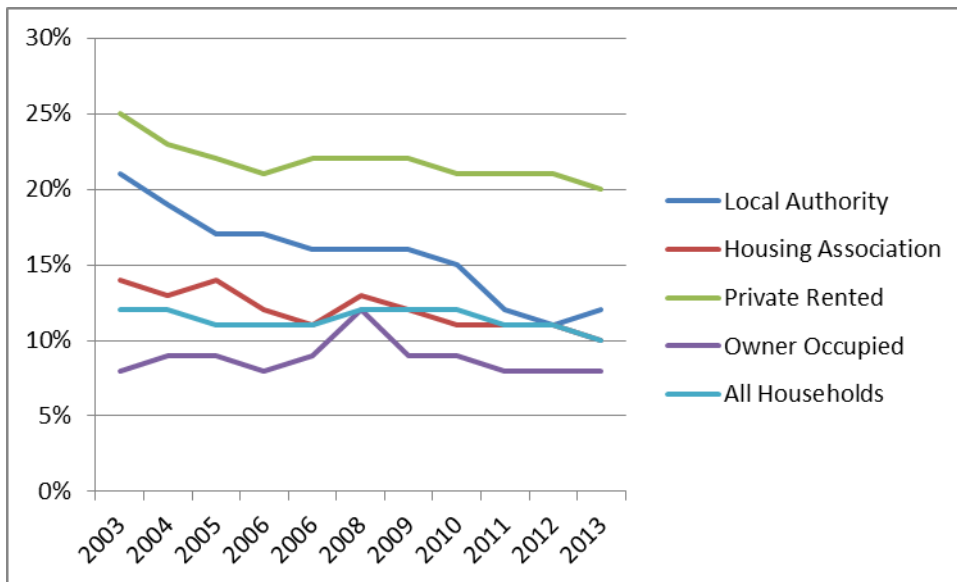
² The full fuel poverty dataset for 2003-2013 is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-detailed-tables-2013>.

Table 1: Proportion of English households in fuel poverty 2003-2013



Between 2003 and 2013, fuel poverty fell significantly for local authority tenants and less markedly for housing association tenants. Private rent tenants continued to experience the highest levels of fuel poverty and owner occupiers the lowest levels. Table 2 below highlights these trends.

Table 2: Fuel poverty in England by tenure 2003-2013



4.1 Renewable Energy

Government support for renewable energy is to be reduced significantly.

A statement in July 2015 announced that the government's flagship Green Deal scheme, to make energy saving improvements to homes using finance (i.e. through a loan that was attached to the property), had ceased. From January 2016, feed in tariff rates were reduced considerably, and this is likely to result in reduced demand for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.

The Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) which provided one-off payments to help householders purchase renewable heating technologies (e.g. solar thermal panels, biomass boilers and air/ground source heat pumps) closed on 31 March 2014. The scheme has been replaced with the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which makes quarterly payments to the householder over 7 years.

As government support for renewable energy decreases, the impact is likely to be reflected in a decreasing number of new clean energy installations.

4.2 Zero Carbon Homes

Introduced in 2006, the zero carbon homes policy required all new homes built by 2016 to be both carbon neutral, and generating as much of the household's energy needs onsite, through renewable sources such as wind or solar power.

However, a government announcement in July 2015 confirmed that requirements for new homes would remain as they are currently and it would not proceed with introducing challenging new energy efficiency standards in 2016. The 'allowable solutions' scheme, to enable developers to deliver energy efficiencies elsewhere to compensate for shortfalls in domestic emissions and due to come into effect in 2016, has also been cancelled.

4.3 Smart Meters

The national roll out of smart meters to all homes (and small businesses) by 2020 continues. Smart meters communicate energy consumption, at least daily, to energy companies for billing purposes.

Monitors are provided with each smart meter to display how much electrical energy is being used right now. By switching off appliances, householders can see how much this brings down their energy reading and where they can potentially reduce energy use.

With greater awareness and improved knowledge, customers may change habits to lower energy consumption levels and, over time, this may lead to lower energy bills.

4.4 Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

ECO is a government scheme requiring the larger energy suppliers to make energy efficiency improvements to domestic homes in Britain.

The scheme (ECO1) ended in March 2015 however ECO2 has extended the scheme to 31 March 2017.

Obligations focus on reducing carbon emissions through promoting roof and wall insulation, connections to district heating systems, and the repair/replacement of boilers, particularly in low income areas (including deprived and rural areas) and to vulnerable households.

4.5 Fuel Poverty

Together with the Energy Company Obligation (see 4.4 above) to make energy efficiency improvements to homes, the schemes below are intended to alleviate fuel poverty for vulnerable households.

- Cold Weather Payment
 - A payment of £25 to eligible householders receiving certain benefits for each period of seven consecutive days when the weather is recorded as, or is forecast to be, zero degrees celsius.

- Warm Home Discount
 - A one-off discount of £140, usually available between September and March, and payable to directly to the householder's energy supplier.

- Winter Fuel Payment
 - An automatic, tax-free payment of between £100 and £300 towards heating bills if the householder was born on or before 5 January 1953.

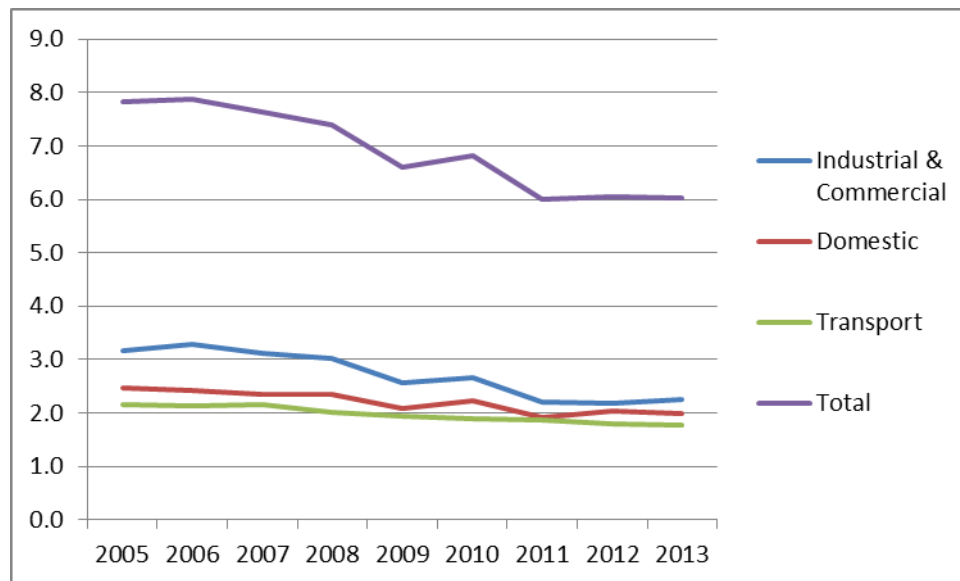
5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Between 2005 and 2013, Charnwood has seen the overall level of carbon dioxide emissions fall.

This is consistent with the majority of local authority areas in England and is due largely to the decreasing use of coal and gas to generate electricity.³

Table 3 below contrasts domestic carbon dioxide emissions with emissions from transport and emissions from the industrial and commercial sector.

Table 3: Total CO2 emissions (kt) in Charnwood 2005-2013

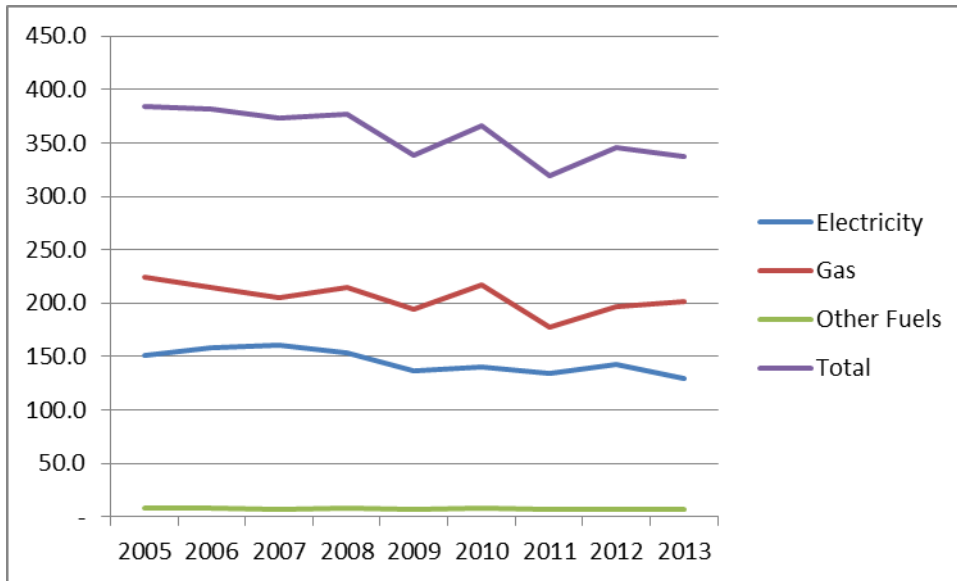


³ The full CO2 emissions dataset for 2005-2013 is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2013>.

Table 4 below shows that, overall, domestic carbon dioxide emissions have continued to fall for both gas and electricity use between 2005 and 2013, although gas emissions begin to rise again from 2011.

Emission levels for 'other fuels' remains stable.

Table 4: Domestic CO2 emissions per capita (t) in Charnwood by fuel type 2005-2013



APPENDIX A: PROGRESS MADE BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015

| PROGRESS REPORT 2013-2015 | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| | ACTION | OUTCOME |
| 1. | Run a series of features through our publications and on our website to raise the profile and increase understanding of energy efficiency and renewable technologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article regarding energy efficiency at home published in Charnwood News Raising awareness forms part of the Climate Local action plan, published in March 2014 |
| 2. | Promote water saving measures and rainwater harvesting for domestic use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1 above |
| 3. | Assist private sector households with Green Deal and ECO grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 46 households have been assisted with Green Deal and ECO applications during 2013/14 (funding ended on 31 March 2014) |
| 4. | Promote domestic recycling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic recycling is promoted to residents via the council's website |
| 5. | Deliver 120 free Green Deal assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 163 referrals were made for Green Deal assessments |
| 6. | Showcase one private sector home that has been brought up to current energy efficiency standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action carried forward to HECA 2015-2017 |
| 7. | Deliver three domestic Green Deal outreach events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach events were held at Loughborough Market and Shepshed Community Centre The Nationwide Solar bus promoted domestic energy efficiency measures in Loughborough on 6 September 2013 |
| 8. | Deliver Green Deal business outreach event in central location in Charnwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Green Deal business outreach event was held on 5 November 2013 Of the 25 SMEs represented, 6 signed up for a business Green Deal assessment |
| 9. | Install solar photovoltaic panels for an estimated 35 vulnerable households experiencing fuel poverty in Charnwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photovoltaic panels have been installed for 35 vulnerable households experiencing fuel poverty in Charnwood |
| 10. | Replace 10 inefficient boilers (that are rated F/G or are broken) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 78 old and inefficient boiler replacements have been made between 2013-2015 |
| 11. | Deliver repairs or improvements to 10 existing inefficient heating systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs to 48 inefficient boilers were carried out between 2013-2015 |

PROGRESS REPORT 2013-2015

| | ACTION | OUTCOME |
|-----|---|---|
| 12. | Provide free energy monitors to 200 fuel poor households to assist in monitoring and reducing energy use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low take up of energy monitors despite various promotions • Action carried forward to HECA 2015-17 |
| 13. | Improve the energy efficiency of residential housing by provision of Household Energy Audits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 275 energy audits were carried out during 2013-14 |
| 14. | Encourage the uptake of renewable technologies and the Feed-in Tariff scheme by promoting renewable energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 1. above • Customers signposted to Warm & Healthy Homes for free advice and home visits |
| 15. | Raise awareness of the minimum energy efficiency standards for rented properties required under the Energy Act 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords continue to be advised where excess cold is identified and information is available on the council's website • Ongoing action carried forward to HECA 2015-17 |
| 16. | Where necessary use powers under the Housing Act 2004 to require landlords to rectify excess cold hazards under the HSSRS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Category 1 excess cold hazards identified within the private sector are addressed with informal action or, where required, formal enforcement action under the Housing Act 2004 • Ongoing action carried forward to HECA 2015-17 |
| 17. | Inspect all private sector houses where the council places homeless people to ensure basic energy efficiency levels are met | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 private rented sector (PRS) properties were inspected during 2013/14, and 20 PRS properties during 2014/15, as part of the Tenant Finder scheme before homeless households are placed |
| 18. | Install external wall insulation to 456 solid wall council properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External wall insulation installed to 456 solid wall council properties |
| 19. | Install new central heating systems in 563 council properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New central heating systems installed in 563 council properties |
| 20. | Install new UPVC windows in 44 council properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New UPVC windows installed in 44 council properties |
| 21. | Install new UPVC doors to 419 council properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New UPVC doors installed to 419 council properties |

APPENDIX B: HECA ACTION PLAN 2015-2017

| HECA ACTION PLAN 2015-17 | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|------------|
| | ACTION | MEASURE | TIMESCALE |
| 1. | Encourage residents to adopt energy efficient measures by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to relevant services, e.g. the Energy Saving Trust • Signposting to information on government schemes e.g. Feed in Tariffs and ECO | Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in Charnwood | March 2017 |
| 2. | Implement an environmental behaviour change programme [at home and work] at Charnwood Borough Council through the 'Green Impact' accreditation scheme | Number of teams/staff taking part in the behaviour change programme and the number of actions achieved | March 2017 |
| 3. | Provide free energy monitors to local households | Distribute 70 energy monitors | March 2017 |
| 4. | Promote 'Warm Homes, Healthy Homes' scheme to CBC staff | 'Warm Homes, Healthy Homes' scheme promoted to CBC staff | March 2016 |
| 5. | Signpost 'Warm Homes, Healthy Homes' scheme for customers seeking advice and assistance | | March 2017 |
| 6. | Private Sector Housing team to provide advice and assistance on energy efficiency | Housing Support Coordinator providing advice and assistance on a range of issues e.g. switching fuel tariff, energy efficiency, etc | March 2017 |
| 7. | Update EPC records for council homes – to give a true SAP recording | 400 EPCs carried out on council homes each year | March 2017 |
| 8. | Provide a top up roofing insulation programme and explore the available grants for tenants that are currently in fuel poverty | Invest £40,000 up to 2017 | March 2017 |
| 9. | Carry out stock condition surveys to aid in planning the required budget to maintain the council's housing stock over the next 30 years | Stock condition database updated with 400 surveys annually | March 2017 |
| 10. | Implement and maintain the 'Charnwood Standard' when the new capital works partner is established | Reduce the number of council properties not meeting the 'Charnwood Standard' by 1,970 | March 2017 |