

HECA REPORTING 2019

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all 326 local authorities ('LA's) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

These guidance notes are issued in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act and are to alert LAs of amendments to the HECA reporting framework in advance of May 2019 when the next reports are due. In previous years, reporting rates have been disappointing, with 282 reports submitted in March 2015 out of 326 LAs, and only 151 in March 2017. The refreshed reporting system for 2019 streamlines the process and reduces LA reporting burdens. Newly structured around a series of questions and direct information points, the amended framework aims to support LAs to provide information and updates on the key energy efficiency topics of interest to BEIS Ministers. It will also enable LAs to provide a consistent picture of energy efficiency promotion and delivery across England within a standardized framework. Following the principles of open data, the department may publish the information in an open data format to allow wider access and interpretation of the data, while ensuring that such publication complies with the terms of GDPR.

HECA 2019 Reporting Requirements

The Report is to be divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes:

Headline & Overview

- What main strategy and schemes LAs currently have to promote carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency, stakeholders involved and impact at a societal and economic level.

Communication

- How LA engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

Green Local Supply Chain

- How LAs engage local businesses involved in the promotion of energy savings products and the societal benefits alongside any local economic impact this might have.

Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

- Financial programmes used by LAs to promote energy efficiency.

Fuel Poverty

- How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

- How LAs are using the recently introduced ECO 'flexible eligibility' programme to refer certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes, who are vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, to ECO obligated suppliers for support.

Smart Metering

- How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

All questions are optional, but responses highly encouraged. While reporting is focused on energy savings related to homes, you are welcome to provide additional information on energy efficiency improvements in non-domestic properties, but this is fully optional. There will be a final free response section permitting local authorities to discuss any additional activities which they feel are relevant.

Submission of HECA 2019 Reports

For the 2019 reporting year, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is piloting the submission of reports via a digital platform, and for this year LAs will be asked to populate their HECA Report and submit materials via a SurveyMonkey submission. No other reporting material or submissions will be required. LAs continue to be required to publish their responses, and they can do this in whichever form they wish, so long as the published report contains relevant information submitted via the digital platform. It is not necessary for LAs to publish all the information submitted via the digital platform. Before the online survey is completed, the chief executive or director of the LA should approve the submitted content. If this approach proves effective and supports the engagement and compliance of a greater number of authorities than in recent previous years, BEIS will consider how this approach can be further improved for the 2021 reporting year.

The questions which LAs are asked to report on in the digital 'Survey' are listed below:

HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: London Borough of Lewisham		
Type of Local Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• London Borough		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report: Martin O'Brien, 020 8314 6605, 07736 900 214, martin.o'brien@lewisham.gov.uk		
Job title of official submitting the report: Climate Resilience Manager		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: Energy, Fuel Poverty and Flood Risk Strategic Housing Private Sector Housing Agency		
Headline and Overview Questions		
1	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	No
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:	
<p>In 2012 the Council agreed a new target to reduce carbon emissions in the borough by 44% by 2020 from a baseline of 2005. http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s18666/Climate%20Local%20-%20Carbon%20Reduction%20and%20Climate%20change%20Strategy.pdf</p> <p>In February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a new target for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2030 http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Climate%20Emergency%20declaration%20and%20proposed%20carbon%20reduction%20strategy.pdf The motion making the declaration makes a commitment for the Council to agree and publish a new carbon reduction strategy in 2019/20.</p>		
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	Yes

4	a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017? (if you have not implemented any scheme, please enter 'N/A')
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Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words

Lewisham Council has delivered a wide range of domestic energy saving and carbon reduction schemes. Pressures on Council funding mean non statutory relies on external funding, but, since 2017, the range of Government funding for domestic energy efficiency has been increasingly limited.

Within these funding constraints the Council's priority for owner occupied and privately rented properties has been to target support on low income and vulnerable residents. Since 2011 Lewisham's Warm Homes Healthy People initiative has provided practical advice to 3,000 households. In 2017/18 250 home visits were completed under this initiative. In 2018/19 the service was extended with 875 residents supported and Lewisham Council leading an expansion of the project across five south east London boroughs. Further details of this work are set out in section 24 below.

Lewisham Council owns 19,000 homes that are managed for the Council by Lewisham Homes, an arms-length social housing provider. Since April 2017 Lewisham Homes has delivered a range of energy efficiency improvements to properties including upgrading 1,040 domestic heating and hot water boilers to A-rated standard, replacing 5,925 single glazed windows with double glazing and replacing landlord lighting in 57 blocks of flats with LED lighting.

b. What scheme(s) is your local authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties in the next two years? (if you are not planning to implement any scheme, please enter 'N/A')

Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words

In February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. The Council is developing its approach to delivering this ambitious target. As housing represents half the borough's carbon emissions, domestic energy efficiency will be central to this.

Delivery of the new target will be supported in 2019/20 by a range of projects including:

- development of opportunities for low carbon heat and decentralised energy
- a new Community Energy Fund offering small grants to local community initiatives to reduce carbon and improve energy efficiency
- expansion of support for vulnerable residents to stay warm and well

Lewisham Homes is undertaking a full stock condition survey that will help target investment. Planned investment that will improve thermal efficiency includes:

- window upgrades targeting single glazed and aluminium framed windows
- insulation of any remaining loft or roof voids
- replacement of solid fuel or oil heating systems
- external cladding improvements to 151 properties to increase insulation and meet fire safety regulations.
- LED lighting for passenger lifts

The Council is currently preparing a new Housing Strategy that will include ambitious plans for new social homes, a new generation of homes for social rent and raising standards in the private rental sector. The new Strategy will reflect and support delivery of the climate emergency declaration.

5 What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), including the value of grants and other support, plus any other costs incurred? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.

Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words

It is not possible to provide a cost for this work, which spans a number of different Council teams and initiatives involving capital and revenue expenditure across a very wide set of initiatives that go beyond domestic energy. Grant funding of £80,000 was received from the Greater London Authority to support delivery of the South London Fuel Poverty project.

6	What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>The Council works with a wide range of partners across housing and carbon reduction. Our work on domestic energy efficiency includes partnerships with South East London Community Energy, Charlton Athletic Community Trust and outreach work with a wide range of community and voluntary organisations.</p>		
7	<p>What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?</p> <p>This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Lewisham's advice and referral service delivered the following outputs in 2018/19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 875 vulnerable residents given practical support • 97 households supported to access fully funded heating and insulation • 50 complex debt cases identified and referred to advice provider • 16 fire check referrals <p>Lewisham Homes' stock condition survey will provide further evidence on the outcome of investment of the Council's social housing stock as measured through SAP ratings.</p>		
8	What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>Our work in south east London is based on a partnership of public and third sector organisations, enabling work at a scale that can reach large numbers of households while maintaining local connections enabling resources to reach the most vulnerable individuals. The pooling of resources through the partnership has avoided the duplication that can occur when different organisations are funded to deliver similar advice services through different funding routes. There is therefore a real strength in local agencies working together on fuel poverty, particularly in London which has had a disproportionately low share of the Energy Company Obligation, the primary source of Government funding for fuel poverty.</p>		
<p>Local Communications Strategy</p>		
9	Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	No

10	If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)	
<i>Free text response to question 10 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
11	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')	
<i>Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> N/A		
Local Green Supply Chains		
12	Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)? (if you answer no please move onto the next section 'Private Rented Sector')	No
13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> N/A		
14	What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	
<i>Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> The Council has previously run a number of projects supporting local businesses and supply chains for domestic energy and retrofit work. Since 2017 resources have been extremely limited in relation to this work.		

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018, all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS's published guidance documents for the full details on the standard).

The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.

15	<p>Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?</p> <p>(if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')</p>	Yes
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16	<p>Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?</p>
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Private Sector Housing Agency

17	<p>Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.</p>
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Free text response to question 17

Nicholas.Stabeler@lewisham.gov.uk

18	<p>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</p>
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The Council runs landlord forums and provides information to landlords through the Council website as well as during inspections verbally and through leaflets.

19	<p>Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?</p> <p>If yes, how? If no, please explain.</p>	Yes
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The Council's Private Sector Housing Agency was set up by the Council in 2017 to bring together the key services that work with private sector housing and landlords. The Council intends to consult on plans to establish a borough-wide selective licensing scheme for all private rental properties and HMOs (House in Multiple Occupation). The intention is that all private rental properties in the borough would be inspected over a 10 year timeframe supporting enforcement of the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property)(England and Wales) Regulations 2015 and enabling landlords to access support and funding where relevant to improve the standard and energy efficiency of properties. The service will use EPC information as part of range of information to prioritise higher risk properties.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency	
20	<p>What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.</p> <p>(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')</p>
N/A	
Fuel Poverty	
21	<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support that is available for low income and vulnerable households to help tackle fuel poverty in your local area. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.</p>
	N
The Council has made a commitment to agree and publish a new strategy in 2019/20.	
22	<p>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>
<p>Lewisham Council works with a local community sector organisation South East London Community Energy to identify vulnerable residents and help them access energy efficiency funding including the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the Mayor of London's Warmer Homes grant funding.</p> <p>The service combines the local authority ability to issue ECO Flexible Eligibility declarations with the community sector's capacity to connect with vulnerable residents. Data is used to identify areas where qualifying residents and properties are more likely to be found and, through a range of outreach activity, vulnerable residents are supported through the process of applying for fully funded works. As of the end of March 2019, ECO Flex declarations have been issued for 464 households in South East London with the vast majority of those receiving one or more fully-funded energy efficiency improvements. It is estimated that in 2018/19 the project has brought in an additional £600,000 funding for households in South East London.</p>	
23	<p>How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p>	
24	<p>a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>

Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words

In 2018/19 Lewisham Council led a partnership with four other south east London boroughs (Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Southwark), local community organisations (South East London Community Energy, Charlton Athletic Community Trust and Southwark and Lewisham Age UK) and Groundwork London to deliver a coordinated five borough fuel poverty project, offering practical advice through home visits and events across south east London with 875 residents benefiting.

b. If you have taken measures or initiatives to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words

N/A

The Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures. Following the Spring 2018 consultation, the Government set out in its [response](#) that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.

The recently introduced ECO “[flexible eligibility](#)” (ECO Flex) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO. LAs involved are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

25	Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.	Y
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Link to Sol: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/lewishamstatementofintentv4.ashx>

26	Please use the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand ECO Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.
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Lewisham Council makes ECO Flexible Eligibility declarations on behalf of the five south east London boroughs. Since October 2017 170 declarations have been issued for 464 households.

We have worked closely with the Mayor of London's Warmer Homes Fund, see details above and our partnership with South East London Community Energy has given us a way of resourcing outreach and evidence collection that underpins the declaration process. In making the ECO Flex declarations we are 'consulted' on potential measures that could be installed. However the final decision to fund is often taken after this point based on available resources and that means the local authority is not always informed on the detail of measures installed. This makes it difficult to accurately measure the impact of ECO Flexibility at a local level.

Smart Metering

27 Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

Engage and support your residents (including those in vulnerable circumstances or with pre-payment metering) to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits (e.g. ability to control energy use, identify best value tariffs)? Please detail any work undertaken or planned with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.

In 2016/17 Lewisham Council ran an advice project for residents funded through a grant from Smart Energy GB. Due to the limitations in getting suppliers to install smart meters in properties where residents were keen and because of uncertainty over SMETs1 compatibility the Council has not bid for further funding to continue this work but remains actively interested in the roll out of smart metering as a means to help residents reduce costs and deliver on carbon reduction targets.

28 Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

Integrate your approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation with the opportunities presented by the installation of smart meters, drawing upon materials from the [Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project](#) or other sources of independent information.

Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

N/A

29 Please detail any:

Resources/ support (e.g. services, funding) available to residents who have had an appliance(s) condemned for safety reasons and cannot afford to replace it (e.g. during visual safety checks conducted during their smart meter installation or otherwise).

None.

30 Please detail any:

	Existing relationships with energy suppliers to help ensure that the opportunities presented by vacant properties under your control are effectively utilised (i.e. gaining access to install a smart meter).
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Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

None.

Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives

31 Please outline any future schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation or businesses in your area, for example, within your Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Energy Strategy (if you do not plan any future schemes currently, please enter 'N/A').

Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words

Lewisham Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency is intended as a catalyst for an ambitious programme of activity in the borough to meet out energy needs sustainably and ensure vulnerable households are not further disadvantaged by rising energy costs and a changing climate. An action plan setting out our proposals to respond to the declaration and the target to be carbon neutral by 2030 is expected to be agreed by Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet in 2019/20. Residents and other interested parties can keep up to date on this activity via the Council's website

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/environment/energyefficiency/making-the-borough-carbon-neutral-by-2030-climate-emergency-declaration>

BEIS has funded the Greater South East Energy Hub covering the east of England, southeast England and London and is one of 5 local energy hubs receiving £4.8m. London boroughs are keen to benefit from BEIS funding and would like to see greater integration of the LEP Energy Strategy with the Mayor of London's Fuel Poverty Action Plan and Energy for Londoners to streamline this work with existing activity across the capital.