

# HECA Progress Report for North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. March 2015

## Introduction

The HECA report for North Kesteven was issued in March 2013. The report identified the energy conservation measures that NKDC considered practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of our residential accommodation. NKDC submitted a report covering the themes and information common to Lincolnshire and specific to North Kesteven; this is because all of the local authorities in the county work together as the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP) regarding this subject.

Following publication of our report in 2013 we are required to report at two yearly intervals to the Secretary of State on our progress in implementing these measures. This report also includes information on what we plan to do in the future to further improve homes in North Kesteven.



The Home Energy Lincs Partnership includes the seven district councils listed below and Lincolnshire County Council. Its membership consists of officers who are involved with the domestic energy efficiency and/or the wider climate change agenda. Working together, the partnership allows us to offer a more consistent approach to delivering affordable warmth and domestic energy efficiency to Lincolnshire residents. HELP focuses its attentions on schemes and projects that promote and improve domestic energy efficiency and co-ordinates its actions with the wider climate change agenda.

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council

The following tables show the progress we have made since the last HECA report was submitted in 2013, things we have done that we didn't include in our last report, and new projects we plan to do going forward to further improve the energy efficiency of homes in NKDC. We will report our progress on delivering against those actions in the next HECA progress report due in 2017.

## LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES

### LINCOLNSHIRE

In 2014 the Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing group in collaboration with HELP, commissioned the BRE to undertake a series of modelling exercises to produce a Dwelling Level Housing Stock Database and reports for both Lincolnshire and for each of the district council areas (with the exception of South Holland; however high level results were included to enable countywide results and comparisons to be made). The reports provide updated information on the condition of the housing stock with a focus on the private sector. Key indicators for Lincolnshire are listed below:

Of the private sector stock (owner occupied and private rented) it is estimated that:

- 21% of homes in the County have a Category 1 hazard
- 15% of homes have an excess cold hazard
- 21.5% of homes fall below EPC Band E (based on SimpleSap<sup>^</sup>)
- 23% of households are living in fuel poverty (10% definition\*), or 15% of households are living in fuel poverty if using the low income/high costs (LHIC) definition.

<sup>^</sup>based on BRE's SimpleSAP model which is a simplified version of the SAP model that produces an output broadly comparable to SAP.

\*The original definition states that a household is said to be in fuel poverty if it spends more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (usually defined as 21 C for the main living area, and 18 C for other occupied rooms).

The Energy Act 2013 introduced a new Low income, High costs definition. Under this definition a household is said to be in fuel poverty if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

**Fuel poverty** was estimated to affect 19.4% of Lincolnshire households in 2010 using the under 10% indicator: in 2012 this rose to 20.3% which is a total of 63,576 households.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-subregional-data-under-10-indicator>

The Energy Act 2013 introduced a new Low income, High costs definition. Under this definition a household is said to be in fuel poverty if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Using the new Low Income High Cost indicator, DECC estimate in 2012 that 12.2% (or 38,291 households) Lincolnshire households were fuel poor.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2012-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-low-income-high-costs-indicator>

Both of these estimates differ from the BRE 2014 stock condition estimates above.

**Off Gas:** in 2013 21.8% of homes in Lincolnshire were estimated to be off the gas network. This figure reported for 2012 was 22.3% it is thought that this reduction is largely due to more accurate data.

Source: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/area-profiles.aspx>

**Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** for 2012 are estimated at 7.1t per capita, of which 2.3t is attributed to housing (2010: 7.2t per capita of which 2.3t is attributed to housing)

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

**Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2016.** The Home Energy Lincs Partnership has begun to refresh this Strategy developed in 2009 to reflect the current opportunities and challenges to tackle the issues of affordable warmth and fuel poverty. NEA (National Energy Action) completed the initial review through their Green Deal and Affordable Warmth Practical Assistance Programme and further development has been on hold awaiting new national strategy and guidelines.

The agreed themes of the Strategy remain unaltered whilst the Action Plans are being developed to reflect:

- Initiatives in the new fuel poverty strategy for England
- Recommendations made in the recently published NICE (National Institute of Health and Care Excellence) guidelines on tackling seasonal excess deaths associated with living in cold homes; and the
- UK Health Forum guide to delivering action on fuel poverty.

Lincolnshire County Council's Environmental Scrutiny Committee review into tackling fuel poverty in Lincolnshire in 2012 made a number of recommendations that have been progressed since. The Home Energy Lincs Partnership Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed to be more inclusive of a wider range of statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. The Public Health team within the County Council has created a new role that includes fuel poverty in its remit to address the limited engagement previously possible on this agenda and to make stronger links with health and wellbeing.

**Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013-2018.** Priorities under the Strategy themes are being reviewed at present. It is anticipated that reducing the number of fuel poor households will remain an action with a focus on targeting initiatives at low income households living in thermally inefficient homes, in line with the new Low Income, High Costs indicator.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** that provides the evidence base for the Strategy is to be refreshed in time for a new strategy to be produced. HELP is intending to work with Public Health analysts to ensure the evidence base for fuel poverty is as strong as it can be.

### **Climate Local**

In 2012 both North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council signed up to Climate Local. Climate Local is the successor to the Nottingham Declaration renewing our Councils commitment to the issues surrounding the changing climate and carbon emissions in the environment.

### **NORTH KESTEVEN**

The BRE Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling Report and Database for NKDC 2014 provides the following information on the key indicators:

Of the private sector stock (owner occupied and private rented) it is estimated that:

- 18% of homes in North Kesteven have a Category 1 hazard
- 14% of homes have an excess cold hazard
- 19.6% of homes fall below EPC Band E (based on SimpleSap)
- 19% of households are living in fuel poverty (10% definition), or 13% of households are living in fuel poverty if using the low income/high costs (LHIC) definition.

**Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** for 2012 are estimated at 6.9t per capita, of which 2.3t is attributed to housing.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

### **Fuel poverty**

Using the under 10% indicator it is estimated that 16.2% of our households were in fuel poverty in 2012, this translates to 7606 households.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-subregional-data-under-10-indicator>

Using the new Low Income High Cost indicator it is estimated that 9.8% of households in North Kesteven were living in fuel poverty in 2012, this translates to 4573 households.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2012-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-low-income-high-costs-indicator>

Both of these estimates differ from the BRE 2014 estimates.

**Off Gas:** in 2013, 22% homes were estimated to be off the gas network. The figure reported for 2012 was 23%, it is thought that this reduction is largely due to more accurate data.

Source: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/area-profiles.aspx>

	<p><b>Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy 2013-2016</b></p> <p>The overall aim of the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy is to help vulnerable home owners and tenants remain living independently in their homes, where it is appropriate to do so.</p> <p>The Strategy has five themes which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring proper housing standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing standards enforcement developed through a new Housing Enforcement Policy</li> <li>• Home owner advice and support to obtain external funding</li> <li>• Direct financial assistance to support access to external funding, relocation and small scale work (Handyperson service)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Reducing energy use and delivering affordable warmth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working through the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP), Carbon Action Network (CAN) and NEA (National Energy Action) to provide funding opportunities to reduce energy use in properties.</li> <li>• Develop a revised Home Energy Conservation Strategy integrating Green Deal and ECO</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Supporting independent living</li> <li>4. Promoting access to the private rented sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working through DASH (Decent and Safe Homes) Services through the Lincolnshire</li> <li>• Private Sector Housing Group to provide advice and support for landlords and tenants</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Bringing empty homes back into use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise operational (enforcement) options available and ensure properties brought back into use are of a good standard and energy efficiency rating</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The Strategy sets out a range of services to deliver these initiatives and an action plan summarising new Proposed initiatives to develop, and actions to fulfil the aims of the Strategy.</p>
Green Deal and ECO	<p><b>Green Deal Assessments</b> – 6114 have been lodged in Lincolnshire and 818 of these were in North Kesteven.</p> <p><b>Cashback Vouchers</b> – 316 Cashback vouchers have been paid in Lincolnshire and 47 of these were in North Kesteven.</p> <p><b>Green Deal Home Improvement Vouchers</b> - 127 paid in Lincolnshire and 23 of these were in North Kesteven.</p> <p><b>ECO</b> – The provisional number of ECO measures delivered in Lincolnshire by obligation is as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Saving Target – CSO – 3806 have been carried out in Lincolnshire – 544 of these were in North Kesteven</li> <li>• Carbon Savings Community – CSCO – 3223 have been carried out in Lincolnshire – 99 of these were in North Kesteven</li> <li>• Affordable Warmth – HHCRO – 3162 have been carried out in Lincolnshire – 418 of these were in North Kesteven</li> </ul> <p>Total provisional ECO measures in Lincolnshire was 10191, 1061 of these were in North Kesteven.</p>

	<p>All figures are up to the end of December 2014.  Source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/green-deal-and-energy-company-obligation-eco-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/green-deal-and-energy-company-obligation-eco-statistics</a></p> <p>Progress on Green Deal and ECO schemes has been limited. Lincolnshire councils were unsuccessful in their attempt to secure Green Deal Communities funding and so no local, targeted schemes exist. Due in the main to the rural nature of the district, measures under ECO seem to have mostly been the replacement of gas boilers.</p> <p>HELP is hoping to be able to work with the Department of Energy and Climate Change to utilise the new Central Heating Fund for first time installation of central heating to off gas properties.</p> <p>We are encouraging the uptake of ECO and the Green Deal through a range of means including our sustainNK e-newsletter, sustainNK website, our Council newspaper, press releases and advice to residents visiting us as outreach events or via telephone/ email.</p> <p>During 2015 we will be recruiting an additional post to assist with the enforcement of energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector. This will involve encouraging landlords and tenants to make use of the funding schemes available to them. An action plan with performance indicators is currently being developed.</p>
Feed in Tariff scheme	<p><b>Lincolnshire</b>  As of the end of February 2015, in Lincolnshire, there have been 11,283 domestic installations of electricity-generating technology from a renewable or low-carbon source registered for FiTs. This is an increase of 4586 since March 2013</p> <p><b>North Kesteven</b>  During the same period, 2106 domestic properties had registered for FiTs in North Kesteven. 2101 of these were domestic PV installations and 5 wind turbines. This is an increase of 1269 since the last HECA report in March 2013.  Source: <a href="https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/">https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/</a></p> <p>Working in partnership, Lark Energy has installed 660kW of Solar PVs to 220 North Kesteven District Council owned dwellings through a rent a roof scheme. Whilst this report is being written we are completing installation of solar PV onto NKDC head office with a display in reception to further promote the benefits to others in North Kesteven.</p> <p>We are encouraging the uptake of the feed in tariff scheme through a range of means including our sustainNK e-newsletter, sustainNK website, our Council newspaper, press releases and advice to residents visiting us as outreach events or through telephone/ email.</p>
Renewable Heat Incentive	<p><b>Lincolnshire</b>  From April 2014 to January 2015, 632 domestic installations were accredited for the Renewable Heat Incentive in Lincolnshire. Data is currently unavailable for North Kesteven.  Source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rhi-deployment-data-january-2015">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rhi-deployment-data-january-2015</a></p>

	<p>We are encouraging the uptake of the renewable heat incentive through a range of means including our sustainNK e-newsletter, sustainNK website, our Council newspaper, press releases and advice to residents visiting us as outreach events or through telephone/ email.</p>
<p>Minimum standards in private rented sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue working with local landlords to raise the standard of privately rented properties, by offering advice, information and where necessary by taking appropriate enforcement action through use of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System and The Housing Act 2004. Recruitment of a further FTE during 2015 to focus on improving this can only improve our future performance in this area.</li> <li>• We will promote Green Deal to landlords and encourage take up to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are achieved prior to 2018;</li> </ul> <p>Working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing Group we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to promote co-ordinated landlords forums supported by DASH services (Decent and Safe Homes). Since April 2013 there have been 7 events held across Lincolnshire.</li> <li>• In partnership with DASH, a Lincolnshire branded Landlord Accreditation scheme was launched in September 2013 with road-shows being held across the county to promote the scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Continued to seek out external funding streams which may assist with improvements to homes.</p>
<p>Energy Performance Certificates (EPC)</p>	<p>In 2014, the Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing Group in collaboration with HELP, commissioned the BRE to produce a Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling Database and Report for both Lincolnshire and for each of the districts. The databases can now be interrogated to assess the likely scope of any future improvement programmes. We are currently purchasing EPC data to be incorporated within the database to allow us to focus our attention on the areas of greatest need.</p> <p>The report shows that current mean SAP ratings* for private sector properties in Lincolnshire are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• owner occupier: 51</li> <li>• private rented: 48</li> </ul> <p>The report shows that current mean SAP ratings* for private sector properties in North Kesteven are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• owner occupier: 52</li> <li>• private rented: 50.5</li> </ul> <p>*based on BRE's SimpleSAP model which is a simplified version of the SAP model that produces an output broadly comparable to SAP.</p> <p>These SAP ratings are broadly the same as in 2013.</p> <p>20% (8,325) of private sector dwellings and 24% (1,700) of private rented dwellings in North Kesteven are estimated to have an EPC rating below band E.</p>

Area based approach	The Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing group in collaboration with HELP, commissioned the BRE to produce a Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling Report and Database. Each district (except South Holland) now has a database of private sector housing stock detailing basic statistics populated from various sources including the English Housing Survey. The databases can be interrogated to assess the likely scope of any future improvement programmes.
Existing schemes	<p><b>Lincolnshire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HELP continues to work in partnership with Responders to Warmth (R2W) in Lincolnshire particularly focussed on older people and those with long term health conditions. Following the end of the Warm Homes, Healthy People (Department of Health) funding, Lincolnshire County Council Public Health provided a £500,000 grant to the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, which was uplifted with £250,000 funding accessed by them to establish R2W as a Community Interest Company. Referrals are made by R2W to ECO schemes and to other agencies or for other charitable funds where appropriate. <a href="http://www.responderstowarmth.org">http://www.responderstowarmth.org</a></li> <li>• HELP continues to work with Community Lincs to promote their bulk oil buying scheme to those residents in off gas areas of the county. <a href="http://communitylincs.com/community-oil-buying-scheme/">http://communitylincs.com/community-oil-buying-scheme/</a></li> <li>• Working in partnership with HELP, Community Lincs has also successfully delivered the Energy Best Deal for several years and 2 rounds of the Big Energy Saving Network.</li> <li>• The First Contact referral service ended in September 2014 and has been incorporated into the Wellbeing Service(s) in Lincolnshire, commissioned by Public Health. The Service provides short term, in-home support for a resident facing a change in circumstances in their life (e.g. following a bereavement, stay in hospital or loss of employment) to put in place what is needed to maintain independent living. Staff in the Wellbeing Service are being funded by Public Health to complete the City and Guilds in Energy Awareness so that in-home support to reduce fuel poverty can be included in the service. <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/public-health/behind-the-scenes/the-wellbeing-service/">http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/public-health/behind-the-scenes/the-wellbeing-service/</a></li> <li>• A Lincolnshire Advice Network (LAN) and Lincs2Advice service have been set up by Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureaux across the county and the Lincolnshire Credit Union to signpost people to advice providers on a wide range of issues. HELP is working with the LAN to ensure access to affordable warmth and energy advice is maximised. <a href="https://www.lincolnshireadvicenetwork.org.uk/">https://www.lincolnshireadvicenetwork.org.uk/</a></li> </ul> <p>In 2013 HELP, working with Procurement Lincolnshire, was instrumental in setting up a framework through the Local Government Association (LGA) to bring a Collective Switching scheme to Lincolnshire residents in order to reduce domestic fuel bills. Lincolnshire councils had been unsuccessful in securing Department of Energy and Climate Change Better Energy Together funding to establish and promote collective energy switching schemes. Nevertheless, since January 2014, 4 schemes have been offered to residents, resulting in significant savings being made by those who switched. In the first 3 schemes, over 1600 residents saved an average of £190 each equating to a total saving of over £316,000. More needs to be done to ensure hard to reach fuel poor households are encouraged and supported to switch supplier. The figures switching so far for North Kesteven are 304, saving an estimated £51,564 per year.</p>



**MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMODATION BY USING AREA BASED/ STREET BY STREET ROLL-OUT**

- The Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing group in collaboration with HELP, commissioned the BRE to produce a Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling Report and Database. Each district (except South Holland) now has a database of private sector housing stock detailing basic statistics populated from various sources including the English Housing Survey. The databases can be interrogated to assess the likely scope of any future improvement programmes.
- HELP proposes to fund the purchase of currently available EPC data for the county which will be incorporated into the Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling Report and Database to further assist with any future targeted improvements and inform future work with private sector landlords.
- The Home Energy Lincolnshire Partnership will continue to explore delivery mechanisms and partnerships, particularly for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the Carbon Saving Community obligation (CSCo) areas and is committed to improving domestic energy efficiency and providing affordable warmth as set out in the **Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2016** and other strategic documents.  
HELP is hoping to be able to work with the Department of Energy and Climate Change to utilise the new Central Heating Fund for first time installation of central heating to off gas properties.
- We will continue to monitor progress on actions within our Affordable Warmth Strategy and District Wide Carbon Management Programme. The recruitment of a further FTE tasked with improving EE standards in the private rented sector gives us the opportunity to make significant improvements to the energy efficiency of homes in the private rented sector ahead of 2018.

Signed off by



Ian Fytche

Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council