

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 2023 Report



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 2023 Report

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires all local authorities (LAs) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy performance 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. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero uses data submitted to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

This guidance document is issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act. The act required LAs to update the required HECA reporting framework by 29th February 2024,. The survey centres around a series of questions and direct information points.

The 2023 report template is divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes and is reported here as reflected within the online submission format.

Table of Contents

Headline and Overview	4
Communication.....	5
Consumer Advice and Information	5
Local Retrofit Supply Chain	5
Social Housing Decarbonisation	6
Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations	7
Green Home Finance	7
Fuel Poverty	8
Government Funded Schemes	9
Local Authority Delivery (LAD)	9
Home Upgrade Grant (HUG).....	9
The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	10
Smart Metering	11

Headline and Overview

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

1) Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

Yes

2) If yes, please provide a link

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan/>

3) If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

N/A

4) In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented.

£880k (estimate)

5) Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply.

- Energy savings
- Carbon savings
- Job creation
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes

Communication

How LAs engage stakeholders to promote awareness of energy efficiency. Green Local Supply Chain.

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

Consumer Advice and Information

6) Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

Yes

7) If yes, please select all that apply

- Local Authority website
- Local advisory service
- Social media

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

8) Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

No

9) If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

N/A

10) Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain?

None

11) Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

Yes

12) Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

No – we are not aware of any issues

13) If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

No

14) If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?
N/A
15) If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?
N/A
<u>Social Housing Decarbonisation</u> What actions LAs and Social Housing partners have taken to install energy efficiency measures.
16) Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?
Yes, and successful in securing funding
17) Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for retrofit • Technical support for retrofit • Tenant needs • Expectations of future energy performance regulations
18) Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?
N/A
19) Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
20) If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal funding
21) If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply.
N/A
22) How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?
Not aware of any.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018 and April 2020

23) Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

Yes

24) Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

Yes

25) Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

No

26) In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

24

27) In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

22

28) In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

14

29) How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

13

Green Home Finance

Leveraging private finance to promote energy efficiency.

30) What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

None

31) Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

No

32) If yes, Please include links to any relevant online materials.

N/A
33) Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?
No
<u>Fuel Poverty</u>
How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.
34) Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?
No
35) How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.
We have used the Sub-regional fuel poverty data from the DESNZ, both at local authority and lower super output area (LSOA) https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2023-2021-data . We have also used data on disposable income from Experian, as well as identifying which types of households are more likely to be fuel poor, using Experian's Mosaic segmentation. We also look for research, such as from the ONS, on the types of property or household composition that are more likely to be fuel poor. Other data includes Winter Fuel Payment recipients and the English Indices of Deprivation 2019.
36) What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. <p>We have also secured Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) funding. This scheme is funded by DESNZ and enabled by MNZH, to reach out to residents who are unable to access standard online routes to access government grants, as hard-to-reach and/or hard-to-treat properties.</p>
37) Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?
Yes
38) If yes, please can you explain how it does this?
Yes, NKDC's Climate Change Team delivers government funded Fuel Poverty related schemes and therefore has to understand the associated impacts of this work in alignment with our Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and Climate Emergency Strategy (CES). This is investigated from a carbon perspective, as well as understanding the co-benefits and through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals which are used within our CEAP/CES.
39) If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?

N/A

Government Funded Schemes

LA participation in schemes such as LAD, HUG and ECO.

Local Authority Delivery (LAD)

40) If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

41) Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

No

42) If no, please specify what is lacking.

The data could be improved. We have used the LSOA estimates of properties not connected to the gas network data from DESNZ, to find areas where homes are on-gas. For data on on-gas properties we would refer to Energy Performance of Buildings Data: England and Wales from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. However, data is not available for all properties, and for others, information may have changed since their Energy Performance Certificate was issued.

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)

43) If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

44) Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

No

45) If no, please specify what is lacking.

The data could be improved. We have used the LSOA estimates of properties not connected to the gas network data from the DESNZ, to find areas where homes are off-gas. For data on off-gas properties we would refer to Energy Performance of Buildings Data: England and Wales from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. However, data is not available for all properties, and for others, information may have changed since their Energy Performance Certificate was issued.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)
46) Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?
Yes
Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:
47) How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?
1
48) How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?
0
49) How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?
0
50) What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?
£26,800 (based on household composition)
51) If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?
NA
52) Did you charge for declarations to be signed?
No
53) If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.
NA
54) ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?
Yes
55) If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?
N/A
56) Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?
No
57) If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)
N/A
58) Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 1

- Route 2
- Route 3

Smart Metering

How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

59) Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

Yes

60) If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

N/A

61) Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

No

62) If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

This is not part of our current delivery or a requirement for internal policy, however this is something we are investigating for the future.

63) Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

No

64) If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

Time constraints. In order to protect the Council's funds / assets, we're required to re-let properties as soon as works are completed. Utility companies are notoriously slow. The practicalities of it also mean it's resource heavy - where we have had a change in meter due to an issue, it's meant that a member of staff has had to be present, usually waiting for hours as the company will only give them an appointment window. All of our new builds have smart meters installed.