

aleo

news

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Welcome to ALEO News

Issue 49 - Winter 2017/18



At the end of October I chaired an ALEO Conference in London and, as ever, one of the highlights was hosting the national awards ceremony. Despite austerity, many ALEO members are delivering great work across the country. Many thousands of people across England and Wales owe their warmth and comfort to the work of ALEO members. In addition to celebrating the work of ALEO members, it was a great pleasure to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to Jenny Saunders, outgoing Chief Executive of National Energy Action. Jenny has been a true leader for the fuel poverty movement and a strong supporter of local authorities' role. I say a bit more about Jenny on page 17.

We discussed a wide range of issues at the conference, not least of which was ECO Flexible Eligibility. I am encouraged to see that the government are considering maintaining and perhaps even expanding this element of ECO, but I would also encourage them to mandate energy suppliers to work with local authorities in order that we can build truly effective partnerships. At the conference we also heard from BEIS about the Digital Economy Act and how local authorities can use its provisions to better access and share data for the purposes of alleviating fuel poverty.

More disappointingly, we still have serious concerns about the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for private rented sector housing, due to come fully into force in April next year. They still allow landlords to exempt themselves from having to remove properties from the worst EPC bands if they have to incur even a penny of upfront cost to themselves. Neither the limited Energy Company Obligation nor the failed Green Deal can fill this gap and many private tenants will still languish in cold homes. When over 90 per cent of such homes could be improved for less than £5,000 this is absurd

and we will continue to make the case for a cost cap of at least that sum.

In more personal news, I recently moved on from Islington Council to the Greater London Authority and the Mayor of London has some exciting plans for energy programmes in the city. Devolution has already hugely benefited Scotland and Wales and presents the opportunity for English city regions and counties to prove that we can do things better than central government and we should embrace the potential.

John Kolm-Murray
ALEO National Chair

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ECO2t, the story so far!

We are very much enjoying and embracing our partnership with ALEO and all of the members. Over the past few months, we've been attending and presenting at many of the regional ALEO and NEA meetings and enjoying some very positive one-to-one meetings and new partnerships. At these meetings we have aimed to communicate the offering under this current ECO obligation whilst also emphasising the importance of spending the current pot of money set aside for LA Flex.

Many of you are successfully rolling out a scheme for your residents to blend these various ECO funding streams and we hope to offer our partnership services with some of these schemes moving forward. There is still time for us to assist those local authorities who have yet to identify a scheme and possibly submit a Statement of Intent (SOI).

The benefits of blending these ECO pots together are:

- Insulation grant funding is available for all homes
- Targets health AND fuel poverty
- Helps those in need who previously may have been missed

Any successful, well thought out scheme, would be attractive to an energy retailer to source funding. The LA Flex scheme is only a small part of the total insulation funding available. If you haven't submitted a SOI, an energy retailer would still be interested in funding a general Affordable Warmth/CERO scheme.

However, the LA Flex budget is there to be spent. For future ECO Obligations, this pot may dramatically increase if it can be demonstrated that this current obligation had a good take up by

local authorities. Conversely, if there is a low take up it may well be that the LA Flex component will disappear completely. It is there to help those who may not have been identified before and this is your chance to help and to ensure your residents can access as much funding as possible to help those with health problems or those in fuel poverty.

We have recently contacted all local authorities across Wales and England to illustrate the benefits of partnering with A&M under ECO2t. We hope to work with many more of you throughout this winter and into 2018. We have established partnering and funding agreements with energy suppliers in place so can make a well-planned scheme a reality quite easily.

"Marches Energy Agency has recently partnered with A&M to offer insulation measures to residents through our local authority advice services, utilising funding from ECO2t. We look forward to a successful and productive partnership, moving forward." - Oliver Rothwell, Marches Energy Agency

If you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07515 325 866 or email on stephen.lang@am-energy.com

- Stephen Lang, A&M Energy Solutions

Pictured: Debra Fox, Home Energy Promotions Officer, ENGIE and Chris Garvey, Business Development Manager, A&M Energy Solutions



New Partnership to Make Lincolnshire Homes More Energy Efficient

North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council have entered into a new partnership with four companies to help make even more homes more energy efficient.

The council will be working with E.ON, A&M Energy Solutions, YES Energy Solutions and Warm Front to offer subsidised energy measures.

Having already gone through a robust tendering process, residents will have peace of mind that all four companies have been vetted and have the councils' seal of approval.

The new arrangement will see the councils and their partners maximise funding from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) to offer heating improvements and loft and cavity wall insulation to people on certain benefits, as well as improvements like external wall insulation for those in hard to treat homes.

The councils intend to assist as many residents as possible to lower their fuel bills and reduce emissions across North and North East Lincolnshire. This new partnership will allow us to continue to support

residents who need that extra bit of help to cope with spiralling fuel bills.

"This is a great opportunity to help those most at risk from fuel poverty. We are looking forward to continuing our work, providing warmer homes with lower running costs to residents in both areas."
- Stephen Lang, A&M Energy Solutions.

The Partnership continues the success of the SHEEP Scheme, South Humber Energy Efficiency Partnership, that has provided energy efficiency measures to vulnerable households since 2004.

The councils have now submitted their Statement of Intent (SOI). This will open up avenues, previously closed for some residents, for the council to declare if their own residents are living in fuel poverty, on a low income or vulnerable to living in a cold home. We are all committed to supporting the success of this scheme in the future by blending pots of funding, where necessary, to ensure the maximum number of residents can benefit from a warmer home.

Linda Palmer - Affordable Warmth Officer, North Lincolnshire Council
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Debra Fox - Home Energy Promotions Officer, North East Lincolnshire Council
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Local Authority Leadership Crucial to Delivering Local Energy Investment

- Helen Pearce, Local Energy Manager, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Local authorities have a crucial role to play in transforming our energy system, and there is much to gain in the process. In spite of the benefits of taking action and the actions of some local leaders, why have two thirds of local authorities made little or no practical progress on energy and climate change? And what can Government do to help?

The Government has put clean growth and affordable energy for businesses and consumers at the heart of its Industrial Strategy. As set out in the Clean Growth Strategy, we will ensure that local areas are empowered to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the low carbon economy.

Energy generation is becoming more decentralised, with a more diverse range of technologies being used across the country. Users of energy are playing a more active role in the energy system, by investing in energy efficiency, microgeneration, storage and demand management, while drivers are increasingly switching to low carbon vehicles.

Local authorities have a crucial role to play in this transformation of the energy system, and many are already taking action. Thirty five UK councils have signed up to reduce carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 under the Covenant of Mayors. As members of UK100, 70 local authorities have committed to transition to 100 per cent clean energy by 2050.

Local authority action ranges from setting policy and facilitating activity in the local area, to providing advice or funding to residents, communities and businesses, to investing in their own projects. One third of the UK's 434 local authorities have invested directly in energy projects, including energy efficiency improvements, generation and supply of heat and electricity, and installing infrastructure to enable development and low carbon transport.

In addition to cutting carbon, these projects support economic growth and jobs, improve public health and welfare, save money for the public sector, businesses and households, and generate income to support other public services. For example, businesses in Greater Manchester saved an estimated total of £327 million and created or safeguarded 8,300 jobs in the last fifteen years thanks to energy advice and support from the Green Growth Hub. Nottingham City Council's not-for-profit energy supply company, Robin Hood Energy, has benefited households in fuel poverty and helped to drive down prices in the market for other local consumers. Cornwall Council is working with Government to unlock grid capacity and enable more of its wind, solar, geothermal and offshore resources to be used for local benefit.

A Mini-Stern report for Bristol identified scope to invest 0.4% of GVA or £58m in energy projects every year for ten years, generating average annual savings of £175 million. The University of Leeds has analysed the economic benefits of addressing energy and climate change for LEPs and local authorities around the country. The results are available from www.candocities.org, along with recommendations about what the most cost-effective investment options could be for your local area.

Although the rewards are substantial, a number of factors are limiting progress in many local areas. Barriers include a lack of people with the expertise to lead and coordinate energy projects, and a lack of development capital to fund the initial stages of project development, from feasibility through to the business case for investment. Individual local authority projects also lack sufficient scale to attract private finance, and could benefit from being aggregated into investment programmes.

BEIS provides a range of support for energy projects including Feed-in Tariffs, Contracts for Difference and the Renewable Heat Incentive; Heat Networks Delivery Unit support and the Heat Networks Investment Programme; finance for domestic and public sector energy efficiency; and innovation funding for energy storage, electric vehicles, smart heating systems and the use of hydrogen for heating. Calls for evidence are currently open on other policy areas including A Voluntary Emissions Target for the Wider Public Sector and Higher Education, and Building a Market for Energy Efficiency – any input from local authorities will be greatly appreciated.

The BEIS Local Energy programme has been designed to address the gap in the capacity and capability of local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The programme includes:

- Funding of £1.6 million to enable all LEPs in England to develop energy strategies, in order to provide a strategic basis for the delivery of local energy investment
- Good practice guidance and tools for carbon monitoring and reporting, cost benefit analysis, and the design and delivery of health and fuel poverty schemes
- Support for communications and benchmarking, including the establishment of a Local Energy Huddle where local authorities and LEPs can share information and questions online
- Funding for additional capacity support totalling £4.7 million, which is proposed to fund a number of regional hubs and local project managers with the expertise to undertake the initial stages of project development

We are delivering a number of the above projects in partnership with local authorities, and the outputs will be published so that everyone can make use of them. We would like to encourage all local authorities in England to work with our team at BEIS, and with their LEPs and other local partners, to drive forwards local energy investment and maximise the benefits for your local area.

To contact our team or join our Local Energy Huddle space, please email localenergy@beis.gov.uk



Stoke-on-Trent's district heat network is launched - Pictured (left to right) are:
Andrew Briggs, City Council Client Manager - Energy
Councillor Anthony Munday, Cabinet Member for Greener City, Development and Leisure
Professor David Hawkins, Staffordshire University Dean of Creative Arts and Engineering
Sebastien Danneels, City Council DHN Technical Lead Manager
and Councillor Alan Dutton, Cabinet Support and Lead Member for the DHN

EDF Energy and Islington Council – ECO Flexible Eligibility Partnership

Following the introduction of the Flexible Eligibility scheme in the ECO2t obligation in April this year, EDF Energy has been in constant liaison with Islington Council to discuss and plan the launch of a partnership Flexible Eligibility scheme for private households. Islington Council runs a SHINE (Seasonal Health Interventions Network) programme that offers a single point of referral service for energy advice to householders in London. To date, SHINE has clients in 30 London boroughs and a number of boroughs such as Hackney, Kingston and Lambeth have delegated ECO Flex declarations to Islington.

EDF Energy and Islington Council are both pleased to confirm they have now launched one of the first Flexible Eligibility direct partnerships between a local authority and an energy company. This scheme allows all leads from Islington's SHINE programme to be sent to EDF Energy and managed by the company's specialist energy efficiency team. These leads are validated and then allocated to EDF Energy's dedicated installation team in London to arrange a survey date and ensure the customer gets the best advice on which energy efficiency product would best suit their requirements.

**- Mark Dallen
 Consortium & Stakeholder manager: ECO
 EDF Energy**

First Pipes to Be Laid in Pioneering, Energy-Efficient Heat Network

A pioneering programme to bring a network of sustainable, low carbon and low cost heat energy to Stoke-on-Trent is underway.

Over the next 11 weeks, the first 700 metres of pipe will be laid underground between Leek Road and Boughy Road in Stoke. It is the first phase of four kilometres of piping around the University Quarter, which when completed next year, will mean that businesses and households will have the potential to connect to receive low-maintenance, affordable heat, without the need for gas boilers in their properties.

It is the first step in Stoke-on-Trent City Council's innovative district heat network, a programme which won multi-million pound investment through the government's City Deal that was secured by the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership in 2014. The network will go on to see 18 kilometres of piping laid underground across the city. The council's ambitious proposals have already mapped out the geology under the city to look into ways of tapping into naturally forming underground geothermal energy, which would heat the network, helping to power the local economy and provide alternative, sustainable energy for households.

The first pipes now being laid will be powered via an energy centre off Leek Road. The works will create some disruption to road users, but this will be kept to a minimum, with pipe installation taking place during evenings and weekends, and two-way flow of traffic maintained during the day where possible.

Council leader Dave Conway said: "These pipes represent a landmark occasion for our city. We're serious about creating a better, healthier, greener future for residents and boosting our economy by providing alternative ways to lower energy prices.

"A district heat network has the potential to cut the city's carbon footprint by 12,500 tonnes per year – the equivalent of 2,500 hot air balloons. We're now taking the first steps to make this a reality. It is an exciting time and a project that we should all get behind."

The proposals have taken 10 months to carefully plan out, including ground conditions and utilities mapping. The initial network will create the potential for Staffordshire University, student and other residential accommodation, and other businesses to connect.

Councillor Anthony Munday, cabinet member for

greener city, development and leisure, said: "This is a hugely significant project for the city and one that has taken time to get the detail right so that we can make a positive difference in reducing our environmental impact and creating sustainable energy for generations to enjoy.

"The pipes use materials that are durable enough for at least 50 years, and we are installing infrastructure so that other utilities and technology companies can access underground networks without the need to dig up roads for new cabling. The works now to take place have been co-ordinated and programmed with local businesses and residents, in order to minimise impact on traffic and local people.

"It is a really exciting time for the city, and we hope that the first customers will be able to connect to the network from autumn 2018."

Professor Ieuan Ellis, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Staffordshire University, welcomed the launch of the scheme, which is set to lower domestic and commercial heating costs as well as creating new jobs in North Staffordshire. He confirmed that the university is exploring the potential to be an early adopter of the new district heat network system and to create a live demonstrator on campus.

He said: "Staffordshire University has a strong academic reputation in the area of renewable and sustainable energy systems and is already working closely with the city council and Nordic Heat to exchange knowledge, expertise and best practice relating to the city's district heat network.

"Because of our shared ambition for the region to be internationally recognised for indigenous and sustainable energy, we have set up a think-tank that will use its academic and industry expertise, aided by student and graduate internships, to evaluate new technologies and approaches, and to support those in other cities and countries looking to develop their own district heat networks."

David Frost, chairman of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "It is great to see this pioneering project becoming a reality. This showpiece sustainable energy scheme has huge potential as a source of affordable low-carbon energy for local businesses and residents. It illustrates the can-do attitude of the LEP and Stoke-on-Trent City Council in finding greener energy solutions that will help our economy to grow and raise Stoke-on-Trent's international profile as an innovative city."

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Energy Efficiency Retrofit

Ceredigion County Council Energy Efficiency Project Manager Graeme Lane offers an insight into maximising the delivery of Energy Efficiency funding for homes in Ceredigion.

Delivering home energy efficiency improvements

Identifying an area in need is the first step to qualification for many projects and funding opportunities. Getting to grips with your housing stock data, understanding Registered Social Landlord priorities, along with related qualifying criteria, is critical to meet any set objectives.

Procurement

Deadlines of delivery generally determine procurement options. Sourcing a good quality main contractor is a key feature of a successful project so it is important to seek out examples of works and previous projects. Considering the full range of available procurement options at the earliest opportunity with your in-house procurement team is an essential stage of the project development. We have utilised a number of options, including OJEU compliant frameworks and development of own procurement exercises.

Selecting products and designs

Understanding the needs of the properties and then matching an appropriate product and design solution is vital. These decisions are based on demands of properties, social landlord product selection, budgets and previous experiences of the contractor as well as our own in-house team. The market is full of options so selecting the best fit for a number of property types isn't without its challenges. "Detailing is king..." as Colin from the BRE advises. We have ensured where possible that products are in accordance with product design and appropriately applied. Any bespoke detailing is agreed and signed off with designers, suppliers and installers to maintain customer warranty conditions.

Team work

Building professional relationships and working closely with the main contractor, sub-contractors, product providers, as well as all the specialists, really does allow you to keep your finger on the pulse. Being open to all activities on-site, amongst the various stakeholders, enables swift resolution of matters arising. For us, a pivotal role during these projects is the client role for private sector households, having an engaged and willing team provides a united group who can provide support and cover if required.



Seeking advice

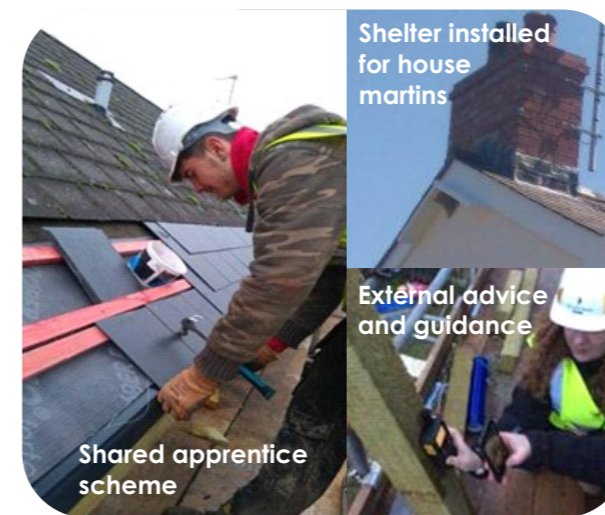
Recognising limitations is important - being curious and asking questions equally so. Don't always think that everything is ok or contractors know all the answers. The aim from the outset on our scheme was to carry out all works for the best long term outcome for the property and the householders.

Knowing when to seek the appropriate advice is essential and proved invaluable in helping things move forward. Guidance was required on a number of elements, including design and performance characteristics in exposed areas. Funding demands also changed when we uncovered issues related to failed cavity wall insulation. To exacerbate things, sign up and householder confidence of the community regarding insulation and performance was tarnished.

Utilising the guidance from Dr Jo Atkinson of the Carbon Trust and Colin King of the BRE assisted us in identifying the significance of the matter, as well as provided reassurance to the public and with seeking appropriate detailing and solutions. In this instance, the evidence reinforced decision making for us and Welsh Government. We were delighted that Welsh Government had sourced support for local authorities from industry-leading organisations during the preparation and live delivery of projects, which ensured appropriate actions on schemes.

Combining energy efficiency measures with advice

Following pilot energy efficiency coaching and a behaviour change research exercise in Ceredigion, it became clear that empowering people to take charge of energy use, and understand the energy market and the systems within their homes, are invaluable. We share our reports with main contrac-



tors and encourage them to adopt this methodology when it comes to energy advice. An example of the delivery of this intervention gave some staggering results; for a relatively modest investment savings reached in excess of £161,785.00 made up of energy savings and income maximisation. The overall figure will increase as some of the benefits achieved are year-on-year savings and increased levels of income. This is one of the most significant fuel poverty reduction exercises undertaken in Ceredigion and will be utilised where possible in future activities. Generally, financial support towards energy efficiency advice is low. However, there is a significant benefit investing in this alongside any project or indeed as a standalone approach.

Community Benefit

An extremely valuable part of any project is how much more of an impact and legacy you can achieve through the project. Being creative and persistent has benefited a diverse range of causes. Identifying these good causes was achieved by working with a range of departments internally and with external community stakeholders. Support can be provided in the form of in-kind cash contributions, which can be extremely helpful as a short term boost to local organisations, or by utilising the skills and knowledge of the workforce for potentially longer term legacy outcomes. The legacy outcomes include employment opportunities for those out of work, shared apprenticeships, skills training and accreditation and works in community facilities. Prior to project commencement, a number of "meet the buyer" events are held to encourage local contractor engagement and create employment opportunities.

It is important to work closely with the supply chain to identify support streams available and then match them to community needs. One such example is the increased risk caused by the dynamic nature of construction activities amongst occupied family dwellings. Working with the supply chain we quickly developed an activity day to educate and inform the young people of the potential dangers of construction sites. This was carried out in a fun way engaging communities and young people and was supported and funded by the main contractor.

Other community benefits provided by the supply chain include:

- Upgraded kitchen in a community building
- Materials for insulation and decoration provided to a community hall
- Skate park fun day and cash contribution to improving the facilities
- External wall insulation and improved heating system to community building
- Numerous training and skills development opportunities, shared apprentices
- Cash contributions to church for improvement works
- Cash contributions towards a disabled group to increase access
- Materials for upgrading changing room facilities

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is an important consideration for all schemes. Due to specific time constraints of some of our projects, we found ourselves at odds with the normal prescribed ecologists surveying timeframes. The challenge for us was to deliver a well-considered scheme that did not jeopardise the local ecology.

We decided to pilot a carefully considered approach utilising specialist ecologists with inputs from conservation societies and contractors. The results of which were compiled into an external wall insulation toolkit for biodiversity. During the development of the toolkit, we found that mitigation measures don't have to be expensive or time consuming, just carefully planned in accordance with the toolkit. The toolkit aims to assist all those with similar projects to ensure protection of the environment as well as the project delivery team. The penalty for failing to adhere to protected species legislation carries an unlimited fine and up to six months imprisonment, which is often not known about until its too late.

The final version of the toolkit can be found at www.ceredigion.gov.uk/English/Resident/Planning/external-wall-insulation-toolkit-for-biodiversity/Pages/default.aspx



Pictured left to right:
Robert Marjoram, Scottish Power
Laura Le-Thien, BEIS
Phoebe Stannard, BEIS
Francesca Lunn,
Spelthorne Borough Council
Sheila Harvey - Customer
Sharon Dorrington, Happy Energy
Adrian Wright, Happy Energy
Darren Cartwright, Happy Energy

Spelthorne ECO Flex Campaign

Spelthorne Borough Council in Surrey recently launched their ECO Local Authority Flexible Eligibility (LA Flex) offering for local residents and saw a phenomenal response when they targeted local park home sites. The mailer, to just under 300 homes, has resulted in over 60 residents receiving a free boiler upgrade, providing an estimated £150,000 of energy saving works from a mailer costing less than a few hundred pounds.

Francesca Lunn, Energy Reduction Officer for Spelthorne Borough Council, said "We were overwhelmed and delighted by the response from our mailer to local park homes. Despite setting our LA Flex earnings threshold at a flat £30,000, the majority of applicants earn less than £15,000 and many also suffer from a range of illnesses which are exacerbated by the cold."

The Spelthorne LA Flex campaign is part of the wider Heat Surrey service, managed by energy saving experts Happy Energy. The Heat Project is a free service for local authorities who wish to run an energy saving campaign for local residents, but do not have the time or financial resource to do so. Happy Energy undertake and fund all marketing activities, verify

customer eligibility and then pass the completed LA Flex declarations to the council to sign, with works typically completed by local installers.

Adrian Wright, CEO of Happy Energy, said "Without a doubt, this marketing campaign has been the most successful of any that we have run over the last 20 years of the Heat Project service. It shows an extremely positive initial reaction to the LA Flex initiative introduced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and also goes to show the trust that residents have in their local authority. It is proof that having a relatively generous single income threshold, makes the marketing message simple and encourages low income, fuel poor residents to respond who would not normally apply for help."

Local resident Sheila Harvey said that she would usually throw mail shot letters in the bin, but the council logo on the outside of the envelope piqued her interest. After phoning the Heat Surrey Freephone service, she was delighted to hear that she was eligible for a grant, despite not being on benefits. Her new LPG boiler was fitted within two weeks and she was overjoyed with the service she received.

Pictured (above), representatives from BEIS, Laura Le-Thien and Phoebe Stannard, attended the installation of Mrs Harvey's boiler, along with Francesca Lunn from the council and Robert Marjoram from the energy supplier funding the works, Scottish Power. Laura from BEIS said that it was nice to get out and see LA Flex in action, making a real difference to people's lives.

Adrian Wright continued "BEIS are hinting that, subject to consultation, LA Flex may be extended to 20-30% of the new ECO 3 target which is set to start next autumn. This would be great news for local authorities and we would urge all local authorities to get involved in LA Flex to target the local groups and geographical areas where the highest levels of fuel poverty are identified."

A brief interview with Mrs Harvey is available at youtu.be/YNBGdKFr30

More information about the free local authority Heat Project service can be found at www.heatproject.co.uk

Reducing the Performance Gap in Whitehill & Bordon

All too often the actual energy performance of new homes and buildings fails to meet the intended design performance or standards. Evidence from recent government research shows new homes typically use at least twice as much energy as predicted at design. The causes of this energy performance gap occur at every stage of development from concept to handover and beyond.

To tackle this, the new homes now on sale at Quebec Park in Whitehill & Bordon have been through the National Energy Foundation's Assured Performance Process (APP) - a step-by-step process to cut out the 'performance gap', helping to ensure that they are performing to the environmental standards they were designed to achieve.

The APP identifies and eliminates areas that may lead to a reduction in energy performance. This helps to ensure that risks are minimised and managed through every stage of the process.

Quebec Park is the first development to undergo all stages of APP. The development, consisting of 100 homes, is being delivered by the housing association Radian with its building contractor Drew Smith, the National Energy Foundation and East Hampshire District Council. The first few homes have been certified, with the rest of the development to follow. The residents moving in will benefit from homes that should deliver the energy and carbon performance they were designed to achieve.

Whitehill & Bordon is being transformed into a prosperous and sustainable green town. After more than 100 years as a garrison town, the Army left the town in December 2015. This has freed up more than 100 hectares, presenting a unique, once in a generation opportunity to transform the town from 'garrison town to green town' by 2030.

The regeneration of Whitehill & Bordon is a complex, £1billion, multi-partner, 15-year collaborative and transformational place-making programme. It will deliver some 3,350 new homes, 5,500 jobs, create nearly 100,000 square metres of new commercial, retail and leisure floor space and deliver a new town centre. This work will be under-pinned by a clear focus on quality and environmental performance.

CITB-funded training modules on the APP have been developed which will be delivered to site workers at Quebec Park to upskill the work force. These modules will provide a lasting legacy in the area, providing construction skills which deliver on their designed energy and carbon performance.

- East Hampshire District Council

Smart Energy Transition

The Leicester Energy Agency (LEA), part of Leicester City Council, is a partner on an exciting INTERREG project called SET-UP. SET-UP stands for Smart Energy Transition to Upgrade regional Performance and is a partnership across six European regions looking to capitalise on regional expertise to enable the development of the low carbon sector.

SET-UP is a five year project and is facilitating the exchange of good practice through local stakeholder event and interregional learning events focussing on three key themes:

- Empowering consumers
- Developing economic and business models
- Looking at funding sources

As part of the activities of SET-UP, the LEA recently supported two key events:

- Preparing Leicester Businesses for the Smart Energy Revolution on 3 November 2017, at Leicester Castle Business School, as part of the Leicester Business Festival
- Leicester's Fifth Low Carbon Lecture: *Tackling the Climate Crisis - lessons from the world's mega cities*

Preparing Leicester businesses for the Smart Energy Revolution was an exciting morning of key note

speakers from CENEX, Schneider, De Montfort University, National Grid and the ERDF Green BELLE project. Amongst the items discussed there was a key focus on the changing energy demographics expected in our municipalities especially with the rise of electric vehicles. Other topics discussed at the event included demand side response for businesses, financing low carbon innovative measures and flexible energy demand.

The Low Carbon lecture was a popular event held at the City Hall in Leicester. Over 120 people attended the lecture which looked into the climate and energy challenges faced by the mega cities and cities of the world and the solutions available to them. The key speaker was Mark Watts Executive Director C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Both events explored the energy challenges faced by municipalities and regions across the globe especially with the increasing pressures on the earth's resources and exploring the innovative solutions on offer as well as reinforcing the role of clear policy to develop the low carbon economy and support its sustained growth.

For more information, contact
Darsh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk
or visit www.interreurope.eu/set-up

Nottingham First to Adopt Revolutionary Housing Approach

Ten homes in Sneinton have been selected as part of a UK first pilot to radically improve older houses using energy saving and energy generation measures. Proposed improvements will make the residents of these homes ultra-low energy consumers, dramatically reducing household energy bills and making homes warmer.

Nottingham City Homes (NCH), the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) managing and maintaining Nottingham City Council's (NCC) council housing stock, has become the first in the UK to adopt a ground-breaking approach to retrofitting housing solutions, known as "Energiesprong". The programme of work is part of the next phase in the city's Greener Housing programme.

The Energiesprong approach, pioneered in the

Netherlands, upgrades a home with new outside walls and windows, a solar roof, and a state of the art heating system, all in a matter of days.

Part of the innovation is how the works are funded. The household pays an 'Energy plan', and the landlord (NCH) receives an on-going income to fund similar works to more homes. The resident has a much more comfortable home, and a flat rate cost for energy, which will not rise significantly when energy bills rise.

Originating in the Netherlands, Energiesprong is regarded as a revolutionary model; it brings today's houses up to 2050 standards of energy efficiency, and the new funding approach, ensures the works are affordable. Following Energiesprong's outstanding success in the Netherlands, where a thousand homes a year are now receiving this high-tech makeover, the concept has been exported to France, Germany, Luxembourg, the USA and now the UK.

Nottingham City Homes has signed the first UK



Left: Architect drawing of how the homes will look



The current street view



Project partners and resident

contract, ahead of other pioneering landlords in London, Essex and Devon, placing an order with Melius Homes for ten retrofits, as a pilot, with an option for up to a further 400. The deal follows extensive tenant consultation and a comprehensive competitive tender process to find the right solution provider.

This pilot is part of a cluster of smart city solutions being delivered in Nottingham over a three-year period under the European-funded REMOURBAN project. This project seeks to show how sustainability can be integrated into the regeneration of our towns and cities.

Nottingham City Homes Chief Executive, Nick Murphy, said: "While we're delighted to be part of a UK-first pilot programme, it's more important to us that we're creating warmer, more energy efficient homes, which are cheaper to run for residents."

"The Greener Housing programme is dedicated to finding the most efficient and reliable solutions, to help us future proof our housing stock and tackle issues such as fuel poverty. As an added bonus, the improvements will greatly improve the look and feel of the area."

David Adams, Technical Director of Melius Homes, the successful bidder said: "We are delighted to have been chosen to work with Nottingham City Homes to deliver this ground-breaking contract. They have shown great foresight in adopting such a radical new

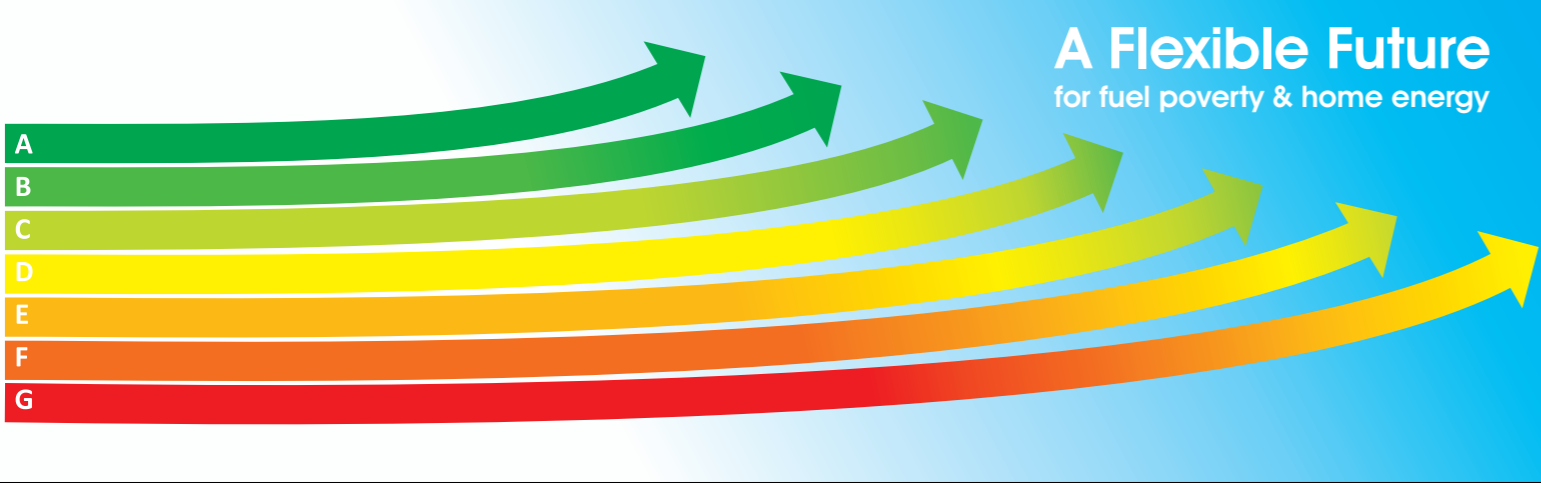
approach and we look forward to helping to make a real difference for the local community."

Councillor Jane Urquhart, the City Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage, said: "We're very excited that Nottingham is at the forefront of this revolutionary approach, which can help tackle both fuel poverty and climate change. Many of our residents live in fuel poverty so creating more energy efficient homes to reduce people's energy bills is a high priority for us. Our Greener Housing programme has seen over 6,000 hard-to-treat homes in both social and private sectors receive energy efficiency measures and this pilot will inform the next steps for our programme to tackle hard-to-treat housing."

"As well as a significant cost to the household, losing excessive heat due to drafty homes has an environmental impact too. The REMOURBAN project is trialing interventions in the housing and transport sectors to accelerate Nottingham's low carbon future and the Energiesprong model is a really exciting development for this project and for Nottingham."

The works will be carried out during 2017, with the roll out programme scheduled to commence early in 2018.

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A Flexible Future
for fuel poverty & home energy

ALEO National Training-Day Conference



Delegates in the morning plenary session



Rita Varsani - BEIS

Jenny Saunders OBE DCL - Committee on Fuel Poverty

ALEO National Training-Day Conference - London, 30 October 2017

On Monday, 30 October 2017, ALEO's latest National Training-Day Conference - titled a Flexible Future for fuel poverty and home energy - was held at the Islington Assembly Hall, London, with the event also hosting the 2017 ALEO Awards (see pages 15 to 17 for details of the awards winners).

Delegates were welcomed to the morning plenary session by ALEO's National Chair, John Kolm-Murray. The Friday before the conference had been John's last day working for Islington Council, before taking up his new post at the Greater London Authority. We'd like to wish John all the best in his new role!

Following John's introduction, Ian Mollard, ECO Director at ALEO's national sponsor A&M Energy Solutions, presented on A&M's partnership work with local authorities on ECO Flexible Eligibility. Ian encouraged LA officers to take advantage of the scheme and highlighted the benefits of blending ECO Flex with the HHCRO and CERO elements of ECO.

After Ian and John had taken questions from the floor, Cllr Claudia Webbe, Islington Council's Executive Member for Environment and Transport, delivered a passionate and informative speech

highlighting Islington Council's initiatives to tackle fuel poverty, and climate change.

The final speaker before the morning break was Jenny Saunders OBE DCL, representing the Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP). Jenny gave an overview of the CFP's second annual report that was published in October and discussed policies proposed in the report to close the £14.4 billion funding gap to deliver the government's fuel poverty strategy.

After the break, Peter Owen, Chief Executive of Energy Projects Plus, shared his experience of using the Low Income High Cost assessment to determine eligibility for fuel poverty schemes, and Adam Fudakowski, Chief Executive Officer, at Switchee Ltd, presented on banishing damp and mould from properties.

The final speaker of the plenary sessions was Rita Varsani, Senior Policy Advisor from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who provided a comprehensive update on ECO Flexible Eligibility.

Following a Q&A session, delegates networked and browsed the exhibition stands over a buffet lunch.

The ALEO Awards ceremony, after lunch, rounded off the plenary session, before delegates split into

groups for the afternoon workshops. Over the two afternoon breakout sessions, delegates had a choice of attending two of the following three workshops:

Workshop A - Delivering an ECO Flex scheme, facilitated by Mark Dallen of EDF Energy, Lucja Paulinska of Islington Council and Stephen Lang of A&M Energy Solutions

Workshop B - Health of the Nation: How to build and manage successful referral networks for health-related fuel poverty schemes, facilitated by Sarah Fletcher of Lewisham Council and Liz Warren of SE2.

Workshop C - Data Sharing on Fuel Poverty: potential opportunities for LAs in the Digital Economy Act 2017, facilitated by Carolina Valsecchi - Senior policy advisor - Warm Home Discount and targeting at BEIS, and John Kolm-Murray, ALEO National Chair.

ALEO would like to thank our sponsor A&M Energy Solutions for their invaluable support, as well as all of our speakers, workshop facilitators, exhibitors and delegates.

Presentation slides are available on the conference website, www.aleo.org.uk/conferences, as well as exhibitors' contact details and more photos of the event.

- ALEO National Secretariat



Ian Mollard - A&M Energy Solutions



Peter Owen - Energy Projects Plus



Cllr Claudia Webbe - Islington Council



Adam Fudakowski - Switchee Ltd



Liz Warren - SE² (left) and Sarah Fletcher - Lewisham Council Presenting the Health of the Nation workshop



Carolina Valsecchi - BEIS Presenting the Data Sharing on Fuel Poverty workshop



John Kolm-Murray - ALEO National Chair



Lucja Paulinska - Islington Council and Mark Dallen - EDF Energy

Association of Local Energy Officers

Awards 2017

The presentation ceremony for the Association of Local Energy Officers Awards 2017 was held at the ALEO National Training-Day Conference in London on 30 October 2017. The awards were announced by the ALEO National Chair John Kolm-Murray and presented by Ian Mollard of ALEO's national sponsor A&M Energy Solutions. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

The awards presentation slides, and more photos of the award ceremony, can be downloaded from: www.aleo.org.uk/conferences/london-2017/downloads/aleo-awards-2017.pdf and www.aleo.org.uk/conferences/aleo-national-training-day-conference-london-2017-photos/. Higher resolution photos are also available from the ALEO National Secretariat.



ALEO North West Winner: Debbie King, Lancashire County Council
 Collected by Hazel Hill (pictured with Ian Mollard of A&M Energy Solutions)
 Debbie was instrumental in bringing together the Lancashire HECA Officers back in 2006 to form the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group (LHEOG). Throughout this time she has kept the group motivated and enthusiastic, organising meetings every six weeks to discuss energy efficiency initiatives and to listen to guest speakers from the energy sector. In the last 12 months, through a combination of passion and determination, Debbie has been able to secure £1 million funding from Lancashire County Council's Green Energy Fund, to run Affordable Warmth projects across Lancashire, which has allowed additional matched funding to be secured.

Also commended: Chris Birkett of St Helens Council



ALEO South East Winner: Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP)
 Excellent teamwork, commitment and dedication led to the implementation of *Delivering Affordable Warmth – A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent*. A workshop for stakeholders was planned and delivered, and an outcomes report was produced. Task groups of members, working on different strands of the strategy for the benefit of all, are well underway. KEEP continue to build on the success of the strategy, nurturing new partnerships, looking at new ways to reach vulnerable residents effectively and applying for funding. We must not underestimate this achievement with twelve districts, one county council, seven CCGs and numerous other interested parties.



ALEO South West Winner: Alan Plumridge
 Alan displayed professionalism and enthusiasm in project managing Bournemouth's Local Energy Advice Programme - a pilot project of Agility Survey Ltd. with national roll-out depending on its success. Bournemouth was one of eight trials and Ridgewater Energy Ltd worked with the Council to achieve 350 surveys. The expertise of Alan's team delivered assistance to over 440 households and resulted in a total of £313,444 saved on energy bills and increased client benefits. The scheme ran for six months from February 2017 and the success of the Bournemouth pilot helped pave the way for the next phase in over 50 areas.



ALEO London Winner: Rory Prendergast, London Borough of Hounslow
 Collected by Alex Gerard (pictured)
 Groundwork London's WARMTH project delivered 2,600 visits in 11 London boroughs between 2016 and 2017. The personal dedication of Rory Prendergast from Hounslow Council was an important factor in the overall success of the programme, contributing over 900 home visits in the borough that delivered a range of benefits to highly vulnerable households. In particular, Rory helped facilitate strong participation from Hounslow's public health team with high numbers of referrals from GPs and other front-line health professionals. Key to this was Rory's engagement with all three Directors of Public Health. His commitment demonstrates the benefits of strong local networks.



ALEO East Winner: Wendy Bixby Colchester Borough Council
 Wendy developed the Council's first Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). The ESS won regional and countywide awards for successful delivery of priorities, to reduce the environmental impact from council buildings, services and operations and build resilient communities. Wendy manages carbon reduction work, which resulted in a 55 per cent carbon emissions reduction from its 2008 baseline year. Wendy raises awareness through an annual sustainability event bringing in regional and national speakers to support staff, and key sectors, including other councils, and manages 30 local community partnerships to support projects including conservation, energy switching, sustainable travel, rural training, local food buying and reuse/recycling initiatives.
Runner up: Matt Hullis – Suffolk County Council



ALEO West Midland Winner: whg's Energy Team
 whg developed a comprehensive fuel poverty service for residents and, in 2017:

- Secured external funding from Big Energy Savings Network and WPD
- Contacted over 1,000 households
- Provided support to over 500 customers
- Installed 246 power outage devices to protect vulnerable customers in the event of a power failure
- Put 266 customers on the Priority Service Register
- Claimed 117 unclaimed Warm Homes Discounts (saving £16,380)
- Helped 65 customers switch to cheaper energy tariffs (saving £6,274)
- Gifted 217 high quality LED lightbulbs (saving £651)
- Distributed 180 Warm and Well packs
- Helped put 60 customers on a water meter or apply for social tariff (saving £2,272)



ALEO East Midlands Winner: Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription
 Collected by: Leanne Monger
 All seven local authorities in Nottinghamshire are working in collaboration with other frontline professionals, particularly health colleagues, to identify 'high-risk' patients with long-term health conditions that are made worse by cold living conditions, who are also on a low income. The project team assess the energy efficiency of the home and if the householder/patient can afford to keep the house at a healthy warm temperature. A range of actions are then taken to achieve affordable warmth on behalf of the householder, including commissioning heating and insulation works and income maximisation – in turn delivering health and social benefits.



ALEO North East Winner: Warm Homes Campaign
 Collected by: Martin O'Brien (pictured)
 The Warm Homes Campaign works with a very wide range of partner organisations in County Durham to provide a one stop shop for all fuel poverty and domestic energy efficiency enquiries from the general public and stakeholder organisations. The campaign promotes fuel poverty grant programmes directly to low income households using countywide mail shots and a variety of promotional activities, including advice surgeries in community venues and training for front-line health and social care practitioners and third-sector organisations. This is aimed at providing credibility, support and encouragement for households to apply for assistance. In addition home visits take place to provide one-to-one help and advice on fuel tariff switching. The Campaign currently has almost 900 community venues and activists that help promote awareness of fuel poverty grant programmes and distribution of the Warm Homes Campaign newsletter.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Jenny Saunders OBE DCL



@amenergygroup

/AMEnergySolutions



Jenny Saunders OBE DCL was presented with the ALEO Lifetime Achievement Award by Ian Mollard, of ALEO's national sponsor A&M Energy Solutions, at the ALEO National Conference on 30 October 2017

Jenny Saunders has been Chief Executive of National Energy Action (NEA) since 2007, and prior to that was Director of Communications.

Jenny will be leaving NEA in December 2017, and the National ALEO Awards, held on 30 October 2017, provided the opportunity to present Jenny with the ALEO Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her achievements.

Jenny also has a number of public advisory roles, including the Committee on Fuel Poverty and Ofgem's Sustainable Development Group, and also has a number of advisory roles to the energy sector.

Jenny served as a trustee of the British Gas Energy Trust for six years, until October 2010, and the Cheshire Lehmann Fund from 2009-2016 and was a member of EDF Energy's CMA scrutiny panel. She is Chair of a local community group in Newcastle and is also a Non-Executive Board Director of National Grid Affordable Warmth Solutions Community Interest Company and a Trustee of Energy Action Scotland.

Jenny was awarded an OBE in the 2013 New Year Honours List for her services to the fuel poor, and an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law from Newcastle University in 2016.

Ian Mollard, of A&M Energy Solutions presented Jenny with her ALEO Lifetime Achievement award (pictured above) and ALEO National Chair John Kolm-Murray, provide the following testimonial to Jenny and her achievements:

"I've known Jenny for several years now and not only has she been a great leader for the fuel poverty movement but also a strong supporter of the role of ALEO members. Under Jenny's leadership, NEA have been advocates for the central role of local authorities and our partners on the ground in delivering for the fuel poor. At our most recent ALEO Conference we had the honour of presenting Jenny with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and it was richly deserved."

"Few people have invested so much time and energy in campaigning for warm homes as Jenny. For many years she has been a strong and much-respected advocate for the fuel poor and she will be missed."

- ALEO National Secretariat

National Sponsor of



association of local energy officers

*Creating partnerships to deliver
energy efficient homes*

If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss how A&M can work with you to develop, fund and install an energy efficiency scheme, please email Stephen Lang on Stephen.lang@am-energy.com or call **07515 325 866**.

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