

Home Energy Conservation Act Further Report 2015

Action	Details	Timing
(i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
	<p>One Swindon Priority: Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution.¹</p> <p>Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy: To enable all homes in Swindon to be adequately insulated & heated.²</p> <p>Swindon Borough Council Local Plan 2026: Within our Economic Strategy we have the potential to create a low carbon economy for the benefit of citizens, communities and businesses in the Borough.³</p> <p>We have continued to develop our multi-agency Safe & Warm scheme, for carbon saving in private sector housing, and fuel poverty, over all tenures to deliver our targets in these areas. This scheme has been successful, particularly in delivering our fuel poverty initiatives, but less so for insulation. It will finish in its current form in March 2015</p> <p>http://www.swindon.gov.uk/safeandwarm</p>	Should be adopted March 2015

¹ www.oneswindon.org.uk/os/Documents/OneSwindonVER6.pdf

² www.swindon.gov.uk > ... > Private Housing > Heating and Insulation

³ www.swindon.gov.uk/localplan

	<p>Carbon Emissions</p> <p>Government target: We will reduce carbon emissions in the housing sector by 20% on 2010 levels by 2020.⁴</p> <p>The Carbon Plan, published by DECC in 2011 sets out the target to insulate all cavities and lofts, where practicable, by 2020.⁵</p> <p>Swindon is committed to encouraging households to achieve this target</p> <p>Our CO₂ emissions from housing are 2.0T CO₂ per capita (2012 data).⁶</p> <p>Our target for 2012 is 1.6 T CO₂ per capita</p> <p>Our per capita trend has settled at around 2.0 T. This is largely a reflection of our relatively modern housing stock and our targeted insulation schemes, to our older property areas over the last 20 years. Swindon has around 13% pre 1919 housing, but 38% post 1975. Around 11% of the stock is owned by the local authority.</p>	2020
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⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-english-energy-conservation-authorities-the-home-energy-conservation-act-1995>

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47613/3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

	<p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>The original fuel poverty target, as described in the 2012 HECA Guidance, has been replaced with a new statutory target to “<i>ensure that as many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of a Band C by 2030</i>”. In addition to the 2030 statutory target, the Government consultation, “<i>Cutting the cost of keeping warm</i>” also proposed the following interim milestones:</p> <p>As many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020 As many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025⁷</p> <p>Swindon’s Fuel Poverty statistics are expressed both as the 10% figure and the Low Income High cost definition⁸</p> <p>10.7% of households within the Borough of Swindon are classified as fuel poor using the 10% definition, 7.6% using the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) definition (2012 data).⁹</p> <p>Our 2013 report stated that our aim is to reduce fuel poverty to 11.0%, based on the 10% definition, by 2016. We chose this target as we anticipated that the level of fuel poverty would increase over time, due to the increasing cost of fuel from 2012-14. We need to review this target, in line with the LIHC definition, which is less influenced by price rises.</p>	
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⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cutting-the-cost-of-keeping-warm-a-new-fuel-poverty-strategy-for-england>

⁸ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319280/Fuel_Poverty_Report_Final.pdf

⁹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics

	<p>Typically fuel poverty in Swindon is around 2% less than the SW average, so we are currently proposing a target which would aim for Swindon's Fuel Poverty figures to be at least 2% less than the regional or national level figure.</p> <p>Average yearly excess winter deaths for Swindon 01/08/2009 to 31/07/2012 is 86 per year.¹⁰</p>	
(ii) MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF OUR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION		
Green Deal and ECO	<p>Private Sector Housing</p> <p>From 2013 the 'stop/start' nature of ECO funding caused business problems for our approved contractor, who found it necessary to restructure to survive as a company. We were unable to promote insulation measures from October 2013 until December 2014. We have some Swindon Borough Council funding to offer until March 2015 and we are currently promoting this through a marketing campaign.</p> <p>We have undertaken a pilot of 3 houses for internal and external cladding and provided a small enabling grant to qualifying households for this. This will end in March 2015.</p> <p>We have continued to promote our <i>Safe & Warm</i> scheme which has provided one simple point of access into multiple services to make some of our most vulnerable people warmer and safer in their homes. <i>Safe & Warm</i> has taken an area based approach over 9 of our most deprived wards. A series of health-focussed winter campaigns via GP surgeries and pharmacies further extended the reach of this programme to other vulnerable households across all tenures. We have also carried out a Ready for Winter event working with vulnerable people and two events with our social housing team to promote the Warm Home Discount. We have carried out targeted</p>	

¹⁰ http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50362

	<p>mail outs to households as identified by our UNO data base, to areas which have not been covered by <i>Safe & Warm</i> and to those Lower Super Output areas with higher levels of deprivation or identifiable as Carbon Saving Community areas.</p> <p><i>Safe & Warm</i> has provided a range of advice guides on reducing condensation and mould problems, controlling heating, comparing fuel tariffs, and saving energy in the home.</p> <p>Targets for ECO funding, especially for the 'affordable warmth group' were soon reached and this has meant that we have been unable to achieve very much in this area. Swindon Borough Council has had some limited funding to replace boilers for vulnerable households, so we have been able to offer this. This funding will not be available in the future which will leave our most vulnerable households without any assistance should their heating fail.</p> <p>Our approved insulation contractor is accredited to deliver the Green Deal. We have referred people to them and to the Energy Saving Advice Service as appropriate. We have not been in a position to develop this further.</p> <p>Public Sector Housing</p> <p>Improvements to energy efficiency and fuel economy continue to drive our targeted programmes of maintenance and improvement works. Wherever possible, we aim to replace electric heating with more economical and controllable systems, either by fuel switching to mains gas or installation of modern Quantum storage heaters. We have a continuous programme of upgrading gas central heating boilers, prioritising low efficiency, open-flued appliances.</p> <p>We are developing a programme to install internal wall insulation and secondary glazing to our Listed heritage stock of 330 homes in the Railway Village, with plans to extend an offer to private householders to take advantage of our economies of scale as the scheme progresses.</p> <p>Following surveys of our significant proportion of non-traditional housing (4,100 units), we are</p>	<p></p> <p>On-going</p> <p>2015 - 2025</p> <p>On-going,</p>
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	increasing our programme of improvements to building fabric, which will incorporate additional insulation measures, and upgraded glazing and heating systems.	until 2032
Collective Switching	We partnered with ichoosr for 3 collective switching promotions, June 2013, December 2013, May 2014. Analysis of the data showed that, for Swindon, this type of scheme is more beneficial for more affluent customers with fewer fuel poor households taking part. The partnership agreement with ichoosr has now ended and there are no plans to continue the collective switching programme.	
Feed in Tariffs scheme	<p>For the period 21/12/12 to 34/12/14 508 photovoltaic Feed in Tariffs have been registered in the Borough area, equivalent to: 56 per 10,000 households</p> <p>Council Stock Photovoltaic cells have been standard on new build and are under consideration for other properties</p> <p>Housing Association These organisations continue to investigate this programme and have fitted PVs on some new build and some retrofit where appropriate to their business plan.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
Renewable Heat Premium Payment	<p>Swindon is a predominately urban area with very few properties 'off-gas'.</p> <p>There is potential for private investment in renewable heat. Some 'District Heating Priority Areas' have been identified for combined heat and power. Grant funding has been obtained from DECC to progress heat mapping, master-planning and feasibility studies of site(s) identified. This work is currently undergoing procurement and the study will be completed by April 2016.</p>	On-going
Zero Carbon Homes	<p>Draft Swindon Borough Council Local Plan 2026: Policy DE2.</p> <p>Code levels in line with Government requirements and current Building Regulations</p>	2013-16
EPCs	Continued development of UNO energy data base with purchases of EPC data from Landmark as it becomes available	On going

	<p>Use of UNO data base to find poorly insulated lofts and cavities and inform further works.</p> <p>This database covers 51.8% of the dwellings in the borough and the average SAP 2009 value over all tenures is 65. Less than 1% of dwellings we hold data on have a SAP 2009 of less than 35.</p>	On going
Minimum Standards in the private rental sector	<p>The Energy Act 2011 proposes that from April 2018 the minimum standard for private rented properties will be an Energy Performance Certificate rating of Band E¹¹.</p> <p>Swindon Borough Council encourages landlords to become members of the National Landlords Association. Environmental Health offices carry out enforcement through Housing Health and Safety Rating (HHSRS) and legislation and encourage good practice through promotion, education and landlord forums. Our private sector leasing scheme insures all properties are to Decent Homes Standard. Our <i>Safe & Warm</i> scheme continued to promote to landlords through targeted mail outs</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
Smart meters	Most households will have smart meters installed by their energy company between 2014 and 2019.	
Community energy	<p>A number of Council-owned sites are undergoing planning applications for solar farm use. Several ownership models have been considered by officers and Members, and a final proposal for an ownership model involving community investment will be considered by Cabinet within the next three months. In addition a Local Development Order, comprising some 30 sites, will be considered for public consultation. The LDO will facilitate planning permission for the following activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-generation, local generation and district heating installations; • Hydrogen and electric car fuelling installations at petrol filling stations; and 	Summer 15

¹¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48199/3211-energy-act-2011-aide-memoire.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar arrays and small scale solar farms. 	
(iii) MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION BY USING AREA BASED/STREET BY STREET ROLL OUT.		
	<p>Private Sector</p> <p>Our <i>Safe & Warm</i> initiative took an area based approach from 2009 to 2014. We initially identified 13 of our 24 wards to target. We were able to achieve an area based approach in 9 of these wards and typically were able to engage with around 65% of private sector residents. This type of approach is very time consuming for the surveying team, who have to return to the properties a number of times. Our own housing stock and housing association residents have been able to benefit from the other services provided by <i>Safe & Warm</i> which have included an income maximisation service, advice and health based initiatives.</p> <p>We will be unable to continue with an area based approach as the door to door assessments were carried out by our insulation contractor, who was unable to continue to do this with the problems encountered in claiming ECO funding. Swindon has carried out numerous initiatives for insulation over the last 20 years and finding new works in this way is difficult and not cost effective for installers. We do not have the resources available to carry this any further at this time.</p> <p>We are currently evaluating and redeveloping <i>Safe & Warm</i> to take account of the new insulation environment and plan for the next two years. Our funding for a dedicated income maximisation service will end in March 2015 and this type of work will in future be directed to the Citizen Advice Bureaux to deal with under their broad advice remit. We anticipate still finding some cavity wall and lofts to insulate but these are now few in number and or are in households resistant to such works. We plan to focus on encouraging solid wall and hard to treat properties to undertake works, although we will have no funding for the private sector. We will continue to promote <i>Safe</i></p>	<p>Summer 2015</p>

	<p>& <i>Warm</i> and all insulation measures throughout 2015</p> <p>From December 2014 to March 2015 we are promoting insulation measures through advertising and targeted mail outs to areas where we have little information on the housing as identified through our UNO database.</p> <p>Public Sector</p> <p>Around 11% of our housing stock is council owned and around 40% of this is non-traditional build. Our housing team plan to undertake works to improve the energy efficiency. We would hope that the economies of scale will allow 'right to buy' households within these areas to take advantage of external or internal cladding and will encourage them to look at the Green Deal as a way of financing this.</p>	On going
(iv) TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERY AND NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS		
	Continue <i>Safe & Warm</i> and promote the help available to households through ECO and Green Deal.	Summer 2015
	Continue our work with local strategic partners through our Affordable Warmth Partnership to promote our services through regular networking events.	On going
	We continue to be open to partnership working with established and successful organisations and neighbouring local authorities	On-going

Review date: 31st March 2015

Submission of next progress report: 31st March 2017

Signature: 

Date: 17.3.15

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