

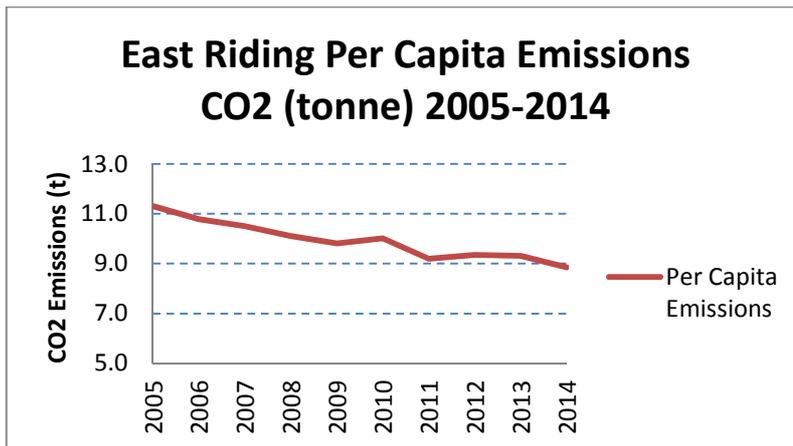
Home Energy Conservation Act Report 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government recognises that local authorities are uniquely placed to assess the needs of their areas and local residents and to act as a catalyst for change. The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 recognises that local authorities have an important role to play in helping others to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The Act places a duty on local councils to report back to government every two years, outlining the progress made in this period and their plans for the future.
- 1.2 In January 2017, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published new guidance to support local authorities understand what information was required for the upcoming report deadline 31 March 2017 and for subsequent reports. This report is structured in a way which follows this guidance.

2. Carbon emissions and wider climate change activities

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Environmental Policy contains strategic objectives on both climate change mitigation and adaptation. This includes reducing carbon emissions from Council operations and from others across the wider local authority area.
- 2.2 In the UK, the Climate Change Act (2008) provides the framework for the UK's domestic action, binding this and future Governments to a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below the 1990 baseline by 2050. It also established a series of carbon budgets to help the UK on a pathway to 2050.



Source: DECC 2005-2014 UK local and regional CO2 emissions-data tables

- 2.3 As the chart above shows, between 2005 and 2014¹ the CO2 emissions (made up from all sectors) in the East Riding have fallen significantly: 11.3 tonnes per capita in 2005 to 8.9 tonnes in 2014. This has been replicated by housing, as ‘domestic’ CO2 emissions have fallen by 28% over the same period. This is not unique to the East Riding, as most other local areas have seen similar improvements, however it is testament to efforts the Council and its partners have made to increase household energy efficiency, through education and the installation of measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation.
- 2.4 Whilst the HECA focuses on the reduction of these domestic emissions, it is worth highlighting that the Council takes a more holistic view to carbon reduction, with plans to reduce emissions through a range of action. For example: The Council operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) and the authority holds ISO14001 certification. ISO14001 is a globally recognised standard and is achieved by organisations that have implemented robust environmental management practices. To achieve the standard an organisation must implement an EMS which is then audited by an accredited third party. In addition to having ISO14001 certification, the Council has also achieved registration to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). This is a European standard that is achieved by the voluntary publication of an annual Environmental Statement that reports on the organisation’s environmental performance.
- 2.5 In addition the Council is involved in a number of other activities relating to this area. This includes:
- The Council has partnered with the Zero Carbon Hub to deliver an Innovate UK funded project ‘*Building Better Buildings*’ which aimed to increase the awareness of how to achieve better energy performance in new buildings and address skills shortages in the construction industry relating to energy performance. (October-December 2015)
 - Green Port Hull is a partnership initiative in which the Council works with its partners Hull City Council and the University of Hull to establish Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire as a world class centre for renewable energy, creating

¹ 2014 is the latest figure available from Government

wealth and employment for the region through various means such as inward investment, skills development and business support services.

- Low Carbon Strategies audit undertaken for the Humber and the York, North Yorkshire, East Riding Local Enterprise Partnerships. This work supported the allocation of low carbon funding through the ESIF Strategies in both LEP areas. (May-July 2016)
- The Council has partnered with the Carbon Trust to deliver the Trust's Green Business Fund programme in our area. This involved providing local SMEs with energy efficiency and saving training.
- The Council is a Strategic Partner in the ERDF funded SME Innovation Support Project which offers low carbon R&D grants. (from Jan 2017)

3. Using intelligence to direct action

- 3.1 Where it has been available, the Council has been keen to use energy efficiency intelligence, such as energy performance certificate (EPC) data, to help target action and ensure limited resources are being used as effectively as possible. Whilst this has proven successful in the past, the Council is continually looking at ways of improving its understanding of the issues and developing new ways to help residents increase their energy efficiency.
- 3.2 To that end, the Council is in the process of developing a Private Sector Housing Intelligence Hub. The Hub will be hosted by the East Riding Data Observatory and is being developed with contributions from a range of areas, both internal and external to the Council. A key objective of this work is to use the data to help to identify areas of the East Riding where there are interrelated issues, which may have not been evidenced before. For example, initial findings suggest there are parts of the East Riding where there is a correlation between low energy efficiency and poor health.
- 3.3 In addition to this the Council has built up a strong relationship with Northern Gas Networks, which has enabled a greater understanding of the gas network and its future capacity for growth. This has been a vital part of the delivery of action through the Government's Central Heating Fund, as it has helped officers identify vulnerable households in need of heating support. This is especially important in the East Riding as many of the rural settlements currently have no access to mains gas.

4. Current energy efficiency schemes and plans for the future

- 4.1 Funding for energy efficiency measures has been complex over the last two years. The 2015 report highlighted the Council's ambition to work with government to rollout the Green Deal, so that residents could benefit from affordable energy efficiency improvements. Unfortunately the Green Deal did not succeed to the level government

had projected, which led to councils investing substantial officer resources without the planned rewards. Despite this, the Council has continued to invest in energy efficiency.

- 4.2 This section of the report focuses on existing energy efficiency schemes being led by the Council and what plans there are to take these forward over the next reporting period (2 years). An action plan outlining these plans is included as Appendix A.

Health Through Warmth

- 4.3 The East Riding Health Through Warmth (HTW) scheme have been operating since 2003 and plays a critical role in supporting vulnerable fuel poor households access the support they need to keep warm. Many of the households supported through the scheme live in very energy inefficient properties, which mean that their heating bills are significantly higher than they need to be. HTW works by providing a central point to which frontline professionals can refer residents into. The officer who runs this scheme, is able to provide them with a range of support, including (where funding is available) energy efficiency measures. HTW works closely with health and social care services to reduce excess winter deaths and hospital admissions along with aiding discharge.
- 4.4 Since its inception the HTW scheme has trained around 1,500 front line staff on how to spot the signs of fuel poverty and how to make a referral. This has led to over 5,500 referrals, all of which will have received some form of advice or support. In the last year alone², HTW has been responsible for helping East Riding households with heating, benefits advice and insulation measures to the value of £1.36m. This money has been accessed through a range of grants, including Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding, the Central Heating Fund, the Warm Homes Discount and base funding from the Council.
- 4.5 HTW is also the reason DECC awarded the Council £100k in April 2015 from the Fuel Poverty Booster fund, which has been used by the Council to fund further measures through HTW, undertake energy champion training to health professionals and commence research in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University looking at the health impact of certain energy efficiency improvements.
- 4.6 Looking forward, the Council sees HTW as retaining a key role in the delivery of energy efficiency measures. To achieve this, the Council will seek to maximise the potential of the proposed flexible eligibility and develop a statement of intent followed by an ECO flex partnership to ensure East Riding remains at the forefront of any funding opportunities. This will help to continue the work of the HTW team and will lead to even more vulnerable households being supported.

Small scale renewables

² 01/04/16 – 17/02/17

- 4.7 The Council recognises the potential that small scale renewable energy has in the area, particularly for those households off the gas network. Over the last two years the Council has continued to invest in these technologies. Most recently the Central Heating Fund has been used to deliver air-source heat pump systems to around 30 vulnerable households, who previously had inadequate heating, including many who had a solid fossil fuel fireplace.
- 4.8 The Council has also invested in small scale renewables in its own stock, undertaking a programme which led to the installation of over 120 retrofit photovoltaic systems, 350 air-source heat pumps and 126 biomass heating solutions.
- 4.9 During the next two years the Council will continue to work with partners to develop renewable schemes, where funding can be identified, to make use of government support, such as the feed in tariff and renewable heat incentive, where appropriate.

Social housing energy efficiency improvements

- 4.10 The Council remains committed to increasing the energy efficiency of the 11,000+ houses that it owns. As a result of an ongoing programme of significant investment, the average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for council housing in the East Riding is now D and plans are in place to increase this to C by the end of 2017.
- 4.11 To summarise recent performance, in 2015/16 the Council:
- Replaced windows to 542 properties with energy efficient double glazing;
 - Replaced 677 boilers with new A rated systems; and
 - Insulated 508 properties, of which 102 were solid wall construction
- 4.12 Over the next reporting period the Council will continue to support energy efficiency and has budgeted a similar level of investment in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. In addition the Council will continue to work proactively with partners and will take advantage of any future centrally funded energy efficiency programmes which may be of benefit to local people and which will bring wider environmental benefits.

Supporting private housing

- 4.13 The Council continues to support private households to improve energy efficiency and in particular private sector landlords, as evidence shows that they often have some of the least efficient houses. In the past, the Council has offered a range of different schemes, which have offered low cost cavity wall and loft insulation. This has proven to be very popular and has led to thousands of measures being installed over the last 15 years.
- 4.14 Whilst it is recognised that most homes now have some form of insulation, there is also an understanding that even where insulation is present in lofts, this can often be under the recommended amount. To address this problem, the Council intends to launch a

new loft top-up insulation scheme in 2017/18. The scheme will be targeted at private sector homes in greatest need, which will involve working with individual households and local private sector landlords.

Collective switching

- 4.15 The Council runs a successful collective switching service called YORSwitch. The service works with energy providers through an online auction, enabling the identification of cheaper tariffs for residents.
- 4.16 As of March 2017, more than 64,500 households have registered for the YORSwitch scheme, with more than 14,100 switchers and a total realised saving of £3.6 million for residents. This is money that can be spent in the local economy. Funding has been secured for the scheme until the end of March 2021. The Promotions Coordinator will continue to deliver support to front line staff through training sessions with customer services, libraries and parish/town councils in order for them to be fully trained to allow them to help residents to register at anytime. Particular attention will be given to vulnerable residents who need a little extra help and support.

Supporting the rollout of smart meters

- 4.17 The next two years will see an increase in the number of households receiving a smart meter from their energy supplier. The Council welcomes this scheme and where appropriate will look to work in partnership with suppliers and the Government to increase coverage of these meters across the East Riding. The Council will consider its role in how it can encourage its council housing tenants to take up a smart meter, using tenants' newsletter and social media channels. Should funding be available to support this rollout, the Council will consider accessing this funding to support residents.

5. Area based Energy Efficiency Plans

Neighbourhood Targeting

- 5.1 The Council will use the data available through its new Private Sector Housing Intelligence Hub, to consider which neighbourhoods need to be targeted for energy efficiency improvements. It will then look to seek funding from government and others where appropriate to implement those plans.

Heat networks

- 5.2 The Council is undertaking a small number of feasibility reports, which looks at heat mapping and energy master planning for Bridlington, Pocklington and Beverley. This

involves modelling various heat network scenarios based on energy data from housing, public sector buildings and private sector companies. During the next reporting period, the Council intends to take this further. Once a feasible scheme has been identified, it will work with partners, including BEIS, with a view to attracting grant funding and delivering the most financially viable elements of the schemes first. Longer term, should the initial scheme prove successful the Council will look to identify more neighbourhoods to include on the network.

6. National and Local Partners

6.1 The success of schemes, such as HTW, has only been possible due to the large network of partners working with the Council. There are too many to name them all individually, but to demonstrate the range involved, a selection is listed here:

- Energy Suppliers continue to play an important role to help fund the range of activity delivered by the Council and other partners;
- A key success of HTW is the partnership with the local Fire Brigade. They are massively supportive of energy efficiency work, as they see the reduction in chimney fires caused by the installation of central heating;
- The Council works alongside a number of other local authorities through regional and sub-regional groups. An example of this is the Yorkshire and Humber Private Sector Housing Group. Energy efficiency is discussed at this group so officers can share successes;
- The Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council has engaged with the Council on a number of community based energy schemes, including a project which involved providing energy advice in schools;
- A range of local contractors are required to deliver the energy efficiency measures planned for the Council's housing stock. This activity not only increases energy efficiency but also supports the local low carbon economy;
- The East Riding Affordable Warmth Strategy group is a multi-agency body focussed on energy efficiency and its impact on fuel poverty. Organisations involved in the group include, NHS East Riding of Yorkshire, Age UK East Yorkshire and the local Citizens Advice Bureau;
- The Council plays an active role in National Energy Action's Regional Fuel Poverty Forums, as well as representing the national executive of the Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO); and
- The Council sees a strong relationship with BEIS as important to delivery of energy efficiency locally.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The actions identified above are a clear demonstration of East Riding of Yorkshire Council's commitment of working with partners to develop schemes which improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty and other associated issues. The action plan in Appendix A, provides further detail on future actions and will allow the monitoring of progress over the next reporting period.

Appendix A: HECA Action Plan 2017-2019

	Action	Timing
i) Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities		
1	Deliver wider carbon reductions through continued work at a regional, sub-regional and local level. In particular through the ISO14001 programme of works and wider support for the low carbon economy.	Ongoing ISO14001 certificated to be renewed February 2018
2	Create a private sector housing intelligence hub, hosted by the East Riding Data Observatory, utilising a range of evidence from partners.	August 2017
3	Build on the existing relationship with Northern Gas Networks, to identify additional households, which are off gas, and which could be connected to the network.	Ongoing
ii) The measures that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation		
4	Retain Health Through Warmth as the single referral point for vulnerable households identified as in need of energy efficiency improvements.	Ongoing
5	Train a further 200 frontline staff to identify the signs of fuel poverty caused by poor energy efficiency and refer into the Health Through Warmth scheme.	March 2019
6	Explore the feasibility of using the new flexible eligibility to develop an ECO flex partnership, using Health Through Warmth as the focus of energy efficiency improvements for private sector housing.	Feasibility undertaken April 2017 Partnership in place June 2017
7	Explore all opportunities for additional external funding to enable the Council to support the delivery of additional small scale renewable schemes, particularly where they offer central heating solutions for households off mains gas.	Ongoing
8	Continue to prioritise energy efficiency improvements across the Council's own housing stock. During the reporting period the following measures will be installed to properties as part of an ongoing programme of works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy efficient windows and doors - A rated central heating systems - Insulation products, including solid wall 	Ongoing
9	Continue to work with landlords to support them access funding for energy efficiency measures.	Ongoing

	Action	Timing
10	Launch a new loft top-up insulation scheme for private sector homes.	May 2017
11	Use the successful YORSwitch collective switch scheme to help a further 5,000 households switch to a more affordable tariff.	March 2019
12	Consider the Council's role in supporting the roll out of smart meters, which may involve accessing funding to support residents	January 2018
13	Demonstrate leadership in this area through representation on the national executive of the Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO).	Ongoing
iii) The measures which an authority has developed to implement energy efficiency improvement cost-effectively in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street roll out involving communities and partnerships		
14	Use the intelligence gathered through the new private sector housing hub to identify neighbourhoods in which poor energy efficiency is having a significant impact on the quality of housing. Once identified, explore potential funding opportunities to develop an area based approach to addressing the issue.	December 2017
15	Complete the heat network feasibility studies and then seek funding to take a scheme forward.	January 2018