

INTRODUCTION

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change requires local authorities in England to provide an update report every two years setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the area. The full HECA Report can be found [here](#).

The council's Home Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy (HEEAWS), updated in 2015, will guide the Council and partner agencies in committing resources to linked objectives.



The work outlined in this report contributes to Solihull Council's [Green Prospectus](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

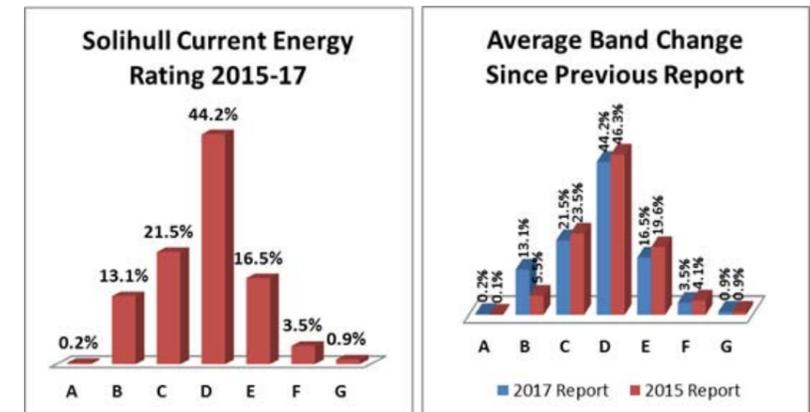
This strategy can only be delivered through effective partnership working and therefore the Council will continue to develop effective partnerships with a range of organisations in order to support residents and to develop initiatives.

Some examples of our partnerships include:

- Sustainable Housing action Partnership
- Local Authority Consortium Group
- Association of Local Energy Officers
- Home Energy Officer Group
- Winter Warmth Project Group
- Seasonal Excess Deaths Steering Group
- Boilers on Prescription Board
- Financial inclusion Group

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE

The borough's housing stock is generally of more recent construction and in better condition than other West Midlands Metropolitan areas. Based on available ratings data it can clearly be seen that the borough have a number of properties in the higher ratings. The Council will continue to take an evidence based approach when considering which energy efficiency projects will deliver the greatest benefit for residents.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 – 2017

Beattie Passivehaus Project

This was a £625,000 Innovate UK funded trial which involved upgrading a block of six flats to EnerPHit standard by way of an innovative Off-site Wrap-around Large Scale (OWLS) retro-fit. The residents remained in situ throughout the work, so



minimising disruption to their lives, before they were left to enjoy all of the benefits associated with Passivhaus. Our partners in the project included Beattie Passive, Encraft, Solihull Community Housing and Coventry University.

Solihull Community Housing

At the commencement of SCH's Decent Homes programme the overall energy efficiency rating (SAP) for homes in their management was 46. This has risen to 73 following completion of energy efficiency works.

New installations include:

- new central heating systems to 647 homes
- double glazing to 860 homes
- Insulation measures to 407 homes

SCH has also completed the installation of renewable technologies:

- Biomass - 1285 apartments, of which 1165 had external wall insulation
- Solar PV/ thermal on 11 newly built homes
- 7 air source heating systems

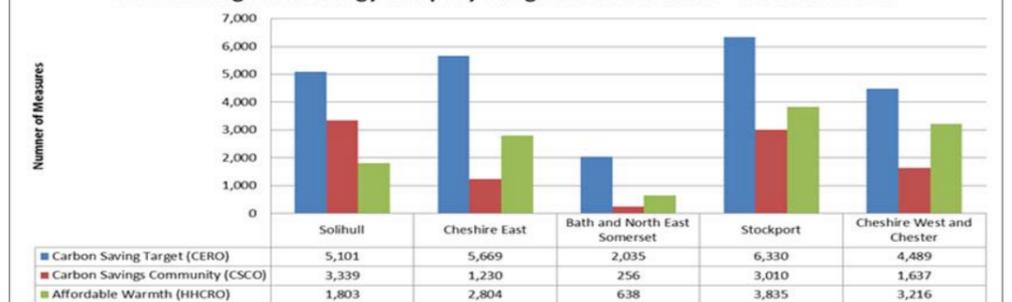
SCH are continuing to install external wall insulation on low rise properties.



Private Landlords

We currently work with partners and utility companies to advertise energy efficiency initiatives that might be of interest to private landlords and their tenants. We work with landlords to ensure that private rented properties are being improved to exceed the minimum legal standards currently being set.

Nearest Neighbour Energy Company Obligation Installs 2013 - December 2016



The award winning [Winter Warmth Campaign](#) delivered

by Age UK Solihull and supported by partners including Public Protection

(SMBC), Solihull Community Housing and the Emergency Duty Team (SMBC Social Services) has been in existence since 2008. The campaign focuses on providing:

- Timely support and assistance to vulnerable residents to prevent crisis occurring.
- Emergency equipment and assistance when heating breakdown occurs.
- Referral pathways for appropriate support for both the public and professionals.
- Awareness training for frontline professionals.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 – 2017

Energy Company Obligation

We have had a good take up of ECO measures in the past and plan to work with partners on the new ECO obligations to ensure we can support those living in rural and potentially off gas areas. This links to our aspirations under the ECO: Help to Heat Flexible Eligibility (see Future Plans).

Switch and Save

Solihull Council has managed three successful Collective Energy Switching Schemes with the aim of helping residents find a better/cheaper deal on home gas and electricity bills.



	Registra-tions	Average Savings	Number of Switch-ers	% of switchers	Total Bill Savings
Oct 2015	644	£ 264	247	38%	£ 65,435
May 2016	1107	£ 347	442	40%	£153,369
Oct 2016	618	£ 220	282	45%	£62,040
Totals	2,369	£277	971	41%	£268,967

The Council has been able to recover costs related to advertising and printing via a partnering fee from iChoosr .

Boilers on Prescription

Through our partnership with Worcestershire and Warwickshire Councils we were successful in receiving funding of £325K from National Energy Action (NEA) which was additional matched by partners to enable us to provide replacement/first-time heating for residents whose vulnerability put them at risk if they were living a cold home. To date we have supported over 50 residents with new heating systems.

Providing Information, Advice and Guidance

Independent advice for residents is essential. Recent findings within the Bonfield Review has highlighted the importance and value of energy advice. Since 2015 Act on Energy has provided support and advice to over 1,600 residents.

Energy efficiency and affordable warmth training has been provided by National Energy Advice (NEA) to front line staff from a number of internal and external partners including Income and Awards Team, AgeUK, CAB and Solihull Community Housing.

FUTURE PLANS 2017—2019

Delivering the Energy Company Obligation

We aim to deliver energy efficiency measures through the Energy Company obligation (ECO) with a specific focus of working in partnership to deliver the 'flexible eligibility' element to allow us to support fuel poor households who are not in receipt of benefits and low income households whose health could be adversely effected from living in a cold home. We intend in the next few months to make a formal statement of intent so that we can provide declarations for the delivery of measures to homes across our borough.

Information, Advice and Guidance

We will continue to offer the following support services through our energy advice partners [Act on Energy](#):

- Freephone energy advice line,
- Community based support ensuring we reach our most rural communities,
- Energy clinics offering switching advice,
- Smart metering – offer advice and support on the roll out of smart meters through dedicated community events,
- Warm Homes Discount – promotion of the scheme,
- Home visits for the most vulnerable in our community.



Working with partners to ensure we provide a one stop advice provision and onward referrals. This will build on our already excellent relationships with the Fire Service, GP's and third sector.

Winter Warmth Campaign

We will continue to deliver our successful campaign. To ensure our vulnerable residents are supported throughout the winter months. We will ensure that the campaigns links to guidance provided by NICE and we continue to engage with internal and external partners leveraging in financial support where possible.



Switch and Save

This has been a successful way for us to encourage residents to fuel switch. We will continue to promote group switching with our next campaign taking place in spring 2017. We will continue to consider other ways of reducing fuel costs that might include White Label partners and involvement in an Energy Services Company.



Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Regulations

Although we do not have a dedicated resource to enforce the minimum energy standards we aim to work with known landlords to ensure they are aware of the requirements. In the event that we are made aware of non-compliance we will work with landlords to ensure that the minimum standards are met and the property is available to be let as quickly as possible. We see our role as one that works with landlords to encourage and support compliance rather than looking to limit the availability of already scarce private sector housing.

Solihull Community Housing

There are a number of specific projects that SCH will be involved in:



- Continuing with programmes to update old inefficient heating systems
- Carrying out further works to improve the insulation levels of solid wall and system built properties in the social housing sector.
- Completing the options appraisal and feasibility study for a suitable replacement heating system for 5 tower blocks with old electric storage heaters.
- In conjunction with Solihull MBC carry out a feasibility study to undertake a large scale solar PV scheme on SCH managed stock.
- Working in partnership with Solihull MBC to advertise and promote the take up of new smart metering technology amongst local residents
- Identifying social housing properties that currently have an EPC rating of Band F & G and implementing measures to improve that rating.
- Commissioning an evaluation of the performance of the high rise block biomass heating systems with a particular focus on the financial impact and well-being and comfort of residents.
- Continuing to work with and support Solihull MBC in providing advice, information and guidance to local residents on energy saving measures.
- Identify potential opportunities provided by the new Energy Company Obligation to fund energy efficiency projects within the social housing stock.
- SCH are considering alternative heating systems in a further 5 high rise blocks (200 households) which still have old electric storage heating systems.

