

HECA Report 2017 Wealden District Council

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1. Local Energy Efficiency Ambitions And Priorities

Wealden District Council aims to make affordable warmth available to all residents. The Affordable Warmth Strategy (2011-2016) is currently under review and in the process of being updated. The current strategy sets out the council's priorities towards cutting emissions, reducing fuel bills and delivering thermal comfort.

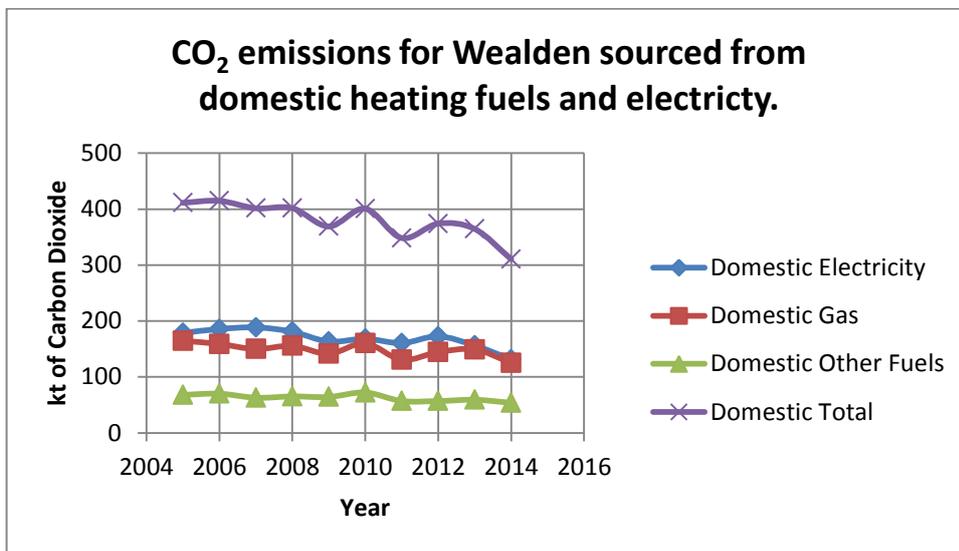
This HECA report identifies a number of focus areas. We commit to:

- Improve energy efficiency in existing private housing stock and reduce energy demand in homes.
- Help residents maintain health, comfort and wellbeing.
- To reduce the numbers of households in fuel poverty and continue to promote this as a key priority.
- To encourage awareness and use of renewable energy.
- To reduce CO₂ emissions.
- Maximise residents' disposable income.
- Raise general awareness of energy efficiency, affordable warmth and fuel poverty.
- To influence broader strategies and facilitate the development of schemes, projects and funding options for local initiatives.
- Increase uptake of assistance for energy efficiency, heating and renewable energy.
- Work to improve energy efficiency in the Private Rented Sector.
- Provide information about insulation measures to homes with different construction types.
- Continue partnership working with relevant organisations.
- Monitor the aims and objectives of the action plan and strategy, collating information and reporting on progress.

2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

We are committed to helping government meet its carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. The current Wealden performance on emissions (domestic, heating fuels and electricity) towards the overall 2020 target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 34%, based on a 2005 baseline, shows we are 72% of the way towards meeting our 2020 target for domestic heating fuels and electricity only.

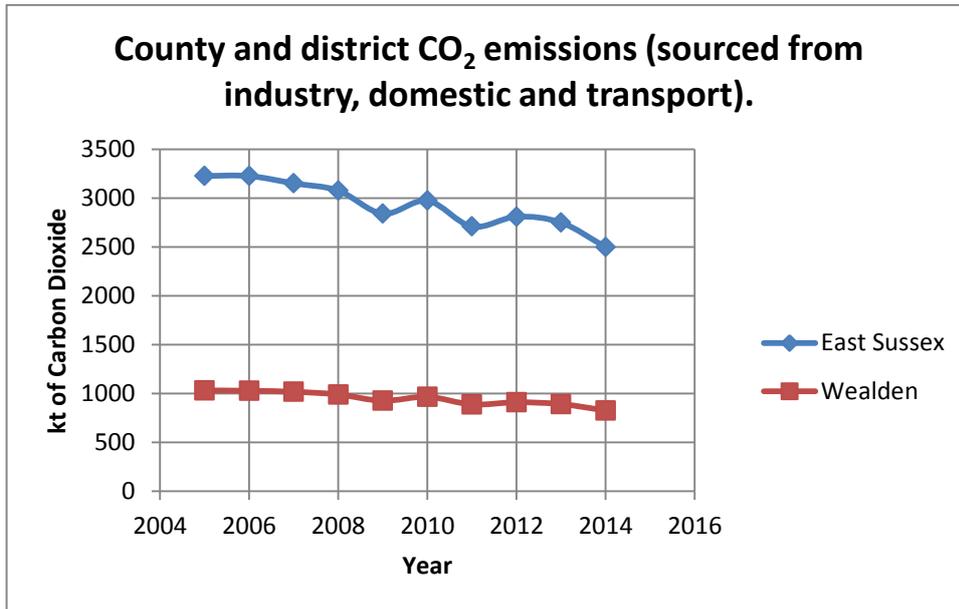
Figure 1: Scatter graph showing domestic CO₂ emissions in Wealden (emissions sourced from heating fuels and electricity in kt CO₂).



Source: BEIS Local and regional CO₂ emissions estimates (2005 – 2014).

“Total domestic CO₂ emissions sourced from heating fuels and electricity have been on a downward trend in Wealden since 2005”

Figure 2: Scatter graph showing county and district CO₂ emissions (emissions sourced from industry, domestic and transport in kt CO₂).



Source: BEIS Local and regional CO₂ emissions estimates (2005 – 2014).

“From 2005 – 2014 CO₂ emissions (from all sources) have been reducing across East Sussex”

“In Wealden CO₂ emissions have remained relatively stable when all emission sources are accounted for”

3. Fuel Poverty/Public Health

Under the new definition of fuel poverty, Low Income High Cost (LIHC), a household is considered fuel poor where:

- They have required fuel costs that are above the average (the national median level).
- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Figure 3: Tables showing prevalence of fuel poverty at district and county level.

| Wealden District | 2012 (LIHC Indicator) | 2014 (LIHC Indicator) |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Estimated number of households | 62,622 | 64,713 |
| Estimated number of households in fuel poverty | 4880 | 5189 |
| Proportion of fuel poor households (%) | 7.8% | 8% |

| Local Authority | Estimated number of households | Estimated number of fuel poor households | Proportion of fuel poor households (%) |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Hastings | 42,499 | 5036 | 11.8% |
| Rother | 42,232 | 3808 | 9% |
| Eastbourne | 46,540 | 4010 | 8.6% |
| Lewes | 43,569 | 3588 | 8.2% |
| Wealden | 64,713 | 5189 | 8% |

Source: BEIS Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics 2014.

In East Sussex Wealden has the lowest number of fuel poor households relative to the total number of homes in the district. Hastings on the other hand has the highest number of fuel poor households. Wealden is characterised by rural fuel poverty including asset rich but fuel poor households. Hastings is characterised by high levels of urban fuel poverty.

There are a total of 21,631 fuel poor homes across East Sussex. Of this number 12,585 fuel poor households reside in rural districts while 9046 reside in urban boroughs. These figures highlight the extent of rural fuel poverty in the local area.

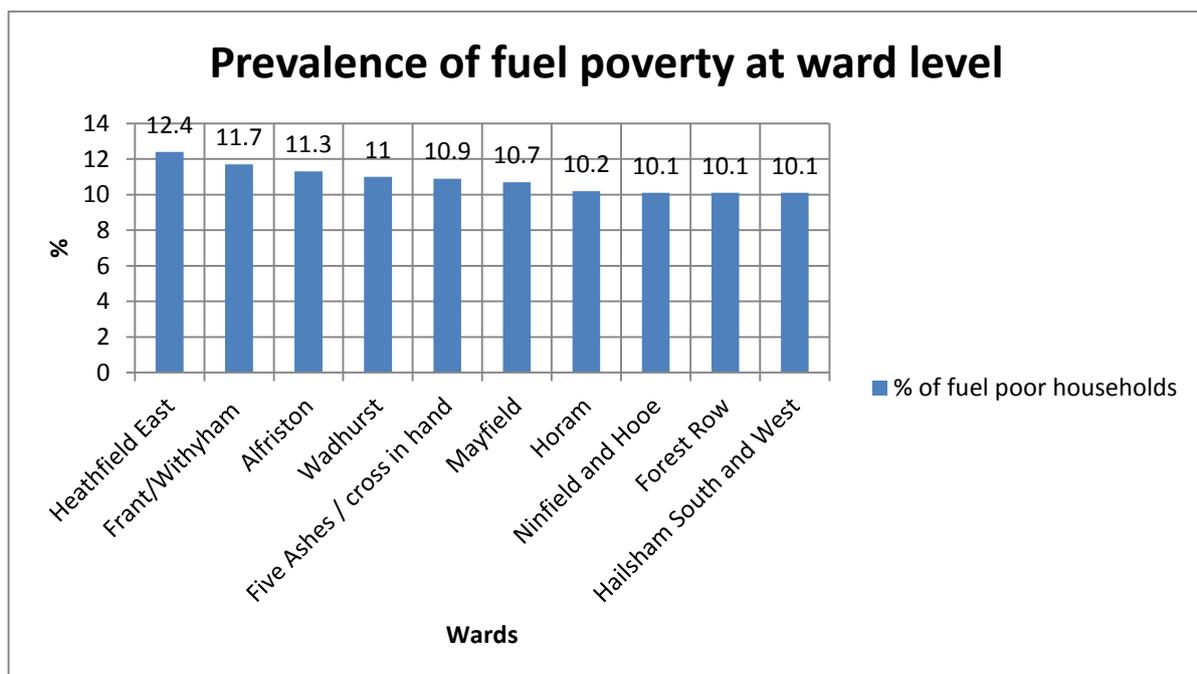
We aim to support wider local strategic priorities, on issues such as housing, health and poverty, through housing strategies, corporate plans, fuel poverty strategies and the Energy Act 2011.

We aim to provide access to affordable warmth through local initiatives which will contribute to reducing levels of fuel poverty in the district. Having regards to government targets to reduce fuel poverty by 2016. (UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001) (Reduction by baseline 2010 NI187). We will take advantage of any government initiatives (financial assistance and other benefits) for energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty.

Wealden's Affordable Warmth Strategy (2011 – 2016) identifies rural fuel poverty as a priority concern. Households in these locations tend to rely on expensive fuels such as oil, LPG, solid fuels and electricity. Rural homes are generally characterised by non-traditional construction methods which leads to poor thermal efficiency. When combined these factors have the potential to reduce SAP ratings and increase fuel bills. Wealden District Council utilise the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to target efforts to reduce fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency. The bar graph below shows the top ten wards with the highest fuel poverty levels.

It is noted in the tables above that the level of fuel poverty has increased between 2012 and 2014. We will continue to monitor this, assess any likelihood for the increase and target resources effectively to make maximum impact.

Figure 4: Bar graph showing wards with highest fuel poverty levels in Wealden.



Source: ESCC, Public Health Department. 2016.

In 2013/14 there were a total of 110 Excess Winter Deaths (EWD) in East Sussex. In Wealden there were 30 Excess Winter Deaths during the same period. The winter of 2013/14 was characterised by a slightly colder than average temperature in November followed by a sustained period of milder than average weather. Cardiovascular and respiratory diseases are key drivers for excess winter mortality. The category 1 hazard risk for excess cold is greater in properties with SAP bands rated F and G.

4. Measures implemented to result in significant energy efficiency improvements of our residential accommodation

Wealden District Council has completed the following schemes and measures to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty:

Figure 5: Schemes and measures adopted to significantly improve energy efficiency.

| Scheme Name | Social | Private Sector |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| All remaining single glazed windows in the Council Housing stock have now been upgraded and replaced with double glazed windows. | ✓ | |
| 44 homes received cavity wall insulation. | ✓ | |
| 92 homes have had lofts insulated up to a depth of 270mm. | ✓ | |
| Installed a further 12 air source heat pumps, 18 Rointe electric oil filled radiator systems, 38 modern storage heater systems, 302 gas central heating systems and a further 61 fuel switches from electric heating to gas. | ✓ | |
| Trialled 2 Dimplex Quantum heating systems. | ✓ | |
| Follow up visits to all residents with heat pumps. | ✓ | |
| Installed a second PV system on Rumsey Court and two more PV systems on Joan Hughes Court. | ✓ | |
| 33 heating systems installed through the East Sussex Energy Partnership (ESEP) using funding from National Energy Actions (NEA) Warm and Healthy Homes Fund. | | ✓ |
| Delivered 1 collective energy switch in May 2016 (collective fuel bill saving of £55,000). | | ✓ |
| Supporting the BESN champions operating across rural Wealden. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Delivered 1 pop up energy shop event in Heathfield. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Delivered 1 smart meter roadshow across 10 rural parishes. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Working in partnership with Wealden Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB) to deliver the Warm in Wealden Pilot which will see CAB act as a central point of contact for fuel poverty referrals. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Secured an EPC dataset for the district and we are currently thinking about ways this data can be used to target fuel poverty interventions. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Supporting 1 Community Warmth Event on a local park home site. | | ✓ |
| Produced and published two home energy efficiency guides. | ✓ | ✓ |

5. 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.

- Promoted the take-up of free ECO insulation for loft and cavity walls to the private housing sector.
- Bid for and awarded £22,150 from Smart Energy GB to deliver the Wealden Smart Energy Parishes Project. This project reached over 15,000 households across 10 rural parishes with the aim of engaging off-the gas grid residents on the benefits of getting a smart meter. This project was run in co-ordination with the Big Energy Savings Network (BESN) and Wealden Citizens Advice Warm in Wealden Campaign.
- Promoted awareness and understanding of the Warm Home Discount in our day to day engagement activities.
- The council also have a dedicated Home Energy Efficiency Officer providing advice and education about saving energy and money in the home.

6. Green Deal/ECO

Your Energy Sussex (YES) – Green Deal

Your Energy Sussex (YES) is a Sussex based energy saving partnership consisting of local authorities across Sussex. The partnership is lead by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) alongside Carillion, the delivery partner. As an affiliate partner we will work together with YES to build a domestic home energy offer as and when the opportunity arises.

East Sussex Energy Partnership (ESEP) - ECO

Wealden is a partner of the East Sussex Energy Partnership (ESEP). Together the partnership is made up of partners from the public, private and voluntary sector. The Winter Home Check Service (WHCS) is a free service that is commissioned on behalf of the partnership and its principle aim is to help its residents keep warm and well from the effects of living in a cold home.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Working in partnership with Wealden Citizens Advice to deliver a central point of contact fuel poverty service in Wealden. This service will feed in to the work we are already doing with the East Sussex Energy Partnership.

7. Renewable Energy/Sustainable Energy

We aim to provide initiatives for both social and private housing sectors, for example, Photo Voltaic installations that will support the ambitions in the Carbon Plan. Since the last HECA report we have achieved:

- The installation of an additional 12 Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP).
- The installation of 302 gas central heating systems.
- Trialled 2 Dimplex Quantum heating systems.
- Facilitated 61 fuel switches from electric heating to gas.
- Installed a second PV system on Rumsey Court and two more PV systems on Joan Hughes Court.

8. New Innovative Initiatives

We aim to introduce innovative ideas that will assist householders to reduce carbon emissions, eliminate fuel poverty and provide behavioral changes to using energy more efficiently.

- To promote smart meters in the Wealden district through the delivery of projects, presentations and digital media.
- To deliver at least 1 collective switching scheme to residents each year. We aim to save households money whilst making energy switching hassle free.
- To make sure council residents on electric heating have the correct meter type and tariff. We aim to help residents switch to the most suitable energy provider as and when the need occurs.
- To use a newly acquired EPC database to improve the targeting of fuel poverty interventions. We aim to target households with low SAP bands and/or high energy use.
- To promote the Warm Home Discount (WHD) to all residents in areas of known fuel poverty. We aim to promote this discount through the delivery of workshops and energy cafes as well as digital media. Information could also be included on benefit bills at low cost.
- To work in partnership with Parity Trust to promote the take-up of affordable home improvement loans.

- To trial efficient off-gas heating technologies in Council properties.
- To promote energy efficiency to landlords in the private rented sector. We aim to provide advice and support to landlords with regards to the private rented sector energy efficiency regulations through targeted initiatives.

9. Measures We Propose To Cost Effectively Deliver Energy Efficiency Improvements In Residential Accommodation By Using Area Based/Street By Street Approach

We will aim to deliver cost effective delivery using area based roll out through:

- Identifying local partners for area based energy measures for both social and private sector stock.
- Identify target areas and priority roll out; for example, identify solid wall/hard to treat properties
- Determine any interactions with other refurbishment work and other Local Authority objectives (e.g. area regeneration, ECO).

10. Assessment /Data Gathering/Monitoring

We are establishing ways to determine data on the energy efficiency rating of our residential accommodation.

Figure 7: Current and potential average SAP scores for the Wealden district.

| Average SAP Rating (current) for the Wealden District | Average SAP Rating (potential) for the Wealden District |
|---|---|
| 60 – band D | 74 – band C |

Figure 8: Current and potential average SAP scores for Wealden owned housing stock.

| Average SAP Rating (current) for Council owned stock | Average SAP Rating (potential) for Council owned stock. |
|--|---|
| 62 – band D | Data unavailable. |

Wealden District Council has invested in auto assessor software. This will permit assessment of potential programming scenarios to determine effectiveness, financial and practical viability to decide future works and potential SAP achievements. The council continues to assess, monitor and maintain the efficiency of the housing stock. The respective SAP ratings are continually updated as energy efficiency programmes are rolled out. However it is noted that the current SAP assessment does not recognise the high level of investment and improvements made to off gas network properties using high efficiency, intelligent electric oil fire radiators systems.

11. Minimum Standards in the Private Rental Sector

We aim to work and engage with our local landlords to encourage them to increase the energy efficiency and minimum standards within their properties. This will be achieved through ESEP, Wealden initiatives, and ongoing landlord activity, for the landlords to achieve EPC band “E” or above on their properties. We continue to promote the minimum energy efficiency standards through landlord magazines, news articles, briefings and information packs.