

HECA Reporting 2023

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all local authorities (LAs) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy performance of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero uses data submitted to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

This guidance document is issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act. It is to alert LAs of updates to the HECA reporting framework in advance of 29th February 2024 when the next reports are due, and to provide guidance on completing returns. The survey will continue to be centred around a series of questions and direct information points. The reports will continue to be submitted through Microsoft forms.

Following the principles of open data, the department may publish anonymous information in an open data format to allow wider access and interpretation of the data by relevant key stakeholders, while ensuring that such publication complies with the terms of GDPR <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection>. DESNZ will consider the value of publishing a summary report of the responses submitted by Local Authorities that highlights key themes and any evidence of common best practices displayed by respondents.

HECA 2023 Reporting Requirements

The 2023 report template is divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes as follows.

Headline & Overview

What main strategy and schemes LA's currently have to promote carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency, stakeholders involved and impact at a societal and economic level.

Communication

How LAs engage stakeholders to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

Green Local Supply Chain.

How LAs engage local businesses in the promotion of energy savings products and the societal benefits alongside any local economic impact this might have.

Social Housing Decarbonisation

What actions LAs and Social Housing partners have taken to install energy efficiency measures.

Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018 and April 2020

Green Home Finance

Leveraging private finance to promote energy efficiency.

Fuel Poverty

How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

Government Funded Schemes

LA participation in schemes such as LAD, HUG and ECO.

Smart Metering

How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

The report template will also contain a final free text section to allow local authorities to describe any additional activities which they feel are relevant and which deserve reporting.

Submission of HECA 2023 Reports

As in 2021, LAs will again be asked to populate their HECA Report online with materials submitted via the Microsoft Forms platform in 2023. No other reporting material or submissions will be required.

LAs will be sent a link to the Microsoft Forms survey when requested. To request the survey, the person responsible for completing the HECA report within the LA should email HECARreport@beis.gov.uk stating their Local Authorities name and that they

wish to receive a HECA 2023 report link. Microsoft Forms does not allow respondents to save their responses and return at a later date. As such, we advise that respondents use the table of questions below to formulate their responses before opening the survey.

LAs continue to be required to publish their responses, and they can do this in whichever manner they wish, so long as the published report contains relevant information submitted via the digital platform. It is not necessary for LAs to publish all the information submitted via the digital platform.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will consider if this approach continues to prove effective and supports the engagement and compliance of a greater number of authorities than in previous years. DESNZ will also continue to evaluate how this approach can be further improved in future reporting years.

HECA 2023

Introductory Questions

- **Name of Local Authority** – Dover District Council (DDC)
- **Type of Local Authority** – District/ Council
- **Name, job title and email address of official submitting report.** –

John Underwood
Energy Support Officer
John.underwood@dover.gov.uk

Headline and Overview

Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

- Yes, The Council has published a Climate Change Strategy. DDC works closely with County and other District/ Borough Councils in Kent and supports the [Kent Environment and Low Emissions Strategy](#).

Q2. If yes, please provide a link. - [Climate Change Strategy](#)

Q3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

- N/A

Q4. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes, and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented.

The Tables below shows the total cost of measures delivered in the Dover district area, broken down by the various grant schemes.

Measure	Number of Measures	Total cost of measure	ECO	LAD1A	LAD1B	LAD2	GHG	HSF	UKSPF	KMSEP EDF	Able To Pay	DDC Funds
Cavity Wall Insulation	8	18,862.56	2,385.78		3,010.04	13,466.74					1 Property (unknown Cost)	
Loft Insulation	20	44,285.80	9,550.70		24,016.50	7,284.51	579.07		1,351.14	1,503.88		
External Wall Insulation	17	449,259.02		18,422.59	129,892.10	232,852.50		49,187.18		18,904.65		
Flat Roof Insulation	1	4,536.48						4,536.48				
Solar PV	1	10,693.44				10,693.44						
Heating	33	98,857.75	5,381.20					72,450.34	17,097.67	2,125		1,803.54

Warm Home Fund April 2021 to March 2023

	Number of Measures	Total Cost	ECO	Warm Home Fund	SGN	Council
First time gas connection	8					
First time Central Heating	8	40,112.55	11570.40	12,600.24	8,000	7,941.91

Winter Warmth Grant (PSH) – Total of 90,773.46. Assisted twenty-two properties with heating or insulation measures (normally replacement boilers) installed, where the applicant is over sixty and has a long-term health condition.

Green Energy Business Grants - Total of £54,426.50 of funding helped thirteen local businesses improve their energy efficiency and reducing their carbon footprint with measures installed such as Solar PV, Insulation, LED lighting, ASHP, and double glazing.

LED Streetlighting - Total of £517,617.00 of funding to upgrade and install Approximately 2750 streetlights to LED in the district which has reduced energy consumption by 70-80%.

Dover Museum Store Solar PV – A 24kw Solar PV system was installed with a cost of approximately 30K. It was designed with the initiative to offset the costs and energy usage required by the environmental controls system to optimise the storage of artefacts and exhibits at the store.

New affordable housing – New housing built in the district including installation of energy efficiency measures such as Solar PV and Clean heating (ASHP/Electric).

Collective Energy Switching Scheme (iChoosr):

Auction Round	No. of Registrants	No. of Switchers	Average realised savings £	CO2 savings (tonnes)
May 2021	211	33	-26	23

Due to the Energy crisis and the Price Caps, the switching market came to a complete standstill meaning post May 2021 suppliers could not bid with offers below the energy price cap at the time of auction.

Electricity tariffs are from 100% renewable sources.

Solar Together Kent

Scheme Year	Total No. of Registrants	Total No. of Solar PV installations	Total CO2 reduction (tonnes)	Total Battery Storage Only Installations
Solar Together Kent 2022	924	105 (96 of these installs included battery storage)	107.3	8

Q5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply

- Energy savings,
- Carbon savings,
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes
- Behaviour Change

Consumer Advice and Information

Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

- Yes

Q7. If yes, please select all that apply;

- Local Authority website
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Promotion Through responses to telephone, email and enquiries made via the Council's website.
- Face to face contact with residents on occasions.
- Promotion and registering residents for the collective energy switching scheme via the phone for this scheme.

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

Q8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

- No

Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

- N/A

Q10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply

KCC would engage with SME's through:

- LOCASE
- Low Carbon Kent
- Kent REVS

GSENGH engage with businesses through their Dynamic Purchasing System.

Q11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

- Yes, by Signposting to NIA, CIGA, SWIGA, MCS webpages (dependant on measures interested in) to help residents find local accredited installers and advise to obtain at least three quotes.
- DDC use a procured installer to deliver energy efficiency grant schemes such as ECO, LAD, and other energy efficiency schemes, and they have all the required accreditation to deliver.

Q12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

- No – we are not aware of any issues

Q13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

- No

Q14. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

- N/A

Q15. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

- N/A

Social Housing Decarbonisation

Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- No

Q17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.

- N/A

Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?

- Application window too short
- Too much information needed at application
- Retrofit work is not a priority

Q19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- No

Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- N/A

Q21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply.

- Lack of funding
- Lack of internal resource
- Lack of capacity
- Lack of technical support
- Retrofit work is not a priority

Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

- 0

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

- Yes

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- Yes

Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

- Yes, and it has been used.

Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount: 200

Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 200

Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 50

Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 20

Green Home Finance

Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

- Promotion of the Government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) on the Council's webpage [Discount and Energy Efficiency Grant Schemes \(dover.gov.uk\)](https://www.dover.gov.uk/Discount-and-Energy-Efficiency-Grant-Schemes)
- Promotion of the Solar Together Kent Scheme [Buying Solar Panels made easy \(dover.gov.uk\)](https://www.dover.gov.uk/Buying-Solar-Panels-made-easy)

Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- No

Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- No

Fuel Poverty

Q33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- Yes

A Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy was developed by Council Officers who are members of the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership, however updates to this document will be needed to ensure it aligns with the current/future changes/ funding opportunities announced by the Government.

The Corporate plan 2020-2024 includes objectives to improve the quality, and energy efficiency of DDC's own housing to reduce carbon impact and issues of fuel poverty.

Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing.
- Used local data sets on household income.
- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out.
- EPC Data.
- IMD Data – target areas rather than individual households.
- Analysis of data received from previous schemes and using local knowledge of the district and housing stock.

There are GDPR barriers for obtaining personal data such as benefit data / low-income data / vulnerability/health data. Access to this data even at a postcode level would enable better and more accurate targeting to deliver the energy efficiency schemes.

Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Delivery of ECO and LAD schemes to improve the energy efficiency (fabric first approach) of properties occupied by residents living in fuel poverty, on a low-income with vulnerabilities to living in a cold home such as age/health conditions.

- Delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Household Support Fund – Assisting residents living in homes with a lack of insulation or broken/inefficient gas boilers who are on a low income with vulnerabilities to living in a cold home, or in receipt of certain benefits improve the energy efficiency of their properties.
- Energy Deal - a collective energy switching scheme, enabling residents to register for free to see if they could benefit from auction tariffs through a supported scheme and without obligation to accept. The scheme also allows residents without access to the internet to participate and receive paper offer, and bills.

Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

Yes - The Council's Climate Change Strategy and underlying action plan includes fuel poverty. Fuel poverty also interlinks with DDC's Corporate Plan

• If yes, please can you explain how it does this?

- The Council approved the Climate Change Strategy, and committed to supporting the action plan, including the improving the thermal efficiency of properties occupied by residents living in fuel poverty, with consequential impact of reducing domestic emission and improving health of the district's residents.
- The Corporate Plan included objectives to improve the quality, and energy efficiency of DDC's housing to reduce carbon impact and issues of fuel poverty and to keep people supported and healthy in their homes.

Local Authority Delivery

Q37. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

- N/A

Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- No

Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

- Accurate EPC data, and access to benefit data.

Home Upgrade Grant

Q40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

- N/A

Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

- No

Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking.

- Accurate EPC data and access to benefit/income data

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

- Yes

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

- 22 (LA Flex)

Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

- 3 (HHCRO)

Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

- 0

Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

- 30K

Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

- N/A

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- No

Q50. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.

- N/A

Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

- Yes - [DDC Statement of Intent Version 1](#)

Q52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

- N/A

Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex (or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?

- No – DDC use a procured contractor to deliver ECO.

54b. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

- N/A

Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

- Route 1
- Route 2
- Route 3

Smart Metering

The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

Q56a. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

- Yes - we engage with residents through the collective energy switching scheme, and other schemes to explain the advantages of smart meters.
- Residents who have had Solar PV installations are advised of the advantages having smart meters installed to enable access to SEG.

Q57b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- N/A

Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- N/A

Q59b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- DDC do not have a landlord licensing scheme and have no plans to implement.

Q60a. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

- No

Q61b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- This is left for the tenant to arrange with their own supplier, however DDC have changed all temporary accommodation properties to Smart meters, as DDC arrange the supply.