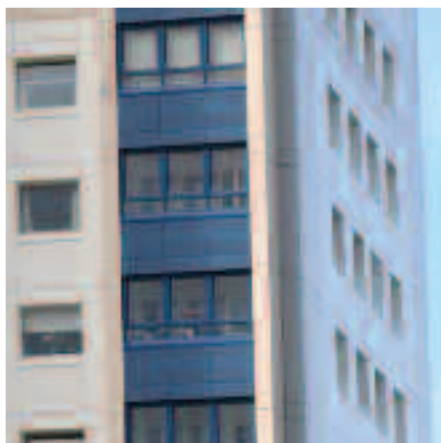
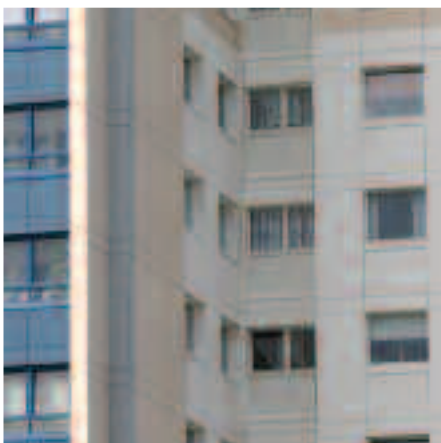
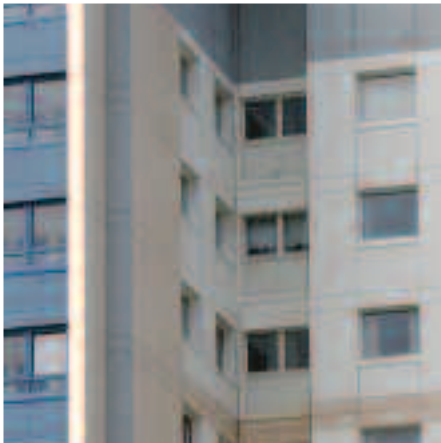


Home Energy Strategy

2008 - 2011



Falkirk Council
Corporate & Neighbourhood Services

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Council's Home Energy Strategy sets out the Council's commitment to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock, regardless of tenure, and address issues of Fuel Poverty affecting vulnerable households. The strategy outlines proposals to address the issues of poor energy efficiency in the housing stock and raise awareness of measures which can be taken to address issues of global warming and climate change. For a number of years now Energy Efficiency has been high on the Council's agenda as reflected in its Corporate Plan and the Council's Housing Investment Programme has allocated significant resources to this area of expenditure.
- 1.2 With regard to Fuel Poverty, as its causes and effects are better understood, it is apparent that specific measures need to be promoted to address this problem. In that the causes of Fuel poverty involve issues in respect of the energy efficiency of properties, household incomes and fuel costs, a partnership approach is crucial in working towards its eradication. The Fuel Poverty Strategy outlined here has been developed in conjunction with a range of local and national partners and will act as a framework within which effective action can be taken.
- 1.3 Domestic gas and electricity prices have been rising and are not expected to fall to the same extent as Britain becomes a net importer of gas. It is essential to increase awareness of the importance of using fuel wisely, purchasing energy efficient appliances and increasing the use of renewable energy in order to meet the targets set by Government.

POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1 There is a wide ranging policy context within which the Council's strategies in relation to Home Energy and Fuel Poverty have been prepared, notably the Home Energy Conservation Act 1996 (HECA), the Scottish Housing Quality Standard 2004 and the Scottish Executive's Fuel Poverty Statement 2002.

Home Energy Conservation Act

- 2.2 The Home Energy Conservation Act was introduced in Scotland on 1 December 1996 and designated all Local Authorities as Energy Conservation Authorities (ECA). ECAs are required to meet a target reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across all housing tenures in their area of around 30% over 10-15 years. They are required to report every two years on the energy saving measures introduced that are improving the energy efficiency of the stock and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.



2.3 Falkirk Council, in common with most ECAs, developed a HECA Strategy that laid out how improvements might be achieved and a baseline figure was set at 1 April 1997. This baseline figure remains constant for the lifetime of HECA so that improvements can be calculated. The 4th HECA progress report in March 2006, noted a reduction in home energy use from April 1997 – March 2005 of almost 16% over all tenures and a reduction in domestic CO2 emissions of over 17% in the same period. The most recent update, the 5th progress report, covering the period to March 2007 reported a reduction in nominal energy use of 24.10% and a reduction in CO2 emissions of 24.61%. This 8% improvement over a 2year period demonstrates the investment Falkirk Council has made to improve the energy efficiency of its stock. A copy of the 5th Progress Report is included as Appendix 1 (page 15).

2.4 Measures included in the HECA Strategy to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency involve:-

- **Double Glazing**
- **Modern Central Heating Systems**
- **Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation**
- **Hot Water Tank Insulation**
- **Draught Proofing**

2.5 The resultant benefits of improved energy efficiency in the housing stock include:

- **Reduced energy consumption**
- **Lower household fuel bills**
- **Warmer homes**
- **Assisting in the reduction of fuel poverty**

Scottish Housing Quality Standard

2.6 The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) was introduced by Communities Scotland in 2004 setting out standards for all of Scotland's housing stock. Local authorities are required to ensure their stock meets the Standard by 2015. The Standard requires properties to be:

- **Compliant with the Tolerable Standard**
- **Free from serious disrepair**
- **Energy Efficient**
- **Provided with modern facilities & services**
- **Healthy, safe and secure**

2.7 To meet the Energy Efficiency criteria, a home must have an energy efficient heating system and effective insulation, which is defined as:

- **Cavity wall insulation**
- **100mm loft insulation**
- **Insulation of hot water tanks and pipes**

2.8 Additional insulation measures, where technically feasible, may also be necessary to achieve a National Home Energy Rating (NHER) score of 5 or above, again by 2015. The Council's Standard Delivery Plan, submitted to Communities Scotland in April 2005, demonstrates how the Council will bring its stock up to the Standard within this timescale and maintain it at the Standard thereafter. The SDP estimates there are between 5,000 and 9,000 houses currently without CWI installed. Further work is underway to collect more robust NHER data. Large scale insulation projects currently underway will help achieve improvements in existing NHER ratings.



Fuel Poverty

2.9 The eradication of Fuel Poverty by 2016 was a Scottish Executive target, which was introduced with the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, and progressed through the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement (2002). The recently formed Scottish Government has now adopted this policy. Much work has already been undertaken by the Council to tackle the causes of fuel poverty, e.g. the energy efficiency of many houses has been improved as a result of the Council's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Strategy, implemented through the Council's HRA Investment Programme.

2.10 Although there is still some debate about an exact definition of "fuel poverty", there is a general consensus that households who spend more than around 10% of their income on household fuel use are experiencing fuel poverty. According to the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002

"A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime¹, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its (net) income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use"

2.11 The Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS), 2002 estimated that 15% of households in the Falkirk Council area were "fuel poor", compared to 17% in Scotland as a whole. Findings from the national SHCS 2005/06 report showed that this Scottish average had increased to 23.5%. Forthcoming house condition survey work will provide an opportunity to collect more up to date data on the extent of fuel poverty across the Council area.

2.12 It is widely accepted that there are three major factors that contribute to fuel poverty. Addressing these factors forms a major element of this Strategy. These factors are:

- **Income** - proportionally households on a low income spend more heating their homes to a satisfactory standard.
- **Fuel Costs** - higher prices result in fuel being less affordable. This is an area of concern. Energywatch advise that since 2003 there has been an average rise of 77% in energy prices.
- **Energy Efficiency** – the less energy efficient the heating source and fabric of the building, the higher the cost to adequately heat the property.



Energy centre

2.13 Addressing fuel poverty has to recognise the dynamic environment within which this agenda sits. Rising fuel prices causes a corresponding increase in the number of households in fuel poverty. As a rule of thumb, a 5% rise in fuel prices will increase the number of households in fuel poverty in Scotland by 40,000. This would equate to around an additional 1200 households in fuel poverty locally.

2.14 In addition to the above there are other factors which can contribute to fuel poverty. These include:

- **Household lifestyle** - the particular lifestyle of a household can have an effect on levels of fuel consumption, e.g. households which make efficient use of their heating system are likely to pay lower fuel costs to achieve the same level of comfort.
- **Under-occupation** – households which are under occupied inevitably heat more rooms than they require, resulting in higher fuel costs and an increased risk of being in fuel poverty.

¹ "Satisfactory heating regime" as recommended by the World Health Organisation is 21°C in the living room and 18°C in other rooms for 9 hours in every 24 (or 16 in 24 over the weekend). For elderly and/or infirm people, this is 23°C in the living room and 18°C in other rooms for 16 hours in every 24.

- 2.15 Many households in fuel poverty are required to make difficult daily choices such as whether to heat their home properly or eat healthily; this is as a result of having insufficient income to do both. This results in many low-income households in Scotland compromising their basic living requirements. Although the acute health impact, death through hypothermia, of Fuel Poverty is rare such circumstances can leave householders prone to effects within respiratory and circulatory systems. For example illnesses exacerbated by cold and damp include asthma, influenza, bronchitis, heart disease and strokes. There is a wealth of research which has been conducted on the subject of poor housing and ill health. For example, one study has reported that 49% of people in damp housing were likely to report a long standing illness, disability or infirmity compared to 37% in non damp housing.
- 2.16 Such circumstances can also leave individuals more prone to falls and accidents as well as cause the deterioration of long term conditions in the winter. Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, very young and people with disabilities or long-term illness are more vulnerable to fuel poverty and its effects. These individuals tend to spend more time in their homes and as a result are required to heat their properties for longer periods of time and often to higher temperatures to remain comfortable.

- 2.17 Indirectly, the consequences of fuel poverty can also include,
- **Little or no disposable income requiring further lifestyle choices to be made.**
 - **Social isolation due to a lack of confidence to invite people into the home.**
 - **Absence from school/work due to ill health.**
 - **Overcrowding as families congregate in heated areas; effectively shrinking the size of the home (this can also adversely affect educational attainment).**

At Risk Areas

- 2.18 As energy efficiency is one of the three factors causing fuel poverty, this is an area that the Council can directly influence. The Council has utilised Fuel Poverty Mapping data to highlight the areas most at risk of fuel poverty. The 7 areas identified as being most at risk were Zetland, Dawson, Inchyra, Camelon, Hallglen, Middlefield and Falkirk Town Centre.
- 2.19 The Council secured funding from Scottish Power, Scottish Gas and the Scottish Government's Warm Deal Programme to allow a range of insulation works to be progressed in the above 'at risk areas'. The resulting projects form part of the first large scale cavity wall and loft insulation programmes progressed as part of this Strategy. It is anticipated that insulating these properties and making them warmer will help to reduce fuel consumption in the long term.



KEY AIMS

- 3.1 The main objective of the Home Energy Strategy is to improve the thermal efficiency of the housing stock in the Council area regardless of tenure. Increasing insulation levels not only improves comfort but also reduces energy bills. This, in turn, reduces the carbon dioxide emissions that are contributing to global warming.
- 3.2 In respect of fuel poverty, the main objective is to ensure and promote a sustainable approach to its eradication, so far as is reasonably practicable, in the Falkirk Council area by 2016 in accordance with national targets. The overall aim will be to ensure all householders can obtain affordable warmth in their homes
- 3.3 Arising from the policy context outlined above, the following key aims of the Home Energy Strategy can be identified, setting a framework for the Action Plan contained in Appendix 3 (page 24):
- **To meet the energy efficiency criteria set down in the SHQS by 2015 and work towards the eradication of fuel poverty by 2016.**
 - **To meet the Councils HECA targets.**
 - **To minimise fuel poverty through income maximisation measures.**
 - **To maximise the take up of external funding from the main energy suppliers and other sources.**
 - **To raise awareness of energy efficiency and fuel poverty issues and encourage take up of energy efficiency improvements by home owners and private landlords.**
 - **To act as a basis for researching innovative technical solutions to improve home energy efficiency**



Cavity wall insulation being installed.

Links with Other Strategies

- 3.4 Promoting environmental sustainability and tackling disadvantage are key aims of the Council's Corporate Plan. Dealing with issues of energy efficiency and fuel poverty are an integral part of these objectives and this Home Energy Strategy itself is linked to a number of other Council plans and policies relating to a range of housing, environmental social and health issues, including:
- **Local Housing Strategy.**
 - **HECA Strategy.**
 - **Homelessness Strategy.**
 - **Community Care Plan.**
 - **Housing Advice and Information Strategy.**
 - **Private Sector Housing Strategy.**
 - **Neighbourhood Renewal, regeneration and social inclusion strategies.**
 - **Health Improvement Plans.**
 - **Local Agenda 21 Strategy.**
 - **Sustainable Falkirk Strategy.**
 - **Structure Plan and Local Plan.**
 - **Strategic Community Plan.**

HOME ENERGY INITIATIVES

4.1 A variety of initiatives are underway to address issues of energy efficiency and fuel poverty within the housing stock, utilising a range of funding streams and joint working with a number of key partners. One of the aims of the Energy Strategy is to maximise available funding to allow a full range of energy efficiency and fuel poverty initiatives to be realised.

Resources

4.2 There are a number of funding streams that the Council can access to support energy efficiency initiatives within its housing stock to supplement HRA Investment Programme resources or initiate projects of a non-capital nature.

4.3 The funding streams available are as follows:-

- **Energy Efficiency Commitment Funding, now Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)**
- **Scottish Communities Household Renewable Initiative Funding**
- **Community Energy Grant Funding**
- **Scottish Government Warm Deal Funding**
- **Other Agencies – such as Primary Care Trust**
- **Energy Efficiency Commitment Funding**

4.4 Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) is a statutory obligation on energy supply

companies with more than 50,000 customers to meet an energy saving target in the domestic sector. These energy savings assist the Government in meeting its targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to deliver affordable warmth.

4.5 The first EEC started in 2002 and ran for a period of 3 years and was commonly known as EEC1. This committed energy companies to achieving energy saving targets, set by the Department of the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), of 50% of which had to come from priority customers in receipt of an income related benefit or tax credit. During the EEC1 period joint working took place with the main utility companies to secure EEC funding for a number of projects.

4.6 The most common measures funded during EEC1 were:

- **Cavity wall insulation**
- **Loft insulation**
- **Low energy light bulbs**
- **Energy efficient boilers and appliances**

4.7 In general terms, EEC1 was very successful and a recent report published by Ofgem reported that utility companies had achieved energy savings 40% above the target set by DEFRA. A total of 10 million households in the UK benefited from EEC1, with 56% of the total target being achieved through cavity wall insulation.



New CHP Heating installed in high flats, Callander Park.

- 4.8 The second phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC2) began in April 2005 and ran until March 2008. Following the success of EEC1, DEFRA increased the energy saving targets which energy companies had to meet.
- 4.9 Falkirk Council has been well placed to take advantage of the funding packages available during EEC2 and has built on the relationships already established. The aim will be to continue to develop energy efficiency projects to meet the targets set by Communities Scotland in the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and under HECA.
- 4.10 One of the key priorities in devising energy efficiency projects is to target those most in need. With this in mind the Fuel Poverty Mapping information which was commissioned by the Energy Savings Trust has been a useful tool in highlighting the most 'at risk' areas. Work is also underway to highlight other smaller areas 'at risk' and allow appropriate energy efficiency schemes to be developed.
- 4.11 In addition to the pilot cavity wall and loft insulation schemes previously mentioned, a number of projects that form part of the HRA Investment Programme have been identified that could be enhanced by claiming EEC funding such as:-
- **Replacing old combination gas boilers with gas condensing combination boilers.**
 - **Replacing solid fuel and electric heating systems with gas condensing combination systems.**
 - **Cavity wall and loft insulation as part of re-rendering projects.**
 - **External cladding on Breton and Corentin Courts.**
 - **Hallglen and Camelon gas mains extension project.**
 - **Provision of measures to improve the energy efficiency of non traditional housing.**

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target – CERT

- 4.12 This is the new obligation on energy suppliers which replaces EEC2 and will cover the period April 2008 to March 2011. The Government proposes a CERT obligation at around double the level of activity of EEC2, with a continuing focus on priority consumers. In addition to energy efficiency measures, the new obligation requires suppliers to explore new and innovative approaches to domestic power generation, such as wind turbines, solar panels etc, as well as encouraging more energy saving behaviour among consumers. Discussions will continue with energy suppliers to explore the local implications of CERT.



Hallglen where gas mains extension has now been completed.

Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI)

4.13 The SCHRI is funded by the Scottish Government and managed jointly by the Energy Savings Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The objectives of SCHRI are to:

- **Support the development of renewable projects at community level,**
- **Support the installation of household renewable forms of energy,**
- **Raise awareness of renewable technologies and their benefits.**

4.14 In Scotland, home owners can qualify for grants worth up to 30 per cent of the cost of installing a renewable technology system, up to a maximum of £4,000.

4.15 Consideration is being given to using SCHRI funding for a pilot project to install domestic wind turbines.

Community Energy Programme Funding

4.16 The Community Energy Programme (CEP) offers grant funding and advice & information to support the installation, refurbishment or expansion of community heating schemes. The Scottish Government, through the EST, supplied additional resources to promote the CEP in Scotland which resulted in approximately 40% of the UK fund being awarded to 27 Scottish projects.

4.17 Falkirk Council was successful in its application for funding and secured a grant of just under £1 million towards the cost of developing a

community heating project. The main aim of the project, which was completed in December 2007, was to provide combined heat and power (CHP) to the residents in 6 tower blocks of flats in the Callendar Park Estate. The residents are now benefiting from full heating and hot water provided at an affordable price of between £6 and £7.50 per week. In addition to providing heat and hot water, surplus energy from the system is being sold back to the National Grid, thereby defraying some of the running costs of the scheme. The CHP generators use natural gas but options to use biomass (woodchip) as an alternative source of energy in the future have been built in to the project. Both fuels will ensure that reductions in carbon are achieved.

Scottish Government Warm Deal Funding

4.18 The Warm Deal initiative was previously delivered by Energy Action Grants Agency (EAGA) Partnership and is now administered by Scottish Gas on behalf of the Scottish Government. It provides a grant of up to £500 for a range of energy saving measures when a household member is in receipt of an income related benefit. Alternatively, if the householder is aged 60 or over and not receiving any benefits, then they may be entitled to a 25% grant of up to £125. Falkirk Council tenants have benefited from the Warm Deal scheme since it was established. The original format came to an end in March 2006 and a new form of delivery has been introduced. This now offers the same grant to those in the owner occupied or privately rented sector.



External Cladding at Breton Court

4.19 In May 2006, Communities Scotland announced that Ministers had agreed that £2 million be allocated to local authorities for Warm Deal. Authorities were invited to apply for a proportion of this funding to undertake home insulation programmes involving:

- **200mm loft insulation**
- **Draught proofing**
- **Pipe and tank lagging**
- **Cavity wall insulation**
- **Low energy light bulbs**
- **Provision of energy advice**

4.20 A bid for this funding was submitted to Communities Scotland and confirmation was received that the Council was successful in securing in 22% of the national allocation. The funding outlined below is now being used to offset the costs for works in those areas identified as 'at risk' of fuel poverty.

- **2006/07 - £241,600**
- **2007/08 - £204,800**
- **2007/08 - £61,760 – additional allocation**

Joint Health Improvement Fund

4.21 The Council secured funding from NHS Forth Valley's Joint Health Improvement Fund for a pilot ventilation project aimed at properties suffering from excessive condensation / dampness which was impacting on the resident's health. The project, which began in 2006 involved the provision of positive input ventilation units and cost around £6,000, with £2,000 from the Joint Health Improvement Fund. Tenants were also provided with advice on how to alleviate the problem of dampness in their homes by lifestyle changes. At the present time, feedback on the success of the pilot scheme is being analysed with the initial indication being that a positive impact has been achieved. More specifically, it is hoped that this initiative will also be applicable in properties where there are children suffering from asthma.

Staffing

4.22 Dedicated staffing input through Home Energy Officers within the Housing Service has allowed focussed attention to be given to issues of energy efficiency, carbon reduction and fuel poverty and has provided the basis from which the Council can pursue a variety of initiatives to address priorities in these areas.

Energy Efficiency Improvements

Council Housing

4.23 In terms of physical housing improvements, the Council's HRA Investment Programme has had a focus on energy efficiency issues over many years. This has concentrated on the provision of full house central heating, double glazing and insulation. Attention has been given to particular non-traditional house types which have exhibited poor energy efficiency making them 'hard to heat' and comprehensive packages of insulated over-cladding have been applied along with loft insulation, double glazing and the installation of highly energy-efficient gas central heating systems. Both central heating and double glazing have now been offered to all Council tenants through innovative leasing schemes.



TRVs - efficient controls

- 4.24 An annual programme of replacing partial, obsolete and older heating systems is on-going using HRA capital funding. Additional resources have been secured for such work by claiming "fuel switching" funding through the Energy Efficiency Commitment programme. The opportunity to draw down further resources in this area will arise as the Council increases its investment in replacing heating systems reaching the end of their useful life.
- 4.25 Further insulation works will be undertaken to optimise the take up of available external grant funding. In general terms, such insulation work will be integrated with other improvements such as re-rendering, re-roofing and ventilation measures.

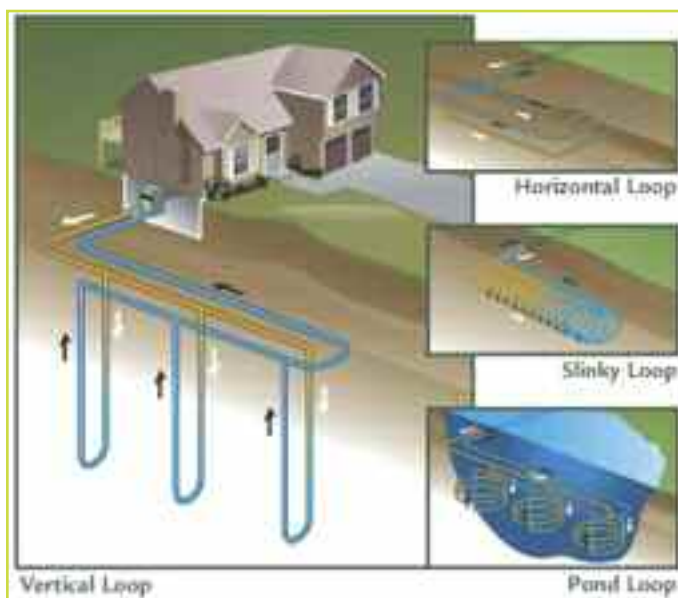
Private Sector Housing

- 4.26 As a designated Energy Conservation Authority, under HECA, the Council has a responsibility to reduce carbon emissions in all tenures by 30%. In 2003 the Council worked in partnership with the Strathclyde and Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) to carry out a mail drop to all residents in the Council area asking them to complete a "DIY" Home Energy Check. This data has now been used by the Council to target over 8000 owners to promote subsidised cavity wall and loft insulation. Work is continuing to ensure that all owners are contacted. Historically, owner occupiers have proved to be a very difficult group to reach and take-up of advice can be low.
- 4.27 A further mail drop by the newly named Energy Saving Scotland advice centre has recently invited all householders in the Falkirk area to receive an Energy Saving's Trust energy check report which will provide an indicative energy rating for their homes along with recommendations for improving energy efficiency and projected cost savings on fuel bills.
- 4.28 In keeping with legislative requirements, the Council is currently compiling a Register of Private Sector Landlords who own properties within the Council area. Once this register is complete it is hoped that the data can be used to encourage landlords to improve the thermal efficiency of their properties thus benefiting tenant comfort and should also, in the long term, help reduce fuel bills.
- 4.29 Other measures to encourage both private owners and landlords to improve the thermal efficiency of their properties will be developed in response to new initiatives and grants being made available.

Innovative Technologies

- 4.30 It is recognised that various renewable and innovative technologies, apart from their obvious benefits in reducing CO2 emissions, can play a key role in improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock and in helping to address issues of fuel poverty. Existing projects are already in place utilising: -
 - o **Combined Heat and Power (CHP) in the Callendar Park high rise flats and at Salmon Court sheltered housing scheme, Bo'Ness.**
 - o **Air source heat pump technology at West Carmuir Loan, Bonnybridge.**
- 4.31 Other technologies being considered include:
 - o **Domestic wind turbines**
 - o **Ground source heat pumps**
 - o **Solar water heating**
 - o **Utilisation of biomass as a fuel source.**
- 4.32 These technologies will be assessed via pilot projects in the first instance with a view to assessing the feasibility of their wider application. The aim would be to develop a wide range of possible heating options so as to be able to provide cost effective heating solutions to tenants.

Diagram of Ground Source Heat Pump.



Other Initiatives

- 4.33 In taking this Strategy forward, particular areas have been identified for further policy development. These include:
- **Exploring other heating options in areas without a gas supply, e.g. landward villages.**
 - **Investigating the feasibility of achieving economies in fuel costs in grouped accommodation, e.g. Sheltered housing complexes.**
 - **Addressing chronic cases of condensation/dampness as a result of poor ventilation.**
 - **Links with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and the private sector.**

Advice and Assistance

- 4.34 In order to reduce energy consumption it is widely accepted that receiving good quality energy advice is essential.
- 4.35 The Council works along with the Strathclyde and Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) now the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre to provide energy efficiency advice to residents in the area regardless of tenure. The ESSac have also provided energy efficiency training to front line Council staff to ensure a fuller understanding of current issues in relation to home energy efficiency and fuel poverty.
- 4.36 The Internet is increasingly used to gain information on a wide range of topics and household energy pages have now been added, providing advice on issues such as saving energy, changing energy supplier and fuel payment options etc. The web pages are updated when necessary and regularly monitored to identify which topics are of most interest.
- 4.37 A Household Energy Advice Booklet has been produced for staff in Neighbourhood Offices. This is also available for down load from the Council's Intranet and feedback on its usage will be used to update and improve the information contained. Each Neighbourhood Office is able to use the booklet for staff training purposes.



Sheltered housing

- 4.38 Every year, the Council issues "Winter Warmth" packs to vulnerable households at the start of each winter. This pack is a valuable information source for the elderly and is updated annually. Close liaison will continue between both Housing and Social Work colleagues to ensure future publications include contact details for the Scottish Government's Central Heating Initiative and Warm Deal programmes, Energy Saving Scotland advice centre among other useful sources of help.
- 4.39 Low energy light bulbs last up to 10 times longer than a conventional bulb and the Government is trying to encourage people to change over to this form of lighting. Work with the power companies have allowed supplies of low energy light bulbs to be obtained. These have been supplied to Neighbourhood Office Staff to give out to tenants when they make enquiries.

Partnership Working

- 4.40 Effective partnership working with a variety of external agencies and other Council Services is essential if energy efficiency targets in the housing stock are to be met or significant reductions in levels of fuel poverty are to be achieved.
- 4.41 Joint working relationships have already been established with utility companies, energy efficiency organisations, NHS Forth Valley, the voluntary sector and local community groups as well as Council Services such as Social Work and Development Services.
- 4.42 Examples of the partnership activity currently in place are set out below.
- 4.43 The need to continue to develop partnership working is recognised. In order to maintain existing joint working relationships and foster new ones, the Council is represented by dedicated Home Energy Officers at various seminars, conferences and forums such as the Scottish HECA Officer's Network and Energy Action Scotland Technical and Advice Forums. Work is also underway with RSLs and the private sector in relation to energy efficiency and fuel poverty priorities.

Organisation(s)	Nature of Relationship
Energy Saving Scotland advice centre (ESSac)	Source of advice and information, project organisation, delivery of training for staff.
Energy Saving Trust (EST)	Source of funding and advice.
NHS Forth Valley (Primary Care Trusts)	Project partner on fuel poverty leaflet, ventilation pilot and an ongoing source of assistance and information.
Fuel Suppliers (various)	Obtaining CERT funding, organising projects.
United Utilities	Assessing feasibility of and delivering gas infill projects.
Energy Action Scotland (EAS)	Lobbying on relevant issues, information and networking. Also provides training to Council staff.
Insulation Contractors (various)	Fitting Insulation measures and other services i.e. surveying, NHER scores.
Development Services	Managing energy efficiency housing improvement projects and work in relation to the Council's sustainability agenda.
Social Work Services	Provision of community advice services. Particularly in relation to fuel poverty.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation of the Home Energy Strategy, including those actions specifically relating to fuel poverty, is a fundamental requirement and integral to its success. It is proposed to measure progress against the performance indicators outlined in the following Action Plan.
- 5.2 Firstly, this will provide an overview of progress towards national targets in respect of energy efficiency and fuel poverty. Secondly, it will also be necessary to gather specific information relating to individual projects. This will allow an evaluation of which approaches and initiatives have been most successful. For this reason, it is important that data collection is incorporated into all projects which form part of the Strategy.
- 5.3 Progress on the Strategy will be measured using a variety of quantitative and qualitative data, including:
- **Reductions in carbon emissions in the context of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA),**
 - **NHER evaluations to show improvements in thermal efficiency and associated running costs of properties,**
 - **Progress towards energy efficiency milestones to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard,**
 - **Results from the Council's forthcoming local house condition surveys,**
 - **Progress towards meeting the fuel poverty targets set out by Government,**
 - **Levels of energy efficiency funding secured, e.g. CERT,**
 - **Raise awareness of fuel poverty and energy efficiency issues, including referrals to partner organisations,**
 - **Ease of accessing energy efficiency and fuel poverty information,**
 - **Perceived improvements in quality of life, health and comfort of householders.**
- 5.4 In terms of working to eradicate fuel poverty it should be recognised that there are issues, generally beyond the control of the Council, which may impact on progress. These include:-
- **Fuel Prices - it is widely accepted that the price of fuel will continue to rise over time resulting in people falling into fuel poverty, and making it more difficult to remove those households already in it,**
 - **Fluctuations in household income will also impact on the number of people in fuel poverty,**
 - **Comparatively it is much more difficult to have a positive impact in the private sector housing market, particularly the private rented sector in respect of implementing measures to address fuel poverty, e.g. energy efficiency measures, advice and information. Improved communication with this sector is necessary,**
 - **Funding availability for the range of energy efficiency measures which may be required,**
 - **It is recognised that some houses of non traditional construction will be particularly difficult to heat and hence place occupiers at a higher risk of being in fuel poverty. A priority will be to improve the NHER of such properties.**

Appendix 1

Falkirk Council Home Energy Conservation Act 5th Progress Report April 2008

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Aims

- 1.1 As noted in previous updates, projected energy efficiency savings within the Council's HECA report indicated that a 28.1% reduction in residential energy use, from the base line date and number of dwellings at that date, could be achieved.
- 1.2 The report concluded that an increase in energy efficiency of 25-30% was possible if all the measures described therein could be implemented over the stipulated 10-15 year period.
- 1.3 The HECA Spreadsheet indicates a reduction in nominal energy use between 01/04/97 and 31/03/07 of 24.10% over all tenures and a reduction in nominal CO2 emissions of 24.61% in the same period.
- 1.4 The energy strategy which was set out in the HECA report included the following:-
 - **Work carried out over the period resulted in all Council properties now having central heating. An annual programme aimed at replacing heating equipment at the end of its service life is ongoing and all replacement systems now include a high efficiency condensing boiler.**
 - **The installation of double glazing in all single glazed Council houses has been completed during the reporting period.**
 - **The installation of other energy saving measures achieved by utilising Utility EEC2 and Scottish Government Warm Deal Funding in related partnership projects.**
 - **To actively promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures in other tenures to include Strathclyde & Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre input, EST and Fuel Company related schemes.**
 - **Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation is now installed as standard as part of the re rendering work planned in the Capital Programme.**

Internal Organisation

- 1.5 Falkirk Council currently has a Home Energy Strategy Officer (job share basis), within the Housing Service. The post is responsible for the implementation of HECA and accordingly both Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction are high on the Council's agenda.

- 1.6 The initial HECA report was approved and HECA was, until mid 1999, the responsibility of the Strategic Services Committee; it is now the responsibility of the Policy & Resources Committee since reorganisation of the committee structure in 1999.

Inter Departmental Working

- 1.7 The main current inter-departmental working arrangements in relation to HECA are:-
 - **A close working relationship between Housing, Social Work and Development Services, which continues to ensure that the Council's Housing Investment Programme maintains a strong energy efficiency focus.**
 - **Strong links between the Council's Sustainable Development Officer and the Home Energy Strategy Officer. Achieving HECA aims is itself a strand in the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy.**
 - **Developing projects designed to eradicate fuel poverty and to link with the aims and objectives of the Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy.**

Partnerships

- 1.8 There is a continuing, good working relationship with the Strathclyde and Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) and Local Energy Support Project with whom there is a Service Level Agreement. The EEAC also provide invaluable support for local Neighbourhood Housing Office staff in the form of energy efficiency training. The EEAC have been supportive in accepting referrals for advice and home visits to residents which were followed up with written energy advice.
- 1.9 Partnerships have been maintained with Fuel Utilities on projects involving EEC2 funding for cavity wall insulation, external cladding and fuel switching. Funding was received for more than 2000 properties. Efforts will continue to be made to expand these projects using EEC2/CERT funding.
- 1.10 A feasibility study was undertaken in partnership with Avecia into the potential for District Heating in Grangemouth, part funded by the Community Energy Programme (CEP). The outcome was positive and concluded that this project was viable given the level of Capital Grant previously available from CEP. The Council has also been in discussion with Carbon Trust Pipelines to establish viability of the project.

Monitoring

- 1.11 Information on previous investment in the Council's stock is readily available from records of capital programme projects, which are updated on the Capital Programme Database. Due to the large number of

projects that have and are taking place a separate database is now held to record all energy efficiency works.

- 1.12 In relation to other tenures, there is currently no mechanism for accessing relevant data. However, requests for this information have been made to the local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Fuel Companies and Scottish Gas in reference to the Warm Deal Programme in order to include in this report. The Fuel companies readily provided this information and further discussion is required with the RSLs.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Works to Local Authority Stock

- 2.1 Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation - The introduction of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2005 meant that, where possible, cavity wall insulation should be installed and loft insulation should reach a minimum of 100mm. Falkirk Council has decided to go further than the SHQS and, where achievable, improve the level of loft insulation to 250mm. A number of programmes have been developed to address this using both EEC2 Funding and Scottish Government Warm Deal Funding.
- ***In 2005 lengthy discussions took place with the Energy Companies to secure Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funding to assist the Council with the costs of installing Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation. This has been very successful as 544 cavities have been filled in the first phases of these projects.***
 - ***As previously reported, in the latter part of 2004, Cavity Wall Insulation was included as an element of all re-rendering contracts. This means that, where achievable, cavities are filled before new render is applied. This practice continues.***
 - ***During the reporting period approximately 418 properties received insulation in this way and the cost of this was supported by EEC2 funding from Scottish & Southern Energy. In addition, a further 152 cavities were filled which were funded by Scottish Government Warm Deal Funding.***
 - ***In 2007 these projects were enhanced to include loft insulation top ups in addition to the cavity wall insulation.***
 - ***Scottish Government Warm Deal funding has been very beneficial, with an allocation of £214,600 being awarded in 2006/07. This funding was used to carry out loft insulation in 603 properties.***
 - ***Prior to this change in Warm Deal funding when contractors could offer free CWI to those on a benefit, two local contractors had carried out a large scale insulation project on local***

authority properties. A total of 450 homes benefited from free cavity wall insulation as part of this project.

- 2.2 External wall insulation - Over cladding has been carried out to 170 properties in two high rise blocks in Callendar Park, Falkirk, once again EEC2 funding from Scottish Gas was used towards the costs of this project.
- 2.3 Fuel Switching - 64 properties had gas central heating installed to replace the existing electric or coal systems. These were part of the Capital Programme to update obsolete heating systems with more efficient gas systems using condensing boilers. In addition to the Council's capital expenditure, EEC2 funding was claimed for this work from Scottish Power.
- 2.4 Condensing Boilers – 457 condensing boilers have been installed into properties with existing gas heating systems as part of the Council's Capital Programme. EEC2 funding from Scottish Power was used to enhance this programme.
- 2.5 Gas Mains Extension - Discussions for the first project to extend the gas mains into an off gas area took place. Work started in January 2005 and 69 Council properties had new gas central heating installed prior to 31 March 2007 with a further 61 systems being completed after this date. Once again EEC2 funding from Scottish Power was claimed. Owner occupiers were given the opportunity to connect to the gas main and a total of 262 chose to take up this offer.
- 2.6 Double Glazing – as previously reported all Council properties are now double glazed.
- 2.7 Large Scale CHP – following on from a successful project whereby CHP was installed in a sheltered housing complex comprising 27 properties the Council embarked on a larger scale project. A combination of Community Energy Partnership funding, Council resources and EEC2 funding enabled the Council to install gas fired CHP into 6 high rise blocks of flats. The plant will initially run on natural gas with a bio-mass option. Plans for a second phase are underway. In total 300 properties, where tenants are predominately over 50 years old, benefited from the new heating and hot water system.
- 2.8 Dampness in Properties - Following on from the Asthma in Children Project, a pilot to install Positive Input Ventilation as a means of rectifying dampness problems has taken place. NHS funding was secured and suitable addresses were identified. When installation of the units was complete energy efficiency advice was given and photographic evidence taken. These properties are currently being revisited to establish whether these units have been successful in alleviating the dampness.

- 2.9 Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP's) – For properties out with the gas network the potential for heating from renewable energy sources is being investigated. One project has been completed using ASHP's. The Heat King ASHP's were installed into 4 properties that previously used white meter storage heating and were too far from the gas network to make connection economical. The energy consumption from these properties is being monitored so that the Council can decide whether this technology is suitable to be used in future projects. It was originally proposed that these homes would also benefit from domestic Wind Turbines, however, it was decided that the non traditional structure of the buildings was not suitable for this to go ahead.
- 2.10 Non Traditional Homes – Discussions with Scottish Power, the Council's Employment Training Unit and Miller Pattison took place in order to use Scottish Power's "Homepack" scheme. This scheme aims to provide radiator panels, draught stripping and Hot Water Tank Jacket's and the Council used Warm Deal Funding to provide loft insulation. 2000 non traditional homes were surveyed and approximately 1000 homes benefited from at least one of the measures.
- 2.15 Contact with RSL's - In the 4th Progress HECA Report it was identified that improved relationships could be formed with the RSL's who had properties in the Council area. In order to address this, two Social Housing Energy Forums have taken place with the assistance of the LESP. This has enabled staff from the RSL's to meet with Council Energy staff from Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannan to discuss projects that demonstrate "good practice" and to share new ideas using innovative technologies. The next Forum is planned for summer 2008 when a site visit to Falkirk's CHP Project is proposed.

Grants & Loans

- 2.16 A HECAAction project provides interest free loans and small grants for the installation of condensing boilers, better controls etc in partnership with S&C EEAC, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. This project remains popular with 27 systems being installed up to 31/03/07.
- 2.17 Relationships between Falkirk Council and Energy Companies remain strong and many partnerships were formed in order to claim EEC2 funding. During the reporting period approximately £181,000 has been claimed from Scottish Gas, Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Energy on a variety of projects mentioned in this report.

Works in Other Tenures

- 2.11 Owner Occupier Insulation Scheme - Following discussions with the local EEAC and Scottish Gas a project was developed to target approximately 8,000 owner occupiers who did not have insulation. This began in the autumn of 2005 and has resulted in 142 owner occupiers receiving cavity wall insulation. The take up of this has been lower than anticipated so the project is to be improved to offer a rebate from Scottish Gas to owners who install insulation. This project, "Save and Reward" will be launched in January 2008.
- 2.12 Scottish Government Warm Deal Insulation – Figures obtained from Scottish Gas and EAGA, the former Managing Agent for this scheme, show that 333 owners benefited from CWI and 170 from LI.
- 2.13 Utility Schemes – Figures obtained from the three Scottish Energy Companies show that 1206 owners benefited from CWI and 431 benefited from LI.
- 2.14 Housing Association and Private Rented Property – In order to improve the Council's knowledge all RSL's with stock in the Falkirk Council area were contacted asking for information to be included in this report. From limited feedback it was ascertained that 219 gas central heating systems had been installed to replace existing electric and solid fuel systems.

Information, Advice, Education & Publicity

- 2.18 There are a number of initiatives to note:
- **All Council tenants receive a Tenants Information Pack which contains a Heating Advice leaflet to enable them to optimise the benefits of their heating system and reduce energy costs.**
 - **Tenants calling their neighbourhood office with heating related or other enquiries will be visited by a Neighbourhood Officer; many of whom have received energy awareness training.**
 - **All Council Offices and facilities have a wide range of leaflets available which include grant information and energy efficiency advice. These are regularly updated.**
 - **A staff guide entitled "Household Energy Advice" was produced for use by all frontline Staff. This booklet contains a wide range of information for staff, allowing them to give advice to tenants on subjects such as meter reading, changing energy supplier and saving energy. This booklet is available on the Council Intranet site for staff to download and to use as an information leaflet for tenants. Staff training on the use of the booklet is being provided twice yearly to ensure it remains a useful staff tool.**

- **Low energy light bulbs were supplied to all Neighbourhood Offices to give out to tenants. Housing Officers also fitted two bulbs in each newly let property. These light bulbs have been supplied by both Scottish Gas and Powergen.**
- **Information on Household Energy Advice is available on the Council's website. The advice is similar to that contained in the staff booklet. The number of "hits" to the website has been monitored and the "Heating Systems Explained" section seems to be the most popular page. This site is regularly monitored and updated as necessary.**
- **Social Work Services issued 4000 "Winter Warmth" packs to vulnerable households at the start of each winter in 2005 and 2006. This pack is updated annually and the most recent version contained contact details for the Scottish Government Central Heating Initiative and Warm Deal Programme, S&C EEAC among many useful sources of help.**
- **The Council has a Service Level Agreement in place with Strathclyde & Central EEAC. This has allowed 455 residents within the Falkirk Council area to benefit from Energy Efficiency Advice after completing a DIY Home Energy Check.**

Outputs from the Measures

- 2.19 Figures have been compiled using the HECA Progress Spreadsheet. The HECA Spreadsheet summary sheet is included as Appendix 1. The results, over all tenures, for the period 01/04/97 to 31/03/07 can be summarised as follows:
- **Nominal energy use within the base line housing stock has fallen by 24.10% from 6.43 million GJ to 4.88 million GJ.**
 - **Nominal CO2 emissions have fallen from 463,703 tonnes by 24.61% to 349,607 tonnes.**
 - **The total cost of installing the measures to the Local Authority's own stock is estimated at £8,500,000 million.**

PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES/ FUEL POVERTY

- 3.1 Approximately 70% of Falkirk Council tenants are in receipt of some form of benefit. In the 4th Progress Report it was reported that the Council had 15% of households thought to be in Fuel Poverty, which was below the Scottish average of 17%. According to statistics from the latest Scottish House Condition Survey, the average national level for 2005/06 is now 23.5%. Unfortunately Local Authority figures are not provided in this report but, on the basis that the figures for the Falkirk area reflect this change, it can be assumed that they will also have risen making the Scottish Government target of eradicating Fuel Poverty by 2016 less likely.

- 3.2 It is well established that the main causes of fuel poverty are:-
- **Poor Housing**
 - **Low Income**
 - **Fuel Price**
- 3.3 It is acknowledged that much can still be done to improve the thermal efficiency of the housing stock and to increase income through benefits health checks and energy efficiency advice. Rising fuel costs remain an area of concern and have indeed increased the figures nationally. It is estimated that a 5% increase in fuel prices results in 30,000 people in the UK falling into fuel poverty. On this basis the Falkirk figures will also be higher.
- 3.4 It is an aim of the Council to address the issues faced by households in Fuel Poverty and to liaise closely with other internal and external organisations to develop programmes that aim to help reduce levels of Fuel Poverty. The Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy sets out clear guidelines, aims and objectives, as well as an action plan.
- 3.5 The Fuel Poverty mapping information provided by Alembic Research for the Scottish Government has been a useful tool in helping to target insulation projects at those most in need. Insulation projects were initially carried out in the areas which were identified as being most at risk of fuel poverty. Once complete, the focus moved to areas identified as medium risk.
- 3.6 The insulation measures installed by these projects used EEC2 and Warm Deal Funding. It is anticipated that work will continue in the medium risk areas using CERT Funding.
- 3.7 A Fuel Poverty Awareness leaflet, previously produced in partnership with the LESP and NHS Forth Valley, has now been reprinted and updated. Clackmannanshire Council and Stirling Council are also partners in this current production. Staff briefings will take place with all front line Housing and Social Work staff in the early part of 2008 to advise on the signs of Fuel Poverty and to encourage use of the new referral leaflet. Staff at the S&C EEAC will monitor the number of referrals and feed back.

LOOKING FORWARD

- 4.1 There are two relevant statutory requirements on local Authorities – to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015 and the eradication of Fuel Poverty by 2016. These targets are acknowledged through the allocation of resources in the Council's housing investment programme.
- 4.2 The Council's Standard Delivery Plan was submitted to Communities Scotland in June 2005 setting out how it aims to achieve the

SHQS by 2015. The position is also noted in the Council's Home Energy Strategy. This Strategy has been updated and the consultative draft was approved by the Council's Housing and Social Services Committee on 1st April.

- 4.3 The Fuel Poverty Strategy has also been updated and was approved as part of the Home Energy Strategy.
- 4.4 The Fuel Poverty Mapping data produced by Alembic Research for the Scottish Government has proved very useful in the planning and targeting of insulation schemes. The Council has since provided funding to the LESP to allow this data to be produced to sub ward level. This data will be interrogated and used to more accurately target insulation projects.
- 4.5 Work carried out during the period includes

Works to LA Stock

- **All houses now have central heating and therefore future energy efficiency gains are likely to be relatively small and primarily due to replacement of older, less efficient boilers. The Council's policy is that all replacement boilers are now condensing models.**
- **All Council houses have double glazing.**
- **CERT funding has been secured from Scottish Gas to subsidise the cost of external cladding work being carried out on Belmont Tower in Callander Park.**
- **Areas in Camelon, Falkirk and Bo'ness have been identified that are not connected to the gas network where tenants are using electric white meter heating. Negotiations are underway to extend the gas network in order to install gas central heating. CERT Funding will be sourced to assist with the cost of these projects.**
- **It is hoped that the CHP in Callander Park will be extended to connect further tower blocks.**
- **Trialling renewable technologies will remain a key interest of the Council. Once suitable projects have been identified the experience of others and guidance from manufacturers will be used to select the correct technology for each project.**

Works in Other Tenures

- **In the private sector the HECAction project continues to promote condensing boilers and controls with additional funding from EST. (see previous grants and loans section).**
- **In 2004 a mail drop to all 63,000 dwellings in the Council area was carried out, which resulted in a 20% response rate. These residents all received a Home Energy Check and energy advice from S&C EEAC in a jointly funded project. In March 2008 another mail drop took place to all Falkirk Council residents. The data gleaned from this mail drop will be**

used to target those who do not have cavity wall insulation and very little or no loft insulation.

- **In tenures such as owner occupation and the private rented sector there is little incentive to invest in measures solely to reduce energy use. For most owner occupiers, major investment for energy efficiency reasons is not a high priority. However, with fuel prices still rising and more attention being given to the advantages of improving energy efficiency this will hopefully change. It is also considered that increased funding for this sector will be available through CERT which may see take up increase. In addition to the "Save and Reward" scheme with Scottish Gas, (see "Works in other Tenures" page 5), the Council will continue to promote insulation measures to these sectors through its website and advertisements in the local press.**

Grants and Loans

- **The funding gained from CERT will continue to assist with energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, external cladding, fuel switching and funding towards condensing boilers.**
- **In partnership with the 'Leaving Care Service', provided by Social Work Services, an application was made to the Scottish Power Energy Trust. This bid has been successful and funding has been secured to offer individuals leaving care a token to feed into their gas or electricity meter when they run out of credit and no further money. Such individuals who present themselves to Social Work will also receive cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and face to face energy advice provided by the S&C EEAC and funded by the grant.**
- **Other grants and loans will be applied for when appropriate.**

Information, Advice, Education and Publicity

- **Raising energy and environmental awareness through the media and education has a cumulative effect in society at large and energy awareness training of frontline staff (mostly Housing) will continue.**
- **The Household Energy Advice section on the Council website will continue to be monitored so that improvements can be made. With over 300 hits per month this is seen as a valuable resource for those who have internet access and are keen to know more about energy efficiency.**
- **The newly updated Fuel Poverty Awareness leaflet will be distributed to staff via internal briefing sessions. Plans are in place to monitor the success of the leaflet as a special code has been added to the leaflet which will allow the S&C EEAC to monitor referrals.**

SUMMARY

5.1 Over the period of HECA the Council has made significant improvements in the energy efficiency of its own stock and over the last reporting period great improvements have been reported to dwellings in other tenures. This improvement is due to many factors including increased public awareness and a wider choice of funding available to local authorities and private householders. The figures reported show clearly that the energy efficiency of the stock is improving and this will mean that the householder will benefit from increased thermal comfort as well as a reduction in energy use.

For further information on any aspect of this report please contact:

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Appendix 2

FUEL POVERTY & THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA:

The Communities Scotland 'Follow Up Report on Fuel Poverty' (2004) has highlighted that in 2002 fuel poverty within the Falkirk Council area was under that national average (17%) at approximately 15%. The Falkirk Council area covers approximately 259 sq. kilometres with a population of approximately 150,000. Major settlements in the area are Falkirk, Grangemouth, Bo'Ness, Stenhousemuir, Denny, Polmont, Larbert and Bonnybridge. There is however an urban/rural mix within the area and several small, predominately ex-mining communities are present such as Shieldhill, Slamannan and California. The overall housing stock in the area totals 69,500 dwellings.

Key features of fuel poverty in the Falkirk Council area are –

- **The majority of fuel poor households are single pensioner (36%), elderly (19%) or single adult households (19%).**
- **Although the highest number of fuel poor households are in the owner occupier sector those at highest risk of fuel poverty are renting privately.**
- **90% of fuel poor households' income is under £199.99 p/week.**
- **The highest risk (36%) of fuel poverty comes within housing with an NHER denoted 'poor' i.e. a rating of 0-2.**

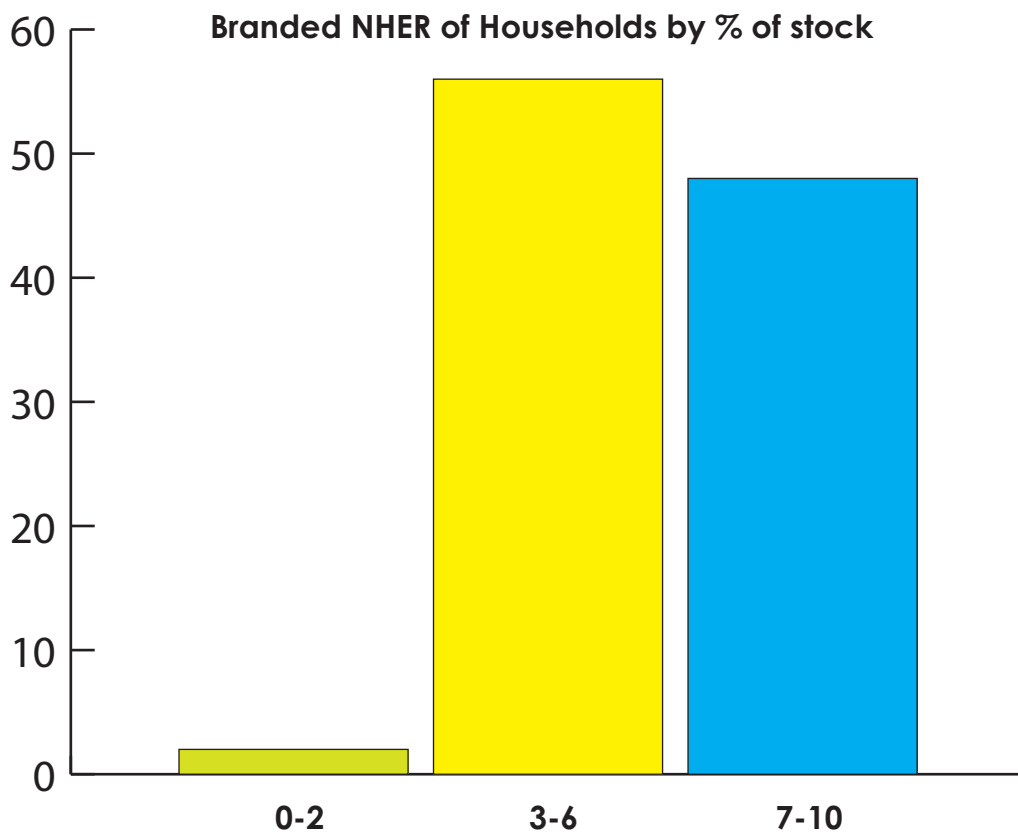


Fig 1. Source: Communities Scotland

Figure 1 illustrates that 2% of housing in the Council area has an NHER of 0-2, indicating a need for significant improvements to energy efficiency if issues of fuel poverty are to be addressed. Some households in the moderate (3-6) band may also be at risk of fuel poverty.

Figure 2 indicates that 22.4 % of the local population is of pensionable age and hence in a high risk category in respect of possible fuel poverty. Table 1, below, indicates that 30% of the population are either single pensioner, elderly or single parent households and hence in a potential fuel poverty priority group, according to the Communities Scotland report.

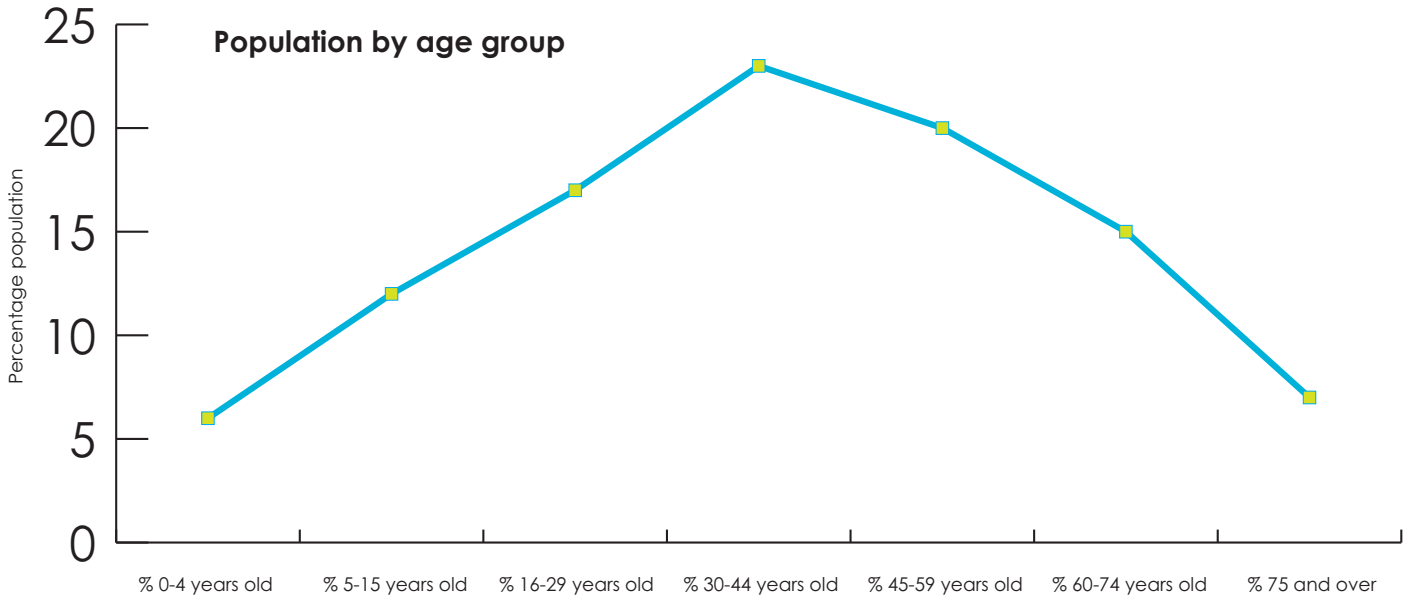


Fig 2. Source: www.scrol.gov.uk

Figure 3 indicates that the highest risk housing sector for fuel poverty, i.e. the private rented sector, comprises only 3% of the total housing stock. However, addressing fuel poverty is an all tenure issue and therefore appropriate actions are required across the housing stock.

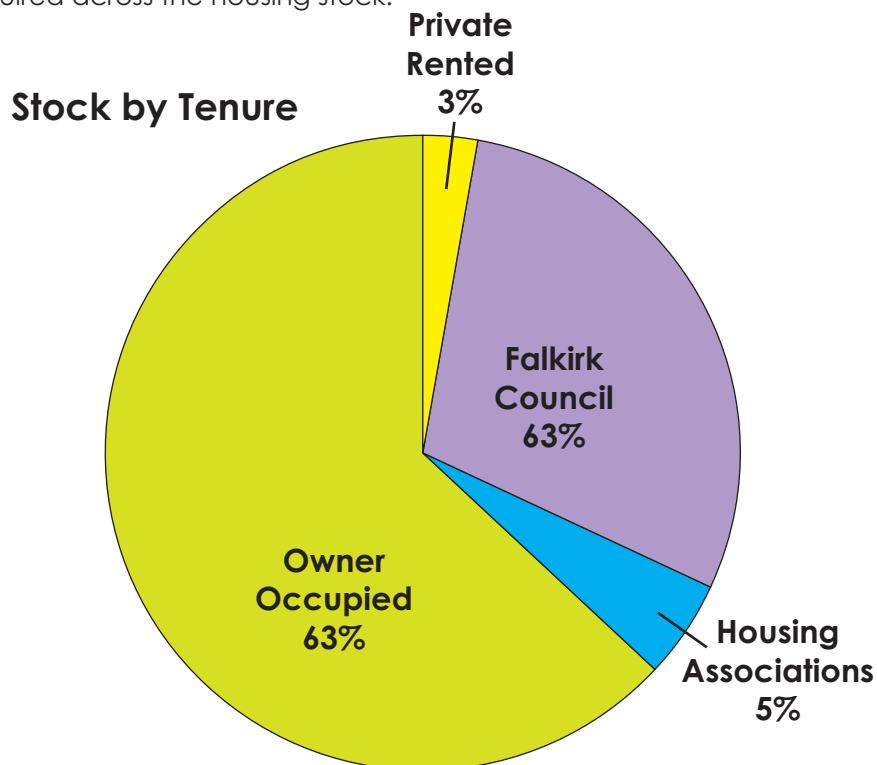


Fig 3. Source: www.falkirk.gov.uk

Figure 4 four indicates that benefits claimed within the Falkirk Council area broadly reflects the overall picture in Scotland. The area however has a lower number of individuals of pensionable age or over (18.21%) compared to the Scottish average (18.61%). The percentage of the population reporting a limiting long term illness is however higher than the national average (24.61% to 20.31%).

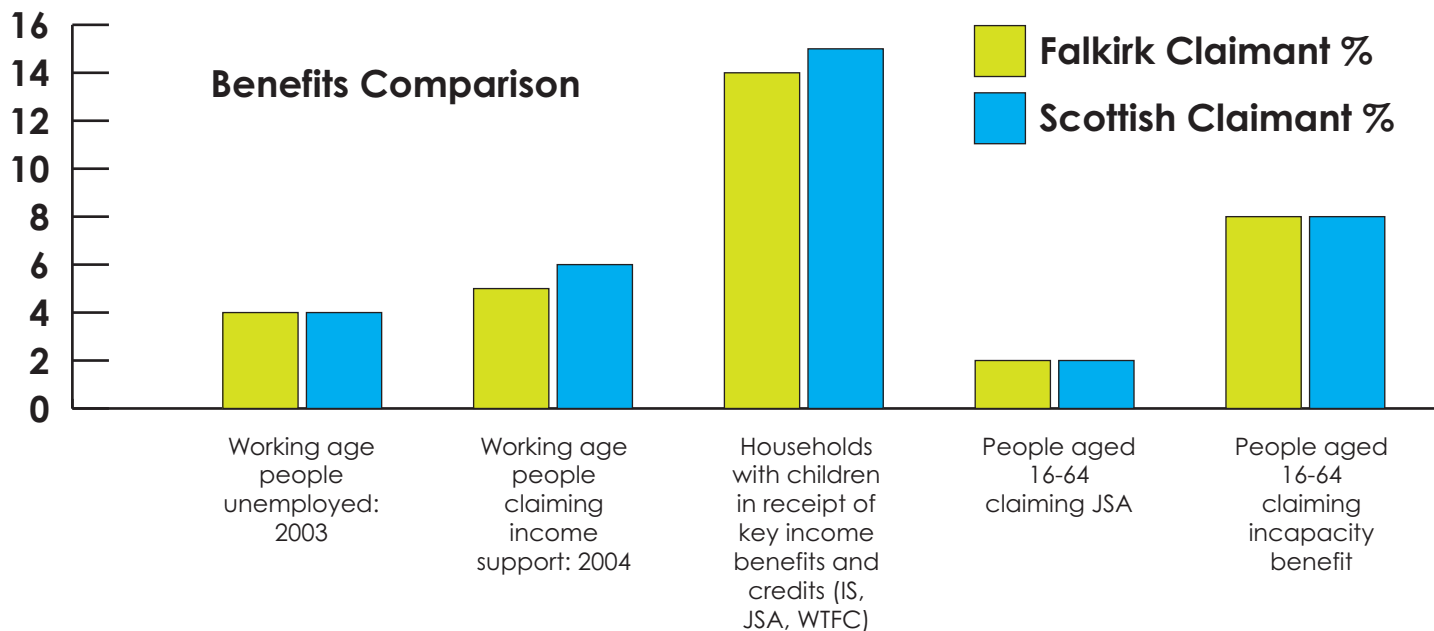


Fig 4. Source: www.sns.gov.uk

The 'Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation' also offers a valuable insight into the profile of the population within the Falkirk Council area. There are 19 data zones in the Falkirk Council area which fall within the worst 15% in Scotland. Around 9,500 people live in these areas. In terms of income and employment indices of deprivation Falkirk is ranked 13th and 11th highest respectively of the 32 local authority areas. Information at data zone level allows small areas of approx 750 people to be highlighted. As noted earlier low household income is one of the three main causes of fuel poverty.

The fuel poverty mapping indicator tool also provides insight into areas most at risk of fuel poverty.

Household Composition	Falkirk
% Single Pensioner	14.7
% One person household	16.7
% Lone parent household (children)	6.9
% Lone parent household (children non-dependent)	3.4
% Married couple household	39.5
% Multi-person household (all pensioner)	8.5
% Other households	10.3

Appendix 3

Home Energy Strategy Action Plan

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
KEY AIM 1: TO MEET 2015 SHQS & 2016 FUEL POVERTY TARGET				
Carry out Local House Condition Survey, analyse existing sources of data on energy efficiency / fuel poverty and set targets	Improved understanding of energy efficiency / extent of fuel poverty and priority investment needs	HRA / General Fund / External funding	Survey completion; review of Energy Efficiency / Fuel Poverty Action Plan	<p>Baseline data on households living in fuel poverty established</p> <p>NHER level 1 surveys being undertaken as part of 'Energy Efficiency Commitment' insulation schemes. Results being calculated for Council stock in the pilot areas.</p> <p>Analysis of 'Social Inclusion' areas, SIMD and census data. Targets established to improve % households living in fuel poverty.</p> <p>Utilise the 'Fuel Poverty Mapping' tool, produced by EAS at both ward and sub-ward level to focus specific projects on high risk area.</p> <p>Housing Energy Working Group established</p> <p>Projects undertaken alongside fuel suppliers, contractors, NHS Forth Valley and local ESSac</p>
Work with partners to strengthen links and develop new ones	Identification of the most vulnerable households, allowing priorities to be formed. Development of referral mechanisms	HRA / General Fund / External funding	Partnership Liaison mechanisms	Inter-departmental discussions held with Social Work, Development Services and Community Advice Services
Ensure Home Energy Strategy links clearly with related strategies and policies	Integrated approach to tackling energy efficiency / fuel poverty	HRA / General Fund / External funding	Review of relevant strategies, including annual updates	Reviews being carried out. Monitoring on going.
Develop HRA investment programme linked to HECA objectives and SHQS Requirements	Improved quality / efficiency of stock	HRA & CERT funding	Measure through Standard delivery plan monitoring arrangements	<p>Variety of projects underway, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heating replacements ○ Re-rendering and CWI ○ Weather envelopes for non-traditionally built properties ○ CHP plant at Callendar flats ○ Insulation works (pilot project)

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
Promote greater energy efficiency in public sector new build and refurbishment projects, through Local Plan Policy	Improved energy efficiency standards in multi-tenure stock	N/A	Introduction of standards to Local Plan Policy	Housing staff continue to liaise with planning and design colleagues on sustainability issues in terms of project development and contract specification. Sustainable design factors and the incorporation of high levels of insulation and renewable energy technologies in specially adapted new build dwellings for the disabled.
Introduce minimum energy efficiency targets using NHER	Inform the Council's housing improvement proposals and specifications	N/A	% Dwellings which have received NHER analysis	Level one surveys continuing to inform targets for future action
Fit energy efficiency improvements such as draught-proofing, radiator reflector panels, CFL's and tank jackets through 'HomePack' scheme	Additional energy efficiency improvements to non-traditional house types. Improve employment opportunities (New Deal)	GF & Utility Company funding	Six month and final review	Arrangements in place with leading insulation contractors and the Employment Training Unit. Properties identified. Projects continuing
'Able to Pay' targeted mail drop schemes encouraging owner-occupiers to invest in subsidised cavity wall insulation	Improve energy efficiency in the private sector	GF, Scottish Gas and Energy Saving Scotland advice centre	Analysis of responses / uptake	Phased distribution of letters .Regular meetings with partners to evaluate responses and make changes to programme. Evaluation of uptake as schemes complete.
'Healthy Homes Project' fitting positive input ventilation systems.	Eradicate symptoms of condensation dampness and improve health (especially asthma)	Falkirk Council / NHS Primary Care Trust 'Joint Health Improvement Fund	Before & after photographs. Tenant questionnaire	Units fitted April / May 2006. Progress photographs to be taken during 2008 and final report submitted

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
KEY AIM 2: MEET THE TARGETS OF THE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT				
Prepare and produce the HECA report or submission to Communities Scotland	Meet 30% reduction in carbon emissions in domestic sector by 2008.	Home Energy Strategy Officer	Biannually review results from report	4th HECA report showed 17.2% reduction in CO ² from baseline.
Compile HECA database	Accurate statistical monitoring	Home Energy Strategy Officer, Utilities & EAGA	Update Capital Programme Database on Completion of works.	Report to be submitted Biannually. 5th Progress Report submitted in April 2008 and reported a 24% reduction in energy use and CO ² emissions from the baseline
KEY AIM 3: TO MINIMISE FUEL POVERTY THROUGH INCOME MAXIMISATION MEASURES				
Maximising income for those benefiting from Cavity Wall and Loft Insulation Pilots	Remove tenants from fuel poverty by improving thermal efficiency of property and increasing income	HRA / General Fund / CERT funding from Utility Companies	Final review of scheme	Projects underway
Take advantage of deregulated energy market & raise awareness of various payment methods	Increased disposable income for those living in fuel poverty	GF & 'Energywatch/ EST publications	Fuel Poverty Action Plan monitoring and review mechanisms	Frontline staff made aware of activities of 'Energywatch / EST' etc through training and publications. Offer advice to residents on website Offer telephone advice from the ESSac to discuss bills, heating systems and payment methods. Advice mail drops.
Offer debt/benefits advice services	Raise welfare benefits claims and disposable income levels	GF and CERT funding	Community Advice Services evaluation	Continue to offer debt advice and benefits helpline/one-on-one assistance. Development of service liaison/ referral arrangements between Housing & Community Advice Services. Information on Community Advice Services available in Libraries, One Stop Shops etc Offer benefits health check information to 9000 homes via Energy Suppliers as part of large scale cavity wall scheme.

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
KEY AIM 4: MAXIMISE TAKE UP OF EXTERNAL FUNDING				
Fit energy efficiency improvements to non traditional homes through the Scottish Power 'HomePack' scheme.	Additional energy efficiency improvements to non-traditional house types. Improve employment opportunities.	General Fund & Utility Company funding	Six month and final review	Measure include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draught-proofing ○ Radiator panels ○ CFL's ○ Tank jackets Review being undertaken March 2008
Develop cavity wall and loft insulation programmes using Utility funding	Increase the number of homes that meet the SHQS	HRA / General Fund / CERT funding	Data provided after initial survey and final review on scheme completion.	Phases 1 & 2 complete. Evaluation underway. Further phases to be rolled out from April 2008.
Raise funding for energy efficiency projects through preferred fuel supplier	Provide streamlined approach for Neighbourhood Office staff. Generate income for Council for other energy efficiency projects	External funding	Schemes put in place, annual performance review	Market position being re-evaluated

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
KEY AIM 5: TO RAISE THE AWARENESS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND FUEL POVERTY ISSUES				
Introduce a wider 'Housing Information and Advice Strategy'	Increased public awareness of energy efficiency / fuel poverty issues	HRA/GF	Meeting Scottish Governments targets on energy efficiency / fuel poverty	Strategy being developed.
Awareness raising to frontline staff	Gives information to staff on how to spot fuel poverty and how they can assist	NHS, ESSac, HRA	Staff evaluation	'Take Action on Fuel poverty – A Guide for Staff' leaflet produced alongside Forth Valley NHS Briefing sessions arranged and leaflet distributed. Sessions arranged to cover energy efficiency issues for relevant staff members. Advice booklet created and distributed. Website resource created. Training sessions organised on general fuel poverty issues and the operation of heating systems.
Raising public awareness of fuel poverty issues	Higher levels of self help among the general public in seeking assistance / attainment of affordable warmth	N/A	Monitoring methods to be evaluated	Presentations/information stalls at public events. Targeted information mail drops. General information on fuel poverty and specific advice relating to assistance available on Falkirk Council website. Use of publications and press articles
Create 'Household Energy' information pages on Council website	Increase public access to and awareness of energy related issues	Council website	Monitor monthly	Live from Jan 2006. Bi-annual reviews
Create staff information manual on energy related matters	Provide valuable information source on energy related matters	Council intranet site. Hard copies of booklet given to each Neighbourhood Office.	Staff training sessions. Feedback from staff will be gathered and actioned.	Bi-annual reviews. Issue quarterly electronic bulletin to reinforce topics from Household Energy Advice manual
Produce room thermometers to elderly households	To alert elderly to cold and to provide energy saving tips in simple format	HRA / General Fund	Seek feedback from end user	Reprint thermometers / advice booklets when stocks depleted.

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
KEY AIM 6: RESEARCH INNOVATIVE / TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE HOME				
Explore the possibility of developing a district heating scheme in the Grangemouth area	Improved energy conservation and efficiency	HRA / GF / other sources	Development of business case	Development Services / Carbon Trust Pipelines involved in investigating feasibility of a scheme
Utilise Combined Heat & Power units to provide low cost 'heat with rent' payment options	Carbon dioxide savings through utilising waste heat aligned with low cost unlimited heat for tenants.	HRA/GF Energy Saving Trust 'Community Energy' funding	Measure energy consumption in CHP projects	Projects at Callendar Park high flats and Salmon Court sheltered housing complex complete. Performance being monitored. Subsequent phases involving high flats being developed.
Work with fuel companies to expand the gas supply network	Expand fuel choice and access to lower cost fuel for both Council and private householders	Hallglen – HRA – ES Pipelines & other sources of funding. Others – HRA, CERT & other sources of funding	Tenant feedback, numbers of systems fitted	Gas mains / Services installation in Hallglen area complete. Feasibility of extensions to Camelon and Bantaskine being explored. Review of other off-gas areas being undertaken and viability assessed.
Pilot project utilising small scale domestic wind turbines	Make use of available renewable resources, reduce fuel costs	Energy Saving Trust, fuel supplier and HRA funding	Installation and performance monitoring	Project viability to be determined
Investigation into the potential for innovative heating methods within Sheltered Housing complexes	Reduced heating costs for a group particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty. Carbon savings.	HRA, EEC and other funding sources available dependant on technology used	Feasibility study and project implementation.	Initial review conducted. Further consideration required.

Actions	Outcomes	Resources	Milestones & Evaluations	Progress & update
Investigation into the potential of biomass as a heating fuel source within Falkirk Council's 'off-gas' areas	Reduced heating costs within area particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty / carbon savings	HRA, CERT, Energy Saving Trust and also potentially Scottish Government funding.	Feasibility study and project implementation.	Biomass working group established. Feasibility study objectives clarified. Study tender process underway.
Promote use of condensing boilers and mechanical heat ventilation units	Increased efficiency for tenant thus lowering bills. MHVU reduce the effects of condensation	HRA / General Fund / utility funding / NHS funding	Visit properties to assess condensation dampness before and after installation	Main activity is the promotion of condensing boilers, which has attracted £200,000 in grants for a revolving loan and grant scheme for owner occupiers. EEC 2/CERT funding secured for boiler exchanges. Pilot project established to monitor the benefits of MHVU Systems to be evaluated in 2008.
Install 'Air Source Heat Pump' (ASHP) units to four homes in Bonnybridge to monitor performance	Assess possibility of utilising the technology as a lower cost alternative to storage heater in non-gas areas.	HRA General fund CERT funding	Compare fuel bills prior and after the installation of the units.	All units installed. Evaluation on-going

Notes

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in a community language, braille, large print or audio tape, please telephone 01324 590780.

هذه الوثيقة متاحة عند الطلب
في اللغات الأخرى في المجتمع.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ
ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪੁੱਛਣ ਤੇ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ।

此文件設有其他
語言，請向有關
方面索取。

یہ دستاویز دوسری کئی زبانوں میں دستیاب ہے۔



Falkirk Council
Corporate & Neighbourhood Services