

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Social Justice Committee: 14 June 2006

Subject: Fourth HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Progress Report 2003 - 2005

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the progress made in increasing domestic energy efficiency, as reported in the Fourth HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Progress Report 2003 - 2005.

2. Background

- 2.1** Under the terms of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995, West Dunbartonshire Council is a designated 'energy conservation authority'. The Council therefore has responsibility for increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions in all housing across West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** West Dunbartonshire Council's Third HECA Progress Report proposed a revised target to reduce domestic energy usage by 15 per cent by 2015, from a 1997 baseline.
- 2.3** HECA requires that West Dunbartonshire Council submits a progress report to the Scottish Executive for every two year period. These progress reports follow a prescribed structure, and the figures within the report are generated using a spreadsheet issued by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.4** Guidance for the preparation of the Fourth HECA Progress Report was issued by Communities Scotland on 29 November 2005, and training in the use of the Scottish Executive spreadsheet was given on 24 January 2006.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Fourth HECA Progress Report covers the period 2003 - 2005, and so only activities taking place during this time are included within it.
- 3.2** Over the 2001-2003 period, energy use in West Dunbartonshire fell by 3.65%, and carbon dioxide emissions fell by 3.57%.

- 3.3** Between 1997 and 2003, energy use has fallen by a total of 11.19%, and carbon dioxide emissions by 12.35%. This represents a saving of £84.27 on the average household's fuel bill in this time, and which is considered to have made a significant contribution to reducing fuel poverty.
- 3.4** Good progress has been made, particularly in installing heating and insulation to the Council sector. While the period 2003 - 2005 still experienced continued difficulties in improving energy efficiency in the private sector, as is the case with many authorities across Scotland and the rest of the UK, the impact of the Council's Energy Advice Project has resulted in an acceleration of the reduction in energy usage compared with the previous reporting period.
- 3.5** Given this encouraging progress, and further progress during 2005/2006, the Fourth HECA Progress Report proposes a revision of West Dunbartonshire Council's overall target for reducing energy usage by 15% by 2015 to 20% by 2012.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** There are no financial implications.

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** Continuous progress is being made in increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions in all housing across West Dunbartonshire.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** The Committee is invited to: -

- a) Note the success made in reducing energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions, and in reducing household fuel bills;**
- b) Approve the new target for energy efficiency reductions; and**
- c) Approve the Fourth HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Progress Report for submission to the Scottish Executive.**

David McMillan
Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services
Date: 23 May 2006

Wards Affected: All

Appendix: Home Energy Conservation Strategy 1997 - 2012,
Fourth Progress Report (31 March 2003 - 1 April 2005)

Background Papers: None

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