

Home Energy Conservation Act

Progress report – May 2019

1. Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises local authorities' ability to use their position to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all the residential accommodation in their areas. In July 2012 the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published a requirement under HECA for all local authorities in England to report on the measures they propose to take to achieve this aim.

Croydon submitted the first of these reports (known as a 'further report') in January 2013. DECC requires local authorities to report on progress in implementing measures at two year intervals via 'progress reports'. This document is the second Progress Report and sets out:-

- Updated data and trends in domestic energy use
- Progress against the original actions set out in the 2013 'further report', and the 2015 and 2017 'progress reports'.

2. Where are we now?

This section provides an overview of current trends in Croydon in terms of energy use and CO₂ emissions, fuel poverty and health indicators relating to cold-related illness.

2.1. Energy use and CO₂ emissions

Figures 1 and 2 show the borough wide absolute and per capita CO₂ emissions by sector respectively. The emissions data has been extracted from the BEIS statistics for local authority areas and regions. In 2016 Croydon's homes were responsible for 50.3% of the borough's CO₂ emissions. Total borough emissions had decreased by 43% from 2005 to 2016, whereas emissions from the borough's homes had decreased by 39%. Across the same period within the domestic sector, emissions due to consumption of gas have decreased by 29%, while those due to electricity use have decreased by 55%. The reductions are a combination of the decarbonisation of the grid, and for gas milder winters. This general reduction in gas also reflects the general trend of greater energy efficiency in the heat sector (e.g. previous grant funding focused on insulation and efficient boiler systems).

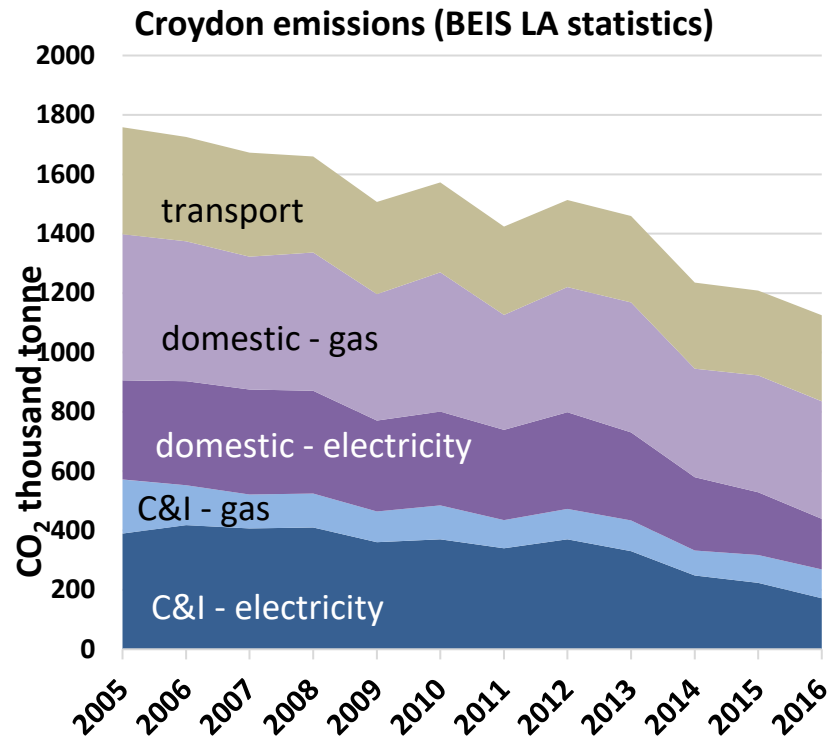


Figure 1

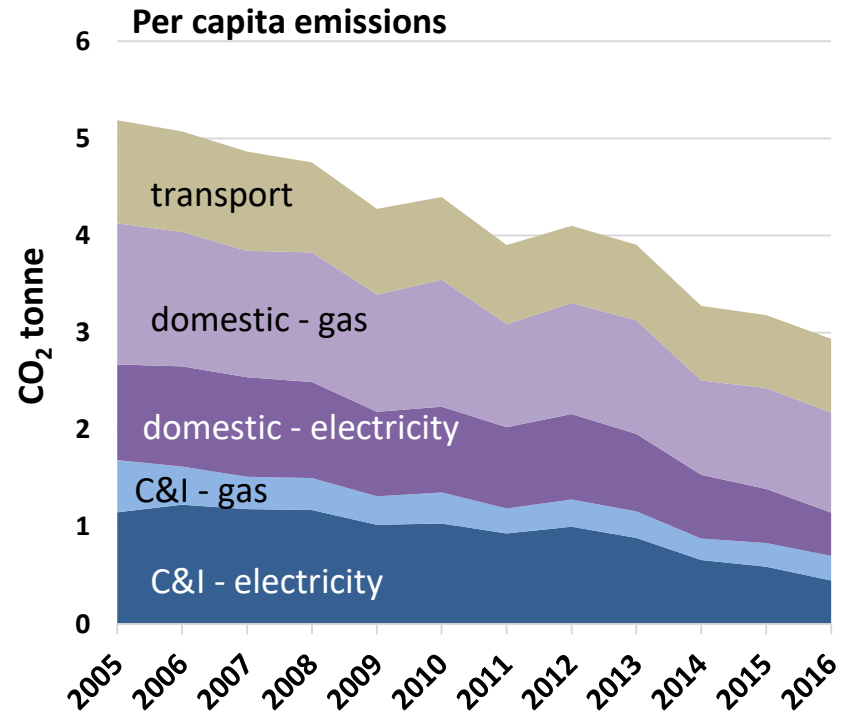


Figure 2

2.2. Fuel poverty

The 2013 Further Report highlighted DECC statistics for 2010 which indicated that 15,627 or 11.3% of households in Croydon were in fuel poverty. This represented an increase of 6.2% over estimates for 2009. These statistics were based on the previous definition of fuel poverty – i.e. households that spend over 10% of their income on fuel. The government has since changed the

definition of fuel poverty based on the more complex “low income, high costs” measure. Based on this new definition, the BEIS statistics for 2016 indicate that there are 16,035 (10.7%) households in fuel poverty.

3. Where do we want to get to?

3.1. National targets

The requirement to improve the energy efficiency of homes stems from the legal requirements to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the government’s Carbon Plan, published in 2011. The Carbon Plan sets the following targets in relation to housing:

- to reduce greenhouse gas CO₂ emissions by 29% by 2017, 35% by 2022, and 50% by 2027 – for buildings this means a reduction between 24% and 39% lower than 2009 levels by 2027;
- to insulate all cavities and lofts, where practical, by 2020;
- By 2030, between 1 – 3.7m additional solid wall installations and between 1.9 - 7.2m other energy efficiency installations;
- By 2030, 1.6m - 8.6m building level low carbon heat installations such as heat pumps (Government modelling suggests that 21 - 45% of heat supplies to buildings will need to be low carbon); and
- By 2050 emissions from UK buildings to be “close to zero”.

The government had originally set a target for eradicating fuel poverty in England, as far as reasonably possible, by 2016. Following the review of fuel poverty undertaken by Professor Hills, the government adopted the new targets on fuel poverty as follow:-

- Ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of EPC Band C, by 2030
- Interim milestone targets for (i) as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020 and (ii) as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025

3.2. Local targets

Croydon’s Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan 2010 sets a target for a 34% reduction in local CO₂ emissions by 2025 (based on the 2005 baseline).

If the borough wide target is extrapolated as a straight-line reduction, then the 2016 emissions level (1,125 kilo tonne) met the target for that year (1,429 kilo tonne). However, the decrease in emissions for the commercial/industrial sector (58%) is greater than that for the domestic sector (39%). The recessionary period is highly likely to have driven this decline with increased office and retail vacancy rates. As the economy recovers, this indicator may increase above the target levels. Hence, there is every need for Croydon’s domestic sector to continue to contribute to emissions reduction through greater energy efficiency.

4. How will we get there?

The 2017 Progress Report set out a number of actions that the council planned to take. Those actions are set out in the table below, along with progress to date. The table also highlights new actions that were not originally set out in the 2017 report.

4.1. Action plan

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
Energy Performance Certificates and data				
Improve quality and scope of data held by Croydon to support delivery of energy	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data for Croydon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustainable Development and Energy Team	June 2017	Open access EPC data downloaded for analysis

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
efficiency programmes				
Social housing				
Improve energy efficiency of social housing through accessing funding and installing measures	Carry out programme of solid wall insulation on hard to treat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management Team Capital Delivery for Homes & Schools 	March 2021	<p>2017-2021 Internal wall insulation programme for hard to treat solid wall properties. Programme includes using Matilda's blanket technique to treat 91 properties. Properties with known mould/damp issues are being targeted.</p> <p>Ongoing programme of insulating void properties.</p>
	Replace approx 200 back boilers with high efficiency boilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management Team Capital Delivery for Homes & Schools 	March 2015 & ongoing for voids	<p>The boilers were replaced between 2012 and 2015. Majority were replaced in CESP areas of Shrublands and Ashburton. Back boilers were replaced with energy-efficient condensing combi-boilers.</p> <p>All boilers where resident consent was obtained have been replaced, the remaining four boilers will be replaced when the properties are void.</p>
	Upgrade of communal heating systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management Team Homes and Schools Improvement 	March 2019	<p>2016/2017 Refurbishment of plant room, and replacement boilers at sheltered blocks including Laxton Court, The Grange, Bell Court and Aron Court.</p> <p>New TRV controls installed inside flats</p>
	Energiesprong demonstrator project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management Team 	March 2022	<p>Bid for £1.2M ECO 3/BEIS funding to be submitted June/July 2019 to retrofit 50-60 homes.</p>

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy team • Commissioning & improvement division 		Contract to be awarded in October 2019, with works planned to start in early 2020, and to complete in early 2022.
	Croydon Community Energy Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Team • Sustainable Development and Energy team 	July 2019	A feasibility report will be submitted in July 2019, looking at options to retrofit PV panels with battery storage on up to 6000 Street Properties, looking to different property types, and alignments.
	Additional actions not set out in the original 2013 report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Team • Homes and Schools Improvement 	March 2018	<p>Thermal imaging pilot completed with analysis of data. Programme not progressed due to resources required to analyse thermal images.</p> <p>Cyclical programme of works including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • windows upgrade (specifically targeting single glazed or aluminium framed windows). Programme to complete March 2018 • Ongoing programme of installing controls and TRV's as standard with central heating upgrades and boiler upgrades (with lagging and insulation jackets)

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
Private Sector Housing				
Access supplier funding to provide measures for low income households and areas	Identify delivery partner to refer householders for ECO funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team • 	March 2020	<p>ECO Flex statement of intent publish statement in November 2017. To be reviewed in 2019</p> <p>48 households referred to the Mayor of London's Warmer Homes scheme during 2018/19</p> <p>Pilot project with HEAT London (Happy Energy Solutions Ltd) targeting Croydon Households for ECO funding launched in April 2019.</p>
	Croydon Healthy Homes Home Visiting pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	June 2017	Pilot project consisting of 213 home visits to households likely to be in fuel poverty, offering energy efficiency advice, assistance switching energy tariff, fuel debt advice, and survey of properties for potential larger energy efficiency measures. Follow-up visits for 39 households
	Croydon Healthy Homes Home Visiting pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	May 2020	<p>Follow up project, to fund approximately 900 Home Visits launched in July 2018, expected to complete May 2020</p> <p>Additional marketing and promotional activities during 2018/19 funded through the Mayor of London's Fuel Poverty Support Fund, including the funding of Outreach events across the borough.</p>

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
				Funding for Outreach events in 2019/20 to be achieved through South London Energy Efficiency Partnership.
	Loans for vulnerable home-owners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes	• Staying Put Team	March 2021	Means-tested interest-free loans of up to £6000 for works including insulation and the provision of heating and hot water.
	Raise awareness of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards to Private Sector Landlords and tenants	Private Sector Housing Team	March 2020 & Ongoing	All landlords registered through Croydon's Landlord Licencing Scheme written to in late 2017. Regular communication through landlord forums and newsletters, and fact sheets.
All Sectors				
Helping residents access lower cost energy savings	Promote Collective Energy Switching Scheme	• Sustainable Development and Energy Team	March 2021	Croydon joined with 22 London Boroughs to establish the "Big London Energy Switch" collective switching scheme. Scheme was established via funding from DECC. The council manages a range of promotion activities leading up to each of the 3 auctions per year. Since 2015 Croydon has consistently achieved over 300 registrations each auction
	Ensure Council communications channels provide appropriate advice and information to householders	• Sustainable Development and Energy Team	March 2021	New webpage containing links to information about all energy efficiency advice available to residents. Additional webpage added with information about outreach events.
	Behaviour Change and Energy Advice Campaigns	• Asset Management Team	March 2021	Work with contractors, and social and voluntary sector organisations to deliver energy efficiency advice and support to residents.

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 		Training sessions run by Groundwork London and National Energy Action, with in-house training sessions planned from Summer 2019
Zero Carbon Homes				
Decide on Council's approach to allowable solutions and Section 106 contributions	Framework for investing in CO ₂ reduction projects from S106 Zero Carbon Homes offset fund contributions and through existing governance processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Building Control • Corporate Finance Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	Ongoing	S106 policy for offsetting has been established and has been applied to a number of local developments. A Community Energy Fund has been established and S106 CO ₂ offset funds are being paid into the fund.
	Identify priorities for investment from community energy fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	March 2021	The council will prioritise funding domestic energy efficiency projects aimed at households likely to be in fuel poverty, and for residents with health conditions exacerbated by inadequate heating. To explore using Zero Carbon Homes funding to support residents where there is a funding gap with ECO funding
Partnership Working				
Commitment to joint working	Support pan-London energy efficiency and fuel poverty initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	Ongoing	Work in partnership with the GLA, London Councils and ALEO London to develop pan-London, energy efficiency initiatives.
	Work in partnership with other Local Authorities and social and voluntary sector organisations to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development and Energy Team 	Ongoing	Work in partnership with other South London boroughs to explore joint funding and delivery opportunities.

Objective	Actions	Responsible	Completion due	2017 progress update
	energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes			Explore opportunities in partnership with other Local Authorities, social landlords, and social and voluntary sector organisations to fund and deliver domestic energy efficiency programmes

Review date: 31st March 2020

Submission of next progress report: 31st March 2021

Signature:



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