

APPENDIX 2

Residential Retrofitting in Wirral - action plan

Target 1 – A comprehensive cross-sector public engagement and awareness raising campaign in the residential sector

| Action | By when | Lead and partners |
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| Local Energy Advice Demonstrators – deliver pilot for new approaches to providing local in-person energy advice centred around a household's retrofit journey. | 2023 to 2025 | Energy Projects Plus North West Net Zero Hub |
| University of Liverpool project with Wirral Council and Historic England to focus on energy efficiency of Grade II Listed properties in Hamilton Square and use learnings to assist with advising households and residential landlords on reducing energy consumption across Wirral's listed buildings (residential) and conservation areas. | 2024 to 2026 | Wirral Council University of Liverpool Historic England |
| Link messaging and advice around damp and mould prevention to retrofit advice and action. | 2024 | Energy Projects Plus Wirral Council |
| Articles focussed on retrofit advice for private landlords in Wirral Landlord Link-up e-newsletter. | 2024 onwards | Wirral Landlord Forum Wirral Council |
| Presentation to next Wirral Landlord Forum meeting | 2024 | Wirral Landlord Forum Wirral Council |
| Utilise any ECO4 partnerships with energy companies, installation companies and / or lead generation companies to publicise the grant. | 2024 to 2026 | Energy Projects Plus Wirral Council Liverpool City Region Combined Authority |
| Housing Associations to ensure tenants are aware of availability of either in-house or external advice provision. | 2024 | Housing Associations |

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| Wirral Council to seek to continue to fund Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency advice Programme beyond current minimum contract term. | March 2024 | Wirral Council |
| Investigate improved provision of tailored online advice for households and landlords. | 2024 | Wirral Council LCR CA |
| Ensure bids for funding for, and delivery of, energy efficiency or fuel poverty related projects include advice provision. | Ongoing | Wirral Council LCR CA Energy Projects Plus |
| Relevant actions within LCRCA Five Year Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 | | |
| CC7: Work with partners to develop a non-technical communication strategy to highlight key net zero carbon and natural environment issues, encourage behaviour change and public and private engagement in solutions for the Liverpool City Region. | 2023-25 | LCR CA Wirral Council |
| B2: Identify high-opportunity zones as areas for groups of home/business owners to plan retrofits together or create low carbon communal/district energy schemes and smart networks. | 2023-25 | LCR CA Wirral Council |
| B9: Develop resources to signpost homeowners, landlords, housing associations and renters on how to reduce energy use in property including use of fabric and energy efficiency measures. | 2023-25 | LCR CA Wirral Council |

Target 2 – Financing mechanisms identified for private owner occupiers, tenants, and landlords

| Action | By when | Lead and partners |
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| Work with LCRCA and other LCR LAs to partner with a company / companies to increase delivery activity under ECO4 and the Great British Insulation Scheme. | 2024 | Wirral Council LCRCA LCR LAs |

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| EPP to continue to strengthen referral links to company / companies working under ECO4 and the Great British Insulation Scheme to achieve a smooth referral pathway for eligible households. | 2024-26 | Energy Projects Plus |
| Review iChoosr LCRCA Solar Together bulk purchasing scheme for Solar PV and batteries and promote re-run if deemed effective. | Review in 2024. Re-runs in late summer / autumn each year. | LCRCA Wirral Council Cool Wirral Partnership |
| Relevant actions within LCRCA Five Year Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 | | |
| B5: Identify forthcoming government grant funding opportunities and work to attract all appropriate government grants, maximising delivery opportunities for the Liverpool City Region. | 2023-25 | LCR CA Wirral Council |
| B6: Deliver current housing retrofit programmes and continue to attract government grants to deliver housing retrofit and decarbonisation. | 2023-25 | LCR CA Wirral Council Housing Associations |
| B7: Include decarbonisation funding in devolution ask from national Government. | 2023-25 | LCR CA |
| B19: Work with financial partners to scope out mechanisms to enable affordable renewable energy and efficient products and invest in community energy projects. | 2024-26 | LCR CA |

Target 3 – Wirral-based case studies written and published on exemplar and pilot projects

| Action | By when | Lead and partners |
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| Categorise key housing archetypes, tenures and funding mechanisms for which case studies are to be written on both completed projects and projects to be facilitated. | Summer 2024 | Wirral Council Energy Projects Plus Housing Associations |
| Identify examples of retrofit that have occurred in Wirral for each category | Summer 2024 | Wirral Council |

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| and identify gaps, particularly concerning flats which were identified by the Taskforce as requiring a separate approach. | | Energy Projects Plus Cool Wirral Partnership Housing Associations Wirral Private Landlords Forum |
| Write suite of Case Study documents for public to access and publish across partner websites. | Autumn 2024 | Wirral Council Energy Projects Plus Housing Associations |
| Encourage and facilitate retrofit projects for future Case Studies. | 2024-2026 | Wirral Council Energy Projects Plus |
| Relevant actions within LCRCA Five Year Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 | | |
| B11: Identify major building portfolio owners and operators and work with them to baseline carbon emissions, set targets and to improve thermal efficiency and act to decarbonise their building stock to deliver a measurable improvement and showcase to other portfolio owners | 2024-26 | LCR CA Housing Associations |

Monitoring

The following dashboard of key statistics will be produced annually to monitor progress:

1. Average domestic annual gas and electricity consumption;
2. Average greenhouse gas emissions from domestic gas and electricity consumption;
3. Number of measures installed under ECO4 and the Great British Insulation Scheme;
4. Proportion of homes rated Energy Performance Certificate A-C and D-G;
5. Number of homes benefiting from local schemes (e.g. Home Upgrade Grant, Solar Together).

Glossary

ECO4 - Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) is a government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. ECO4 applies to measures installed from 1 April 2022 and will cover a four-year period until 31 March 2026. The ECO scheme works by placing a Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) on medium and large energy suppliers. Under HHCRO, obligated suppliers must promote measures that improve the ability of low-income, fuel-poor and vulnerable households to heat their homes. This includes actions that result in reduced energy usage, such as installing insulation or upgrading a heating system. The intention of the scheme is to offer a “whole house approach” to retrofit to lift a property up one or more Energy Performance Certificate bands.

Fuel poverty – a household is considered to be living in fuel poverty if:

- it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating Methodology; and
- its disposable income (income after housing costs and energy costs) would be below the poverty line.

Great British Insulation Scheme – this is a new energy supplier obligation to run in tandem with ECO4, the aim of which is to deliver energy efficiency upgrades in homes in Great Britain. It differs from ECO4 in that eligibility is based on living in a home in the lower council tax bands, with an EPC of D and below and offers the installation of a single retrofit insulation measure with the cost partially or fully subsidised by the energy company. The legislation to allow the scheme operate received parliamentary approval on 3rd July 2023 and commenced later in 2023.

Local Advice Demonstrator Programme - The North West Net Zero Hub is working with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the four other Net Zero Hubs to deliver a Local Energy Advice Demonstrator programme that will fund innovative projects piloting new approaches to providing local in-person energy advice. The programme will provide funding of up to £2m to individual projects that

can be delivered over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. The aim of the local energy advice pilots is to test various approaches to delivering in-person advice, with a particular focus on harder-to-treat properties and digitally excluded consumer groups.

Net Zero - this means no longer adding to the total amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In terms of home's greenhouse gas emissions, this is commonly achieved through insulation and any remaining emissions being offset through renewable energy generation.

Solar Together – a group-buying scheme for solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage systems. Its aim is to reduce the cost of installation and provide consumer confidence in selected installers. Residents living in a participating council area and who own their own house (or have permission from the landlord to install a solar PV system) can register. It is operated by a company called iChoosr. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority partnered with iChoosr to run Solar Together locally between August 2022 and June 2023, with another commencing in August 2023.