

## Sefton Home Energy Conservation Act 2023 report

The submission of this year's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Return was requested online via a portal (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-english-energy-conservation-authorities-the-home-energy-conservation-act-1995>). As such the Council reported by responding to questions posed and there was no published report. Below are the questions and answers cut and pasted from the digital platform. Readers should be aware that many questions had word length limits.

The answers include work carried out by Sefton Council as well as work by Social Housing Providers and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in Sefton, for the benefit of Sefton residents.

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### Headline and Overview

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

- No

Q2. If yes, please provide a link.

- N/A

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

- Yes, within 1 year

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

- £12,465,519.05

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

- Energy savings
- Carbon savings
- Job creation
- Increased business competitiveness
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes
- Other - improved aesthetics

### Consumer Advice and Information

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

- Yes

Q7. If yes, please select all that apply.

- Local Authority website
- Local advisory service
- Leaflets
- social media
- Local energy hubs

### Local Retrofit Supply Chain

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

- Yes

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

- N/A

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

- Other (please state)  
Through the joint work with the LCRC Skills Bootcamps - Green Skills training courses including Retrofit and Domestic Energy Assessment and Renewable Energy (including heat pumps, EV charging, electrical). Funded by DfE (<https://lcrbemore.co.uk/skillsbootcamps/>); Sustainable Warmth Fund, Solar together and HUG2 contractor market engagement events. Engaged with contractors through Trustmark register.  
LCR Low Carbon Homes Retrofit Summits - Yearly online events for networking and awareness raising.

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

- No

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

- No – we are not aware of any issues

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

- No

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

- N/A

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

- N/A

## Social Housing Decarbonisation

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

- Yes

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

- Financial support for retrofit

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

- N/A

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

- No

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

- N/A

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

- Lack of funding • Lack of capacity

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

- Three

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

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

- Yes

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- Yes

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

- Yes, and I've used it

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

- 114

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

- 89

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

- 31

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

- 26

## Green Home Finance

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

- We have participated in Solar Together a group buying scheme for PV which resulted in registrations of 1746 households, deposits paid for PV for 207 households and 25 for battery storage.

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

- Yes. Through our work with the LCRC - the Green Financial Initiative spoke at the LCR Low Carbon Homes Retrofit Summit

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

- No

## Fuel Poverty

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

- No

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

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing
- Used local data sets on household income
- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out
- Other- Parity projects dataset used to create targeted mailouts, the Council's Affordable Warmth Partnership network - enables front line workers identify fuel poor households.

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

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.
- Other- benefits referrals, apply for national and local funding, ECO4 flex, Fuel Vouchers

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

- No, but we are producing our Strategic Action Plan 'Greener Homes in Sefton' within the next year and this will set out how we are going to make new and existing homes more energy efficient and emit lower carbon emissions in Sefton.

## Local Authority Delivery

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

- N/A

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

- Yes

Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

- N/A

## Home Upgrade Grant

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

- N/A

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

- Yes

Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking.

- N/A

## The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

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

- Yes

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

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

- 14

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

- 2

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

- None

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

- Low income determined by the Minimum Income Standard (MIS) developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

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

- N/A

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- No

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

- N/A

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

- Yes

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

- N/A

Q53. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)?

- No

Q54. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

- N/A

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

- Route 1 • Route 3

## Smart Metering

Q56. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

- Yes

Q57. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this

- N/A

Q58. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- Yes

Q59. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- N/A

Q60. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

- No

Q61. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- Sefton Council did not own any housing stock during 2021/22 - 2022/23

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