
Executive Summary


Where we want to be by 2020

In our previous Action Plan we set out our ambitions for where we wanted to be in relation to energy efficiency by 2020. We have committed to working towards the targets in the revisited Kent Environment Strategy (KES) (Cabinet 3 March 2016 [minute 106])

The revised Kent Environment Strategy includes the following three themes:
1 Building the foundations for Delivery
2 Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts
3 Towards a sustainable future

The second theme includes
- Priority 6: Improve our resource efficiency such as energy, water and land and includes a sub priority:
  - Improving the resource efficiency of our homes, reducing costs, tackling fuel poverty and improving health outcomes.

Our aims are to:

- Increase the amount of energy generated in the District from renewable sources
- Reduce the number of households in fuel poverty
- Monitor and report on the measures installed and carbon saving enabled through Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligations and other projects

2. How we will get there

This part of the plan contains a series of actions for delivery between 2017 and 2020. We have chosen actions that are in our sphere of control or influence and grouped them under the same heading used previously in the Dartford Sustainable Home Energy Strategy and Action Plan 2005 – 2008 and also the Dartford Home Energy and Fuel Poverty Action Plan for 2012 – 2015 and 2015 – 2018

Local Energy Efficiency Ambitions and Priorities

We have committed to working towards the targets in the revisited Kent Environment Strategy (KES) (Cabinet 3 March 2016 [minute 106])

The revised Kent Environment Strategy includes the following three themes:
1 Building the foundations for Delivery
2 Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts
3 Towards a sustainable future
APPENDIX B (amended)

The second theme includes
Priority 6: Improve our resource efficiency such as energy, water and land and includes a sub priority:

Improving the resource efficiency of our homes, reducing costs, tackling fuel poverty and improving health outcomes.

The Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was reported to Cabinet 8 September 2016 [minute 47] and progress noted.

In addition the Council prepares an annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions report which is reported to Cabinet and can be downloaded from the Council website.

Our priorities for the coming period include:
- Increase the amount of energy generated in the District from renewable sources
- Reduce the number of households in fuel poverty
- Monitor and report on the measures installed and carbon saving enabled through Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligations and other projects

With the changes in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) from April 2017 this offers an opportunity to work in partnership with other agencies to target vulnerable residents living in cold homes.

Actions To Improve Energy Efficiency in Residential Properties in the Borough 2017 – 2020

Raising Awareness
- Provide information and presentations to Landlords including Landlord Forum and Landlord events
- Promote government and other grants and discounts for the installation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy/alternative technology systems
- Encourage Dartford Borough Council (DBC) officers when visiting homes to share information if energy efficiency measures are required
- Provide information to Members to keep them informed around energy efficiency projects
- Complete presentations with external groups on request
- Promote Smart Metering in the borough
- Promote the Priority Services Register to DBC officers and residents

School and Education
- Identify groups to liaise with to promote the importance of energy efficiency

Gathering Information
- Develop and use systems that enable the targeting of measures for vulnerable residents living in cold homes
Use the information available Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) to provide a focus for additional energy efficiency works and map potential areas for energy efficiency measures

- Continue to identify existing council housing stock that require energy efficiency measures and keep data up to date following improvements
- Investigate data sharing processes and use of Kent Integrated Data set
- Use the data from the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey to develop schemes and projects

Providing Information

- Provide residents with information about energy efficiency measures and grants using media opportunities
- Use the website and social media to raise the profile and increase understanding of energy efficiency and renewable technologies and ensure information is kept up to date

Improving the Housing Stock

- Develop activities to improve energy efficiency in private rented sector
- Continue to look at the feasibility of energy efficiency measures in Sheltered Housing Accommodation
- Continue the programme of planned works in the Council’s housing stock linking with funds available
- Continue to investigate new energy efficiency products being introduced and undertake trials where appropriate
- Work in partnership with Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership to deliver energy efficiency measures. Continue to work in partnership with Framework providers
- Ensure that various funding assistance is available to increase energy efficiency measures in the home

Engaging with Partners

- Investigate input from external agencies from health and care organisations
- Be members of Kent wide partnerships for energy efficiency, affordable warmth and climate change
- Work alongside other agencies to develop new projects for example through Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), Distribution Networks, Public Health

Renewable energy

- Promote renewable energy and innovative/alternative technologies
- Support the installation of renewable technology in Council buildings (including housing stock) and monitor progress.

Fuel Poverty

- Improve energy efficiency standards in properties where people on low incomes or are vulnerable to the cold live
- Promote collective switching campaigns/energy deal to residents in the borough
• Work in partnership with other agencies including health to identify as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable by targeting F and G energy rated homes including private rented sector
• Work in partnership to reach and support certain high energy cost homes such as non gas properties or park homes
• Develop a referral process for low income or vulnerable people living in cold homes
• Develop appropriate activities from the Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan

Identify new resources
• Identify existing funding available for energy efficiency work and where appropriate take action

Plan and Monitor Activities
• Report on and revise the Council’s action plan every two years
• Review activities undertaken on behalf of Dartford Borough Council

3. HOW WE WILL MEASURE PROGRESS
Information will be published on the Council’s website as required by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy guidance.

We will use the following measures to assess progress towards our aims and the actions set out in the Action Plan 2017 – 2020

• Dartford Greenhouse Gas Emissions report (published annually)
• Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics
  o ECO measures
  o Households in receipt of ECO measures
• CO2 emissions
• Gas Consumption statistics
• Electricity Consumption statistics
• Fuel Poverty statistics
• Excess Winter deaths
• Kent Warm Homes Scheme
• Collective Switching figures
• Off Gas data