

# HECA REPORTING 2019

## Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all 326 local authorities ('LA's) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

These guidance notes are issued in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act and are to alert LAs of amendments to the HECA reporting framework in advance of May 2019 when the next reports are due. In previous years, reporting rates have been disappointing, with 282 reports submitted in March 2015 out of 326 LAs, and only 151 in March 2017. The refreshed reporting system for 2019 streamlines the process and reduces LA reporting burdens. Newly structured around a series of questions and direct information points, the amended framework aims to support LAs to provide information and updates on the key energy efficiency topics of interest to BEIS Ministers. It will also enable LAs to provide a consistent picture of energy efficiency promotion and delivery across England within a standardized framework. Following the principles of open data, the department may publish the information in an open data format to allow wider access and interpretation of the data, while ensuring that such publication complies with the terms of GDPR.

## HECA 2019 Reporting Requirements

The Report is to be divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes:

### Headline & Overview

- What main strategy and schemes LAs currently have to promote carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency, stakeholders involved and impact at a societal and economic level.

### Communication

- How LA engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

### Green Local Supply Chain

- How LAs engage local businesses involved in the promotion of energy savings products and the societal benefits alongside any local economic impact this might have.

## Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

## Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

- Financial programmes used by LAs to promote energy efficiency.

## Fuel Poverty

- How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

## The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

- How LAs are using the recently introduced ECO 'flexible eligibility' programme to refer certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes, who are vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, to ECO obligated suppliers for support.

## Smart Metering

- How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

All questions are optional, but responses highly encouraged. While reporting is focused on energy savings related to homes, you are welcome to provide additional information on energy efficiency improvements in non-domestic properties, but this is fully optional. There will be a final free response section permitting local authorities to discuss any additional activities which they feel are relevant.

## Submission of HECA 2019 Reports

For the 2019 reporting year, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is piloting the submission of reports via a digital platform, and for this year LAs will be asked to populate their HECA Report and submit materials via a SurveyMonkey submission. No other reporting material or submissions will be required. LAs continue to be required to publish their responses, and they can do this in whichever form they wish, so long as the published report contains relevant information submitted via the digital platform. It is not necessary for LAs to publish all the information submitted via the digital platform. Before the online survey is completed, the chief executive or director of the LA should approve the submitted content. If this approach proves effective and supports the engagement and compliance of a greater number of authorities than in recent previous years, BEIS will consider how this approach can be further improved for the 2021 reporting year.

The questions which LAs are asked to report on in the digital 'Survey' are listed below:

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# HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: The London Borough of Bromley (LBB)		
Type of Local Authority:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Borough</li> </ul>		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report:		
George Brown		
<a href="mailto:George.Brown@Bromely.gov.uk">George.Brown@Bromely.gov.uk</a>		
0208 313 4100		
Job title of official submitting the report:		
Environmental Programme Officer		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool:		
Carbon Management Team, Public Health, Housing Enforcement, Disability Funded Grants Team		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE): N/A		
<b>Headline and Overview Questions</b>		
1	<p><i>Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?</i></p> <p>LBB has a 5 year Carbon Management Programme. Phase three commenced in 2018/19, with reporting year 2017-18 providing the baseline for reductions. This includes emissions directly controlled by LBB, and scope 3 procurement emissions.</p> <p>LBB reports on borough wide emissions and compiles data by three sectors: Domestic, Transport and Commercial &amp; Industry.</p> <p>The reports monitor emissions within and outside LBB's control and inform existing and potential energy efficiency schemes.</p> <p>As part of our Carbon offsetting fund programme, LBB is assessing the opportunities to make carbon saving investments to fuel poor households.</p>	(Y/N)
2	<p>If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/200105/sustainability">https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/200105/sustainability</a></p>	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	(Y/N)

4	<p>a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017? (if you have not implemented any scheme, please enter 'N/A')</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Domestic – Referral project for Warmer Homes, facilitated by South East London Fuel Poverty</p>	
	<p>b. What scheme(s) is your local authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties in the next two years? (if you are not planning to implement any scheme, please enter 'N/A')</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Domestic –</p> <p>Big London Energy Switch Campaign, Carbon Offsetting Projects for fuel poor, Home Energy Visits, more involvement with SELFy, we may include energy efficiency initiatives as a public awareness campaign in the near future.</p> <p>Non-Domestic –</p> <p>Special Schools energy efficiency projects, Bromley Council building stock energy efficiency refurb, new modular office accommodation for relocated staff – circular procurement exploration combined with Internet of Things (IoT) technology.</p>	
5	<p>What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), including the value of grants and other support, plus any other costs incurred? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>Domestic –</p> <p>Big Energy Switch Campaign -. Unknown expenditure on promotional costs. Unknown Officer time costs.</p> <p>Warmer Homes – GLA funding (up to £4000 per household), ECO funding also administered by South East London Fuel poverty board, LBB have signed statement of intent. Funding streams have now been exhausted. Officer time costs.</p> <p>Non-Domestic –</p> <p>Carbon offsetting projects for energy efficiency – Special Schools and LBB building stock. Cost TBC. at design stage. Officer time.</p>	
6	<p>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</p>

<i>Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>	
Members of South East London Fuel Poverty Board: South East London Community Energy, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Groundwork London	
We are increasing contact with other Local Authorities in South East London to further develop energy efficiency and carbon offsetting schemes: Lewisham, Croydon, and Greenwich. We are also looking at partners such as Parity Projects to encourage energy efficiency in the able to pay market and will be contacting AgeUK for fuel poverty consultations.	
7	<p>What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?</p> <p>This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>
<i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>	
39 referrals for warmer homes	
6 declarations for ECO-Flexible	
8	What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?
<i>Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>	
Much more involvement is required if we are to see tangible benefits. Sound, member approved strategies are required to ensure Officers are not operating outside of policy. Extra resources would allow us to be more proactive (there are currently 1.5 FTE in the sustainability team). A housing enforcement officer, whose professional background is in domestic energy efficiency, provides ad hoc advice to those who enquire. However, it should be noted that there is no formally dedicated resource in the Housing Enforcement Team for energy efficiency and this work is done as a courtesy.	
<b>Local Communications Strategy</b>	
9	<p>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy? (Y/N)</p> <p>The webpage is currently under review for redesign and will provide up to date information in the near future. This will also include some upcoming campaigns and schemes The Council is keen to promote. Some ad hoc advice is given to landlords and tenants when housing enforcement conduct visits but this is not a formal work arrangement. The home improvement agency administration team have been trained in energy efficiency advice and will also sign post enquiries or offer general advice.</p>
10	If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)
<i>Free text response to question 10 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>	

See above.		
11	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')	
<i>Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
The Sustainability Team responds to general public enquiries including responses to FOIs. A communications plan will be included into the domestic energy efficiency strategy. We are keen to further promote collective switching of suppliers.		
<b>Local Green Supply Chains</b>		
12	Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)? (if you answer no please move onto the next section 'Private Rented Sector')	(Y/N)
	No	
13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
14	What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	
<i>Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
None as yet, LBB are currently exploring avenues to build sustainable practises into its procurement process and incorporate local suppliers within this. This project is supported by the London Waste and Recycling Board's (LWARB) Circular Economy Champions Programme.		
<b>Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards</b>		
The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018, all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS's published guidance documents for the full details on the standard).		
The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.		
15	Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?  (if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')	(Y/N)

	Yes.	
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	
<i>Free text response to question 16</i>		
TBC. One of the following teams could take the lead: Trading Standards or Housing Enforcement. Policy and subsequent strategy needs to be developed in order to identify work streams and ownership.		
17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<i>Free text response to question 17</i>		
N/A		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<i>Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
Email, Phone, news releases.		
19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?  If yes, how? If no, please explain.	(Y/N)
<i>Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i>		
No, this is something The Council is interested in and would welcome experiences, feedback and lessons learnt from other Local Authorities. A register of up to date household EPCs would facilitate this and provide a crucial starting point.		
<b>Financial Support for Energy Efficiency</b>		
20	What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.  (If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')	
<i>Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>		
N/A		
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>		
21	Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?  If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support that is available for low income and vulnerable households to help tackle fuel poverty in your local	(Y/N)

	area. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words</i></p> <p>As stated in Q16, currently there is no strategy on fuel poverty but work is underway to develop one. The draft local plan will have implications for energy efficiency in properties, influencing carbon emissions and fuel poverty.</p>		
22	What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p><i>Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Preliminary research into proxy indicators such as benefit claimants, property EPCs (data acquired through Green Deal Communities funding (2015)), BEIS database on household fuel poverty, and area deprivation tools. LBB aim to develop criteria to identify various categories of people who would benefit from domestic energy efficiency measures, from the fuel poor to the affluent, and provide appropriate support accordingly.</p>		
23	How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p><i>Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Bromley has the third highest domestic emissions per capita (1.7t) in London. As LBB aims to improve this, the most cost-effective savings will take priority in the hopes this will also encompass the fuel poor. However, as a percentage of households that are fuel poor (8%), Bromley ranks 5<sup>th</sup> highest (best performance) out of the London Boroughs. The London average is 9.8%.</p>		
24	a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p><i>Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>N/A</p>		
	b. If you have taken measures or initiatives to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p><i>Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>We are currently engaging with iChoosr to promote collective switching via reverse auction.</p>		
<p><b>The Energy Company Obligation</b></p>		



The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures. Following the Spring 2018 consultation, the Government set out in its [response](#) that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.

The recently introduced ECO “[flexible eligibility](#)” (ECO Flex) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO. LAs involved are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

25	<p>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?</p> <p>Yes (Lewisham Project).</p> <p>If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</p>	(Y/N)
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<https://www.aleo.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=89&t=1158>

26	<p>Please use the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand ECO Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.</p>
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*Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words*

Case Study:

William Nash Court contains 37 retirement and supported housing properties for older people. The block is electrically heated, with a non-standard roof configuration (mansard) that was minimally insulated. The declarations by Lewisham Council and the delegation through Bromley Council’s ECO Flexible Eligibility statement of intent enabled ECO Matters to access just under £50,000 funding to fully meet the cost of loft and cavity wall insulation in the blocks, meaning that the work could take place in July (cavity) and September (loft) 2018 with no cost at all to the residents. Only 7 of the residents would have qualified for funding without this and it would not have been viable to do the work.

**Smart Metering**

27	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>Engage and support your residents (including those in vulnerable circumstances or with pre-payment metering) to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits (e.g. ability to control energy use, identify best value tariffs)? Please detail any work undertaken or planned with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.</p>
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*Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.*

Preliminary work is being undertaken to identify those most at risk to fuel poverty. We plan to

engage with AgeUK to contact the elderly who may be asset rich but unable to heat their homes. We will also be working with the housing associations operating in the Borough. Once these vulnerable people can be identified, they can be more efficiently targeted. No work is currently being done regarding smart meters.

28 Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:  
  
Integrate your approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation with the opportunities presented by the installation of smart meters, drawing upon materials from the [Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project](#) or other sources of independent information.

*Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.*

We have not undertaken any work in this area but are looking to include this in the fuel poverty strategy which is in development. The council does not directly own or manage any substantive housing stock and so is limited in promoting the installation of smart meters.

29 Please detail any:  
  
Resources/ support (e.g. services, funding) available to residents who have had an appliance(s) condemned for safety reasons and cannot afford to replace it (e.g. during visual safety checks conducted during their smart meter installation or otherwise).

*Free text response to question 29 – please outline in no more than 150 words.*

A grant is available for the disabled or those on a low income to repair or replace dangerous wiring or gas appliances through our in house home improvement agency.

30 Please detail any:  
  
Existing relationships with energy suppliers to help ensure that the opportunities presented by vacant properties under your control are effectively utilised (i.e. gaining access to install a smart meter).

*Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.*

The Council does not hold its own housing stock and therefore do not maintain any empty residential property. In exceptional circumstances, where privately owned property is taken control of using empty dwelling management orders and repaired for letting purposes, then tenants are allowed to change suppliers and have a smart meter fitted if they so wish.

**Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives**

31 Please outline any future schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation or businesses in your area, for example, within your Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Energy Strategy (if you do not plan any future schemes currently, please enter 'N/A').

*Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words*

The Council is working to develop a holistic approach to a Domestic Energy Efficiency Strategy. The Sustainability, Housing Enforcement, Housing Improvements, Occupational Therapy Teams will be consulted for their input to address fuel poverty within this.