

# **COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (1995) HECA REPORT 2017**

In accordance with the Secretary of States requirement for local authorities to publish a report on their plans to achieve improved energy efficiency by 31 March 2017 (thereafter by 31 March 2019 up to 31 March 2027).

## **Methodology**

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires all Councils to establish a strategy for improving home energy efficiency in their areas. When the Act came into force the Council was required to set an energy efficiency improvement target and provide an annual report to the government.

New guidance was published by Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in January 2017 which outlines how Local Authorities are uniquely placed to assess the needs of their areas and local residents and to act as catalysts for change and recognises local authorities ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of homes within the private and public sector in their areas. This means that the format and focus for this HECA report has changed to previous years to incorporate the requirements of this new guidance. .



13.03.2017

---

**Sign off by Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive Colchester Borough Council.**

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995**  
**REPORT 2017**

## **1. Introduction**

The legal requirement remains for Councils to improve home energy efficiency, and to report on progress. This report identifies Colchester Borough Council's achievements from the 2015 action plan and sets out the Council's aim for 2017 – 2019 to make continuous improvements to home energy efficiency.

Since 2015 progress reports have been published every two years. These reports can be viewed at [www.colchester.gov.uk/energyreports](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/energyreports)

BEIS have asked that further reports contain a timeframe of the Authority's plans for improving the energy efficiency in its residential accommodation.

This report is at two levels. Firstly, it sets out the strategic and operational actions being taken across Essex. Secondly, in the Appendix, it outlines the local actions in Colchester that have been taking place, or are planned up to 2019.

## **2. Energy efficiency ambitions and priorities**

### **2.1 Progress so far**

Colchester is a forward thinking Council and is considered a leading carbon cutting Council in the UK, it has achieved this by:

- Adopting and delivering the [Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015- 2020](#)
- Become a signatory of [LGA Climate Local](#) in 2015/16
- Implementing a new [Local Authority Carbon Management Plan for 2016-2020](#).
- Reducing its [greenhouse gas emissions](#) (in report published July 2016) by 39% since its baseline year in 2008, with a target to reduce and maintain a reduction of 40% by 2020.

As well as being committed to reduce its own impact from Council services, operations and buildings, the Council is committed to sharing good practice and supporting key sectors including businesses, education, communities, housing and other Councils, embedding a key focus area for partner projects to help [build resilient communities](#).

### **2.2 Update on Projects**

Since the last HECA progress report was published in March 2015 the Council has carried out a wide range of actions to increase energy efficiency including:

- Upgrading sheltered accommodation so electricity consumption is reduced from communal lighting.
- Rolling out a borough wide offer with a commercial partner to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the private sector.
- Implementing a new carbon management plan to reduce the Council's energy use and decrease carbon emissions from Council owned buildings.
- Working with community partners to secure external grant funding to deliver projects which fill in gaps in provision, including helping vulnerable residents with energy switching; informing our tenants and Colchester residents on the benefits of smart meters; highlighting how smart technologies work in the home through a

Green Open Homes Network event; and work to ensure residents vulnerable to fuel poverty are well supported, particularly through cold weather spells.

Colchester Borough Council has worked to embed good environmental practices into project development. As part of the roll out of the Council's new carbon management plan (2015-2020) a new carbon calculator tool was developed so that Project Managers are able to assess the impact that new projects might have on the Council's carbon reduction target. This ensures that going forward carbon emissions will have a weighting on checking the viability of future Council projects.

Many projects are being developed with futureproofing in mind. Colchester Borough Council are leading the way in development of Heat Networks and have secured funding to progress viability work into sites for future development.

### **2.3 Ambitions and Priorities 2017-2019**

Colchester Borough Council has the following strategies and plans which have helped to shape HECA ambitions and priorities for the next two years 2017-2019:

- Implementation of the Council's new Local Authority Carbon Management Plan (2016-2020)
- Continued implementation of the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy which outlines an ambitious carbon reduction target to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% by 2020 from baseline year 2008.
- The Housing Strategy 2015 -2020 sets out the Council's ambitions for housing in Colchester over the next 5 years. The Strategy will achieve its aims and objectives through the implementation of the Delivery Plan by working closely with a wide range of partners to achieve the vision for housing in Colchester.
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 is an assessment of people's housing needs within an area, based on statistical evidence and survey data.
- The Strategic Plan 2015-18 sets out the direction and future potential for our borough.
- The Council Housing Asset Management Strategy (AMS) sets out the vision for how we manage our assets over the next 5 years (2015 - 2020) by looking at them in a more cohesive way. The strategy will be updated in 2017 following the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- Adopted Local Plan 2001-2021 has a set of adopted Development Plan Documents which are intended to plan for the future of the borough up to 2021.
- Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033 is an important document which will set out the built environment strategy for Colchester Borough, informing the future growth of our district up to 2033 and beyond.
- The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy has recently been reviewed. This sets out the approach of the Council to enforcement action in the private sector.

Appendix 2 provides a clear plan of action for HECA 2017- 2019 and includes:

- Intended housing stock improvement works.
- Community engagement plans.
- Work planned with private landlords.
- Funding opportunities.
- Planning and building control.
- Actions to reduce fuel poverty.
- The Council's role in public health.

### 3. Energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation

#### 3.1 Why we need to make improvements to residential accommodation

It is important for the Council to support energy efficiency in the home as it impacts on the health and wellbeing of residents. We can achieve this by:

- Installing measures to our own housing stock and educating our tenants on how to use the technology so it operates effectively.
- Promote and enforce where appropriate energy efficiency schemes to landlords so that people living in rented accommodation are living in warm and healthy homes.
- Enforce energy efficiency standards where the Council has the power, and educate landlords on changing legislation through landlord networks and forums.
- Promote energy efficiency schemes available to the private sector, including opportunities for funding installation of measures such as loft insulation.
- Help residents and tenants to cut their energy costs by improving the fabric of their home combined with switching to a lower cost energy tariff.
- Enforcing energy efficiency measures through building regulations as a statutory measure to ensure min standards are met in both new housing and extensions and alterations to existing stock.
- Encouraging sustainability measures in new developments.

#### 3.2 Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

To establish a robust baseline for improving the energy efficiency of residential accommodation, BEIS statistics published within the Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics contains detailed breakdowns on the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) on a quarterly basis. This helps the Council establish where Essex sits in meeting its obligation.

Key stats within the most recent report show that:

- There were 2,024,044 measures installed under ECO in Great Britain up to the end of November 2016.
- Of all notified ECO measures installed, 35 per cent were for cavity wall insulation, 25 per cent were for loft insulation, and 22 per cent were for boiler upgrades. There were around 138,000 solid wall insulations which accounted for seven per cent of all measures.
- The Affordable Warmth and the Carbon Savings Community Obligations (CSCO) combined within ECO have delivered around 1.2 million measures in around 891,000 low income and vulnerable households, or households in specified areas of low income, by end of November 2016.
- On average, around six per cent of all households in Great Britain had a measure installed under ECO funding (i.e. around 60 per 1,000 households), up to the end of September 2016.
- Around 89 per cent of ECO measures were installed in properties that used gas as their main fuel type (1,767,885 measures).
- The 665,149 Affordable Warmth ECO measures are estimated to deliver £7.78bn worth of notional lifetime bill savings up to the end of September 2016.

Chart 1: ECO Measures installed in Essex up to end of September 2016.

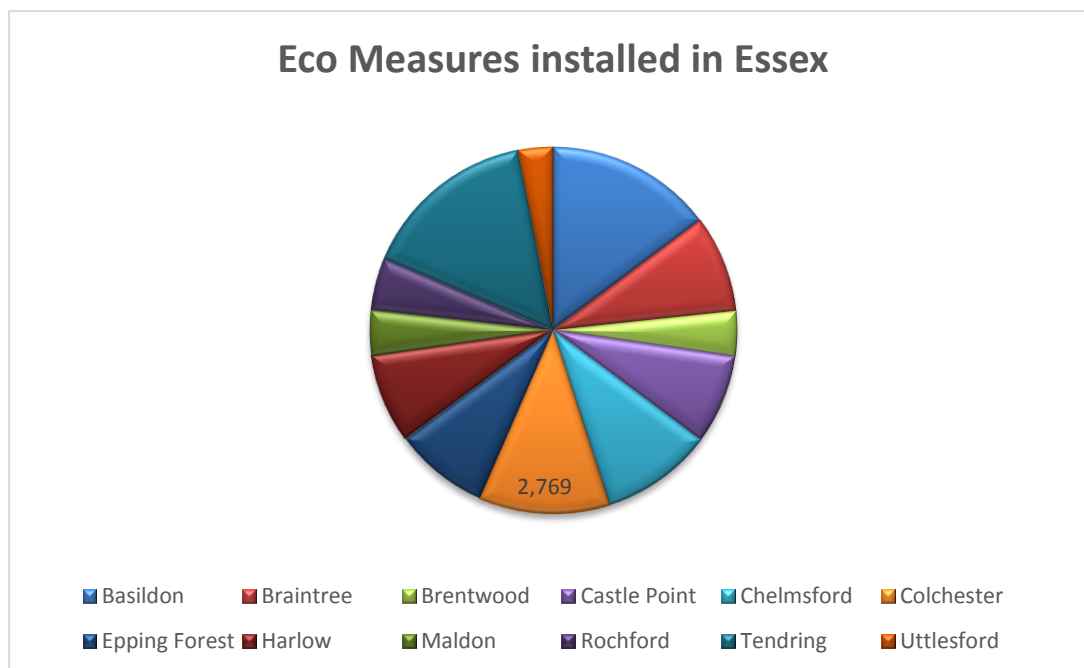


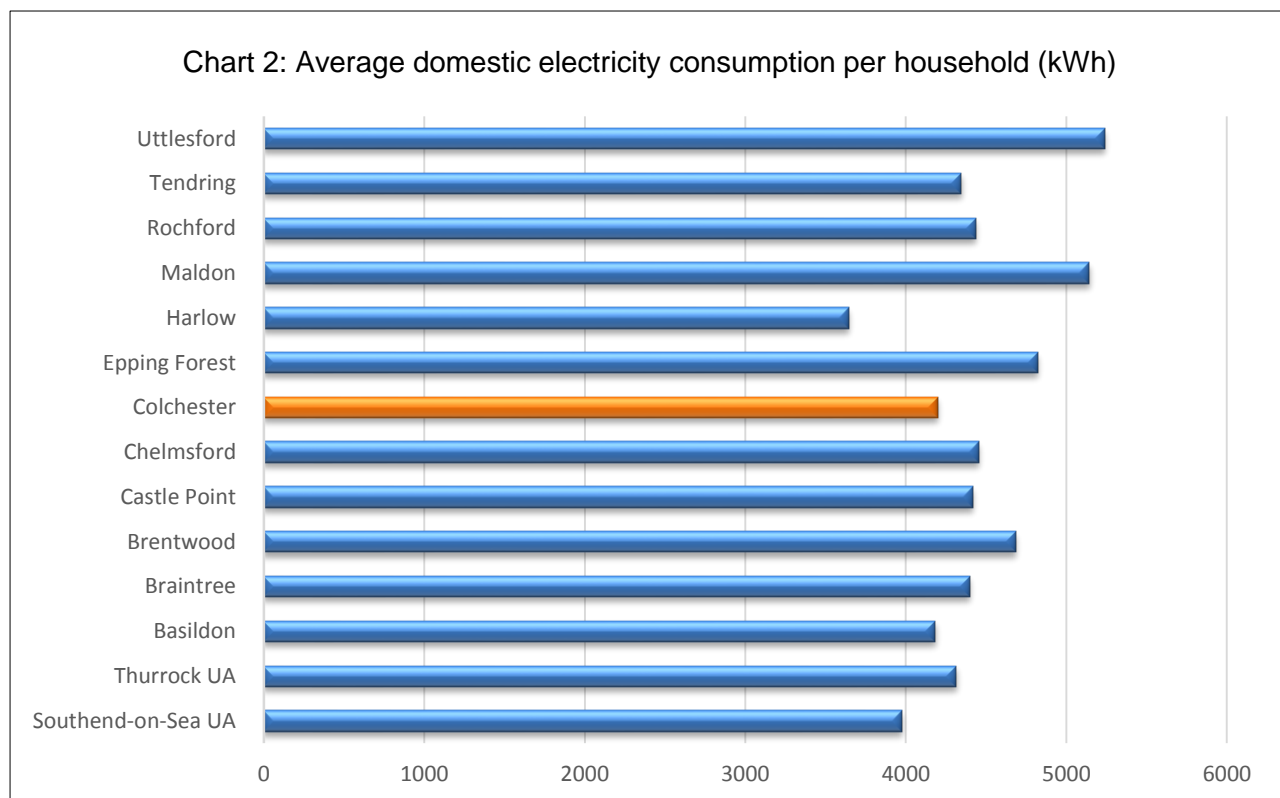
Table 1 below shows that out of the 24 thousand recipients of ECO measures in Essex, 2,769 households live within the Colchester borough.

Table 1: Households in receipt of ECO measures (Essex) up to end September 2016

		Households in receipt of ECO measures	Percentage of households in receipt of ECO measures	Households with at least one usual resident	Households in receipt of ECO measures per 1,000 households
Essex		24,010	1.5	599,161	40.1
	Basildon	3,542	0.2	74,891	47.3
	Braintree	2,065	0.1	63,285	32.6
	Brentwood	940	0.1	31,490	29.9
	Castle Point	1,902	0.1	37,149	51.2
	Chelmsford	2,365	0.1	71,664	33.0
	<b>Colchester</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>74,498</b>	<b>37.2</b>
	Epping Forest	1,997	0.1	53,604	37.3
	Harlow	1,905	0.1	35,465	53.7
	Maldon	938	0.1	26,466	35.4
	Rochford	1,113	0.1	34,345	32.4
	Tendring	3,739	0.2	63,070	59.3
	Uttlesford	735	0.0	33,234	22.1

### 3.3 Domestic energy use

..

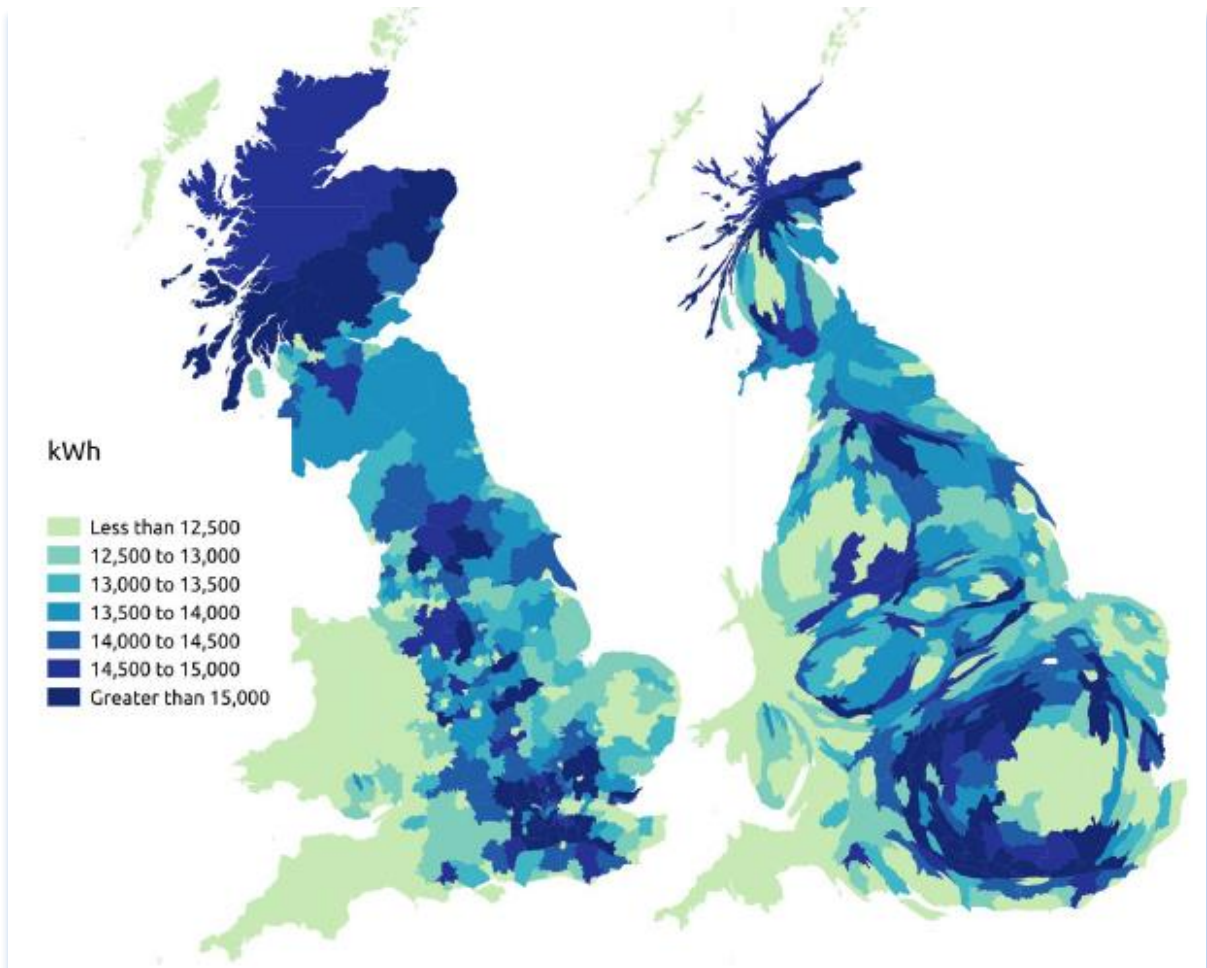


- Across Great Britain 37% of electricity is estimated to be consumed in the domestic sector.
- Mean domestic electricity consumption per meter in Great Britain has decreased by 15.4 per cent between 2005 and 2015.
- Over the same period, regional reductions in domestic electricity consumption varied between 12.7 per cent in London to 18.9 per cent in the West Midlands.
- There are a number of factors which may have contributed to these reductions in consumption, including; weather conditions, energy efficiency improvements, such as increased levels of insulation, new boilers and more energy efficient appliances; increased prices; the recession; changes in the building stock; and household composition.



In the map below, known as a cartogram, the size of each local authority area has been adjusted according to its population. This can help interpretation as it prevents densely populated areas being underrepresented. For example, London accounts for 15% of England's population, but only 1.2% of land areas; the cartogram expands the area of London to account for this.

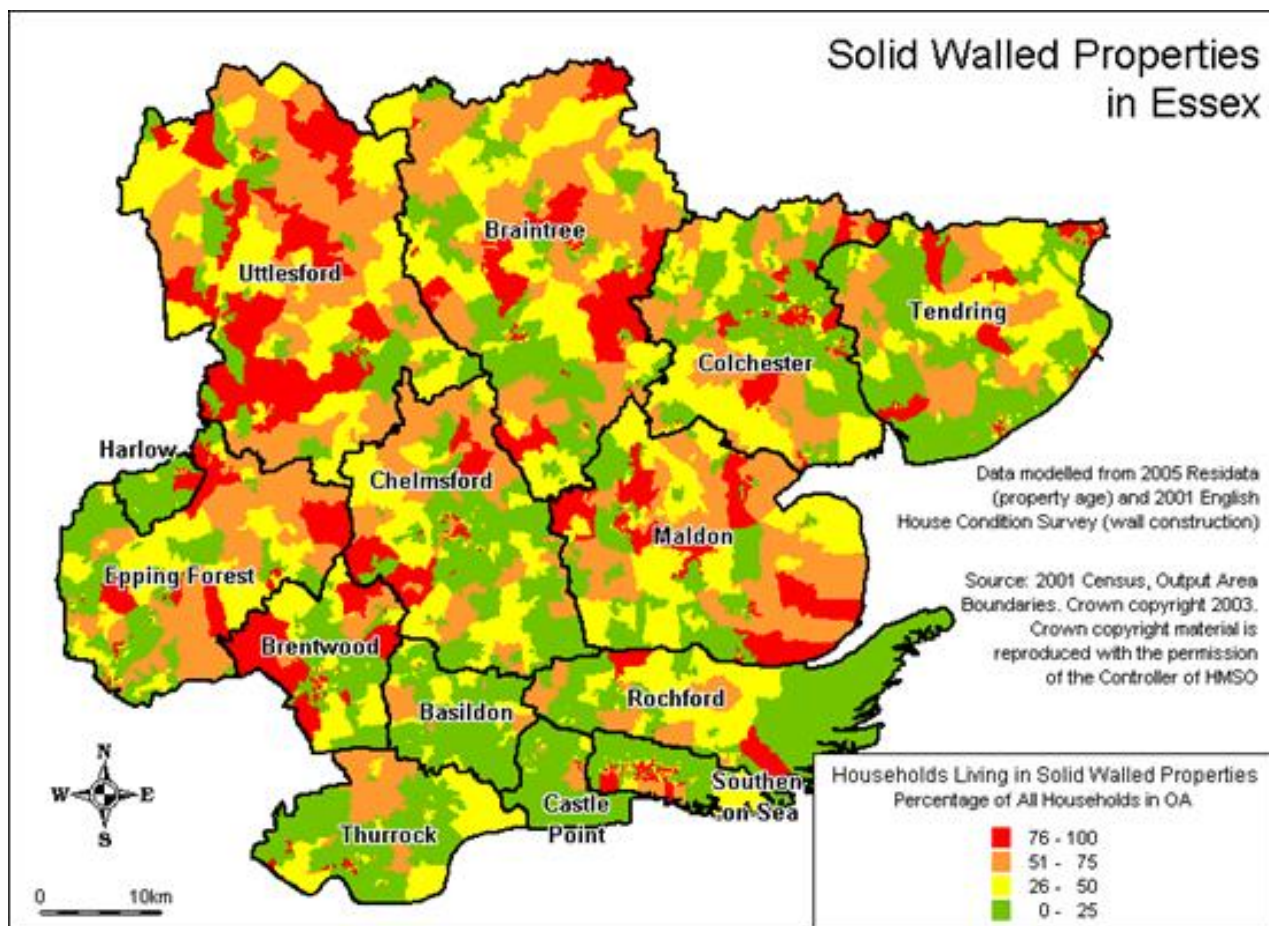
Map 1: Average domestic gas consumption per meter by local authority, 2015



### Solid Wall Properties and Gas Connections

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) has made available summary information in both map and numerical form for households living in solid walled property. This is made up of data modelled from 2005 Residata (property age) the 2001 English House Condition Survey (wall construction). Whilst this data could be considered dated, solid wall construction was most prevalent up to 1950 – following which construction methods change to cavity – hence the number of solid wall properties will remain fairly consistent.

Overall, there are an estimated 132,000 households living in solid wall properties in Essex. The largest number, are in Southend (28,000), followed by Colchester (17,000), Tendring (14,500) and Braintree (14,000). The highest proportions in percentage terms are in the North and West of the County. Some districts have over 50% solid walled property, with some sub-areas at 75% and over.



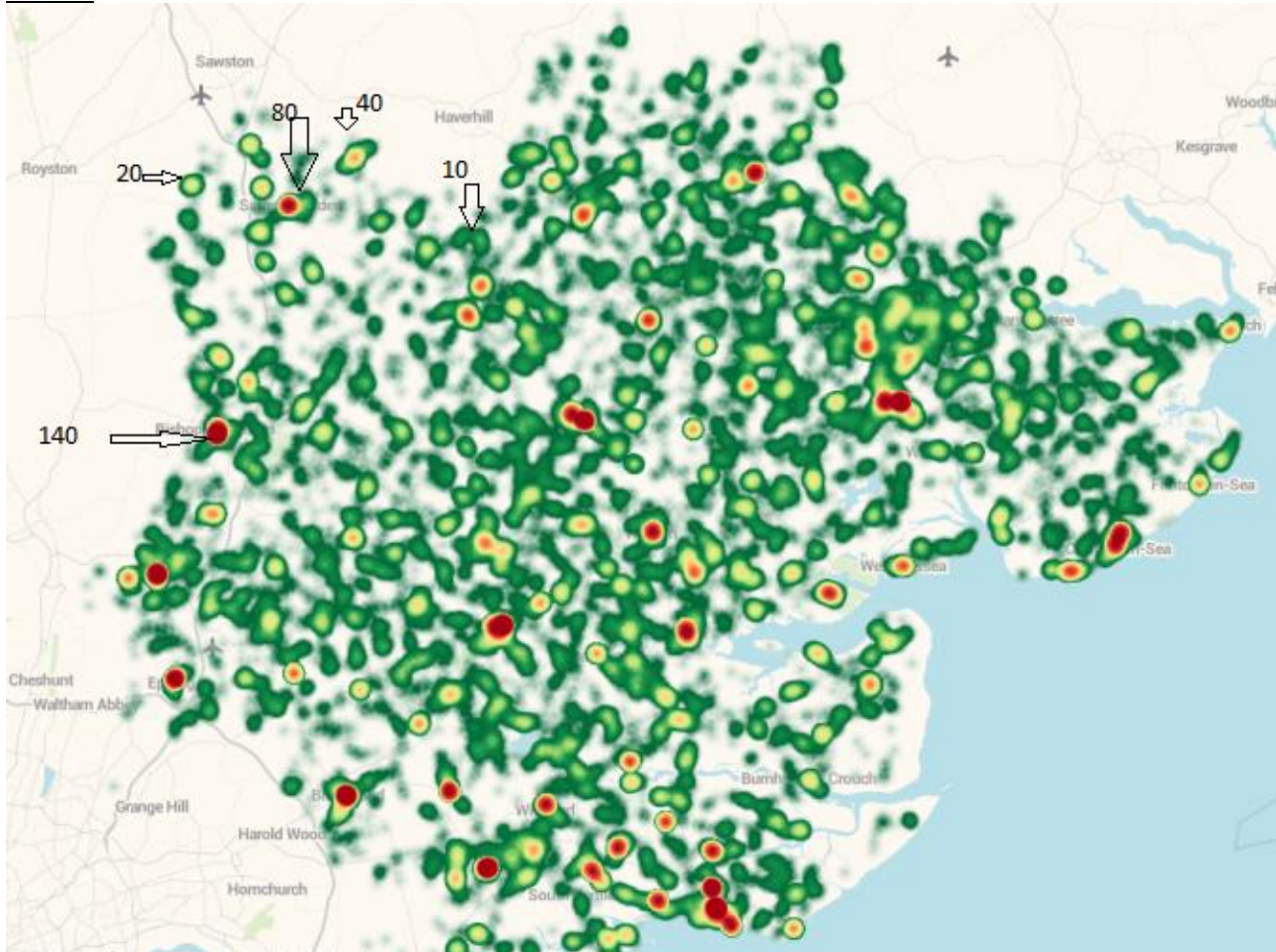
Map 2: Solid Walled Properties in Essex (Source- Centre for Sustainable Energy)



### Off Gas

An estimated 9.1% of households in Great Britain are not connected to the gas grid. It is thought that 14.7% of those households are in the East of England. It is a known fact that those residents who are off mains gas can end up paying more for their heating needs as they are reliant predominately on electric, oil or LPG, all of which are more expensive when compared to gas.

Map 3: County wide map utilising postcode data and a breakdown of properties not on the gas network as at 2015



As at 2015 it is estimated that there are 78,000 households without a domestic gas supply in Essex. In percentage terms the map shows the rural North of Essex with the highest proportion off-gas. Maldon 36%, Uttlesford (24%) and Braintree (23%) have the most in terms of population, with Harlow, in the south, the lowest at 1%. Broadly, there are still large parts of Essex off –gas.

**Table 2: BEIS Sub-national estimates of households not connected to the gas network (2015)**

Local Authority	Estimated number of *households not connected to the gas network (thousands)	Estimated percentage
Southend-on-Sea	2	3%
Thurrock	5	9%
Basildon	3	4%
Braintree	14	23%
Brentwood	1	3%
Castle Point	2	4%
Chelmsford	11	15%
<b>Colchester</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13%</b>
Epping Forest	4	9%
Harlow	0	1%
Maldon	9	36%
Rochford	2	5%
Tendring	7	11%
Uttlesford	8	24%
Essex	78	11%

*\*Please note that there is no definitive source for the number of households not on the gas grid, so BEIS estimates these figures by subtracting the number of domestic gas meters with the number of households as stated in the 2011 census.*

### 3.4 Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator. Under the LIHC indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)
- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

There are three key elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor:

- Household Income
- Household Energy Requirements
- Fuel Prices

Table 3: 2015 Essex Residents average fuel usage and cost:

Electric (average usage 3,800 kWh/year) 2015			
Direct Debit		Prepayment	
Unit Cost	Bill	Unit Cost	Bill
14.17	£539	15.70	£597

Gas (average usage 15,000 kWh/year) 2015			
Direct Debit		Prepayment	
Unit Cost	Bill	Unit Cost	Bill
4.52p	£677	5.08p	£762

Source: DECC, Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2016. England. National Statistics

In particular, the price of gas, electric and oil have all increased over the period, and the national and international financial situation affected disposable household income. For these reasons it is not a matter under local authority, or even direct household control.

#### Within Essex

- 21% of all households living in properties with the lowest energy ratings (E, F or G) are fuel poor.
- This is compared to only 2% of households that live in properties with the highest energy ratings (A, B or C).
- 20% of households in the private rented sector are fuel poor.
- 78% of households in fuel poverty are classed as vulnerable, that is one containing children, the elderly, or someone with a long-term illness or disability.

Map 4: Fuel poor households (2014)

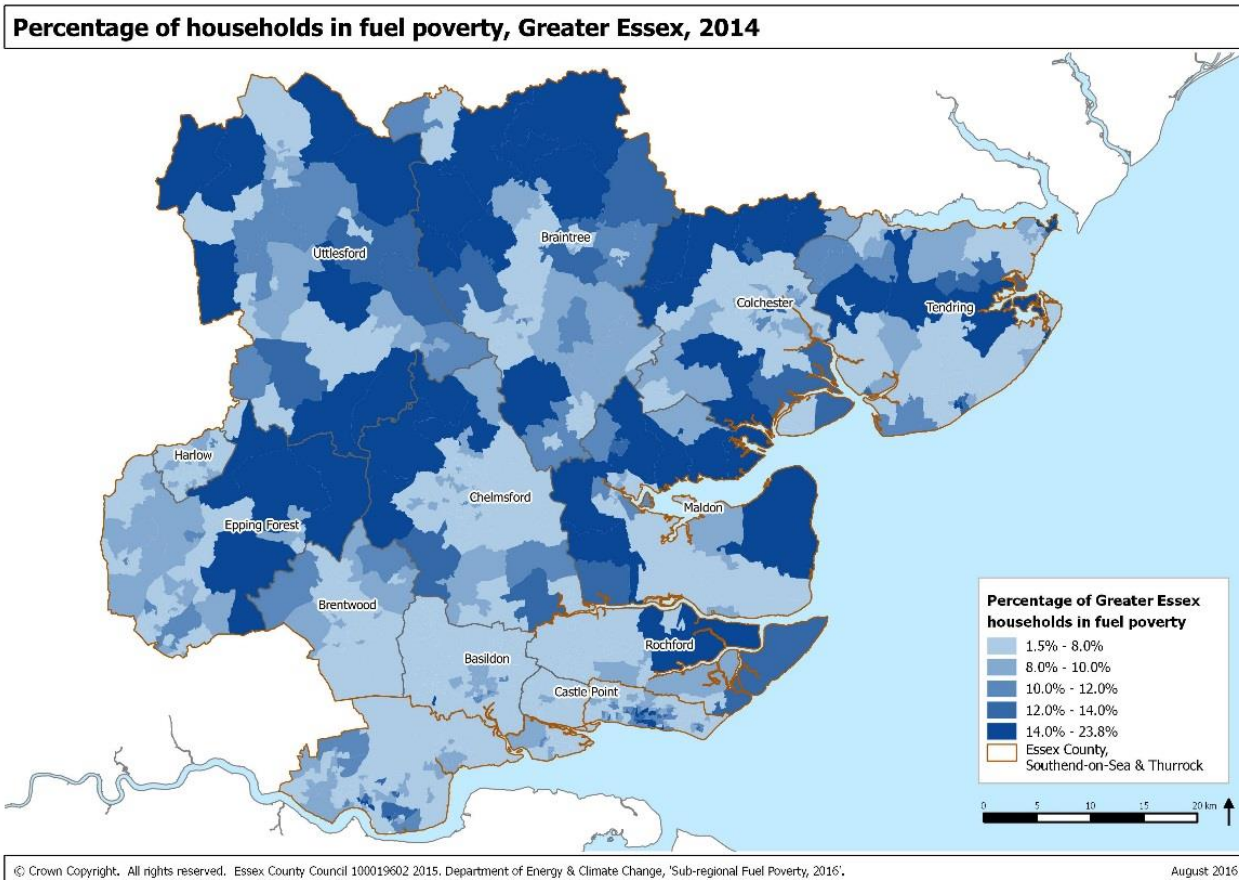


Table 4: Estimated number of households in fuel poverty in Essex

County/LA	Est No of Households	Est, No of Fuel poor	Percentage
Essex	597510	44726	7.5
Basildon	74711	4725	6.3
Braintree	62687	5237	8.4
Brentwood	31462	2196	7.0
Castle Point	37438	2382	6.4
Chelmsford	71553	4906	6.9
<b>Colchester</b>	<b>73643</b>	<b>5766</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Epping Forest	53459	4185	7.8
Harlow	35561	2531	7.1
Maldon	26517	2422	9.1
Rochford	34475	2128	6.2
Tendring	63823	5128	8.0
Uttlesford	32181	3120	9.7

### 3.5 Tackling Fuel Poverty

Reducing fuel poverty is a strategic objective within the Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The Council recognises that installation of Smart Meters will help provide more accurate data around energy use in the borough in the future so strongly supports its roll-out to residents and tenants. Information produced by the meters will help to reveal who is living in fuel poverty more accurately. Until these measures are in place the Council rolls out projects to minimise the effects of living in fuel poverty. In 2016 this has included the bringing together of partners across the third sector and working closely with the County Council to develop a 'stay warm' campaign and dedicated webpage of support [www.colchester.gov.uk/staywarm](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/staywarm)

#### Warms Homes Project

- In 2016 the Council supported the Colchester Community Voluntary Services winter warmth campaign where signpost information was provided to local residents.
- 4 events were held over 4 months where CBC had a communities, health & wellbeing and housing presence.
- The Council pledged support to the National Energy Action campaign which was 'Fuel Poverty Awareness Day'
- CBC's Green Living E-newsletter went to 4,769 subscribers (as of Dec16) and reported on assistance available in connection to warm homes initiatives in February, June, October and December 2016.

#### CBH Financial Inclusion Team

- In 2016 the team helped many tenants in financial difficulty. In one case energy efficiency measures were installed to lower the property fuel bill. Measures included an Air Source Heat Pump, loft and cavity wall insulation.



### 3.6 Boilers and Heat Pumps

- The Council installed a further 6 Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) to its rural properties replacing oil, electric and solid fuel heating systems. This increases the total number of ASHP within the 6000 property stock to 126.
- In 2016, 289 heating systems were upgraded to A-rated system or combination boilers within the Council's housing stock.
- The Private Sector Housing Financial Assistance Policy offers Home Repair Loans that are available to assist home owners to remove serious housing hazards from their home. This may include Excess Cold hazards if there is no other source of financial assistance available. This may include boiler replacements, first time central heating systems or other heating and insulation measures as appropriate for the dwelling.
- The Council are seeing an increase in installation of new technologies, especially in new build as this helps developers meet the requirements of the regulations.

### 3.7 Smart Meters

A total of 4.9 million Smart meters out of 50 million have been installed in the UK so far. This suggests more needs to be done to educate homeowners about the benefits of smart meters, with 44% of consumers admitting they don't know why they could be good for their energy bills.

Colchester Borough Council are currently working with community partners to engage and support their residents, including the most vulnerable and those with pre-payment metering. A pilot scheme funded through Smart Energy GB is working to promote the take up of smart metering and achieve associated benefits. When the scheme ends in March 2017 the Council will look to support an application to the second round of grant funding. The project so far has worked with residents, council housing tenants and Registered Housing Providers.

CBH is exploring the opportunity to establish and manage a landlord energy supply structure on behalf of its tenants who will benefit from cheaper energy tariffs. This is estimated to save c.20% of their energy bills and they will be targeting tenants on pre-payment meters. Further work is required to test the viability of the project.

During the roll-out of smart meters up to 2020 the Council will continue to promote its energy switching service and disseminate advice on energy efficiency to ensure bill payers are better able to secure more appropriate tariffs and control energy use.



### 3.8 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector

The recently reviewed Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy sets out the Council's approach to dealing with cold homes in the private rented sector and in particular how we will enforce the minimum energy efficiency standards.

The requirement for any properties rented out in the private rented sector to normally have a minimum energy performance rating of E on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) will tend to equate to a Category 1 Excess Cold hazard.

The Council, will review the EPC of any rented property it inspects and ensure that the property reaches a minimum E rating on its EPC.

## 4. Carbon and Financial implications

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) released the following climate change statistics in February 2017: Final UK greenhouse gas emissions: 1990 – 2015 [statistical release](#)

The key findings were:

- The UK is on track to meet the second carbon budget with annual 2013-2015 emissions that are each below the annual average emissions level of the budget period (556.4 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- UK emissions in 2015 were 38 per cent below the 1990 base year.
- Energy supply remains the largest emitting sector of the UK 2015 greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy and waste management sectors experienced the largest reductions in emissions from 2014-2015.

Table 5: Essex CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2005, 2010 & 2014 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)

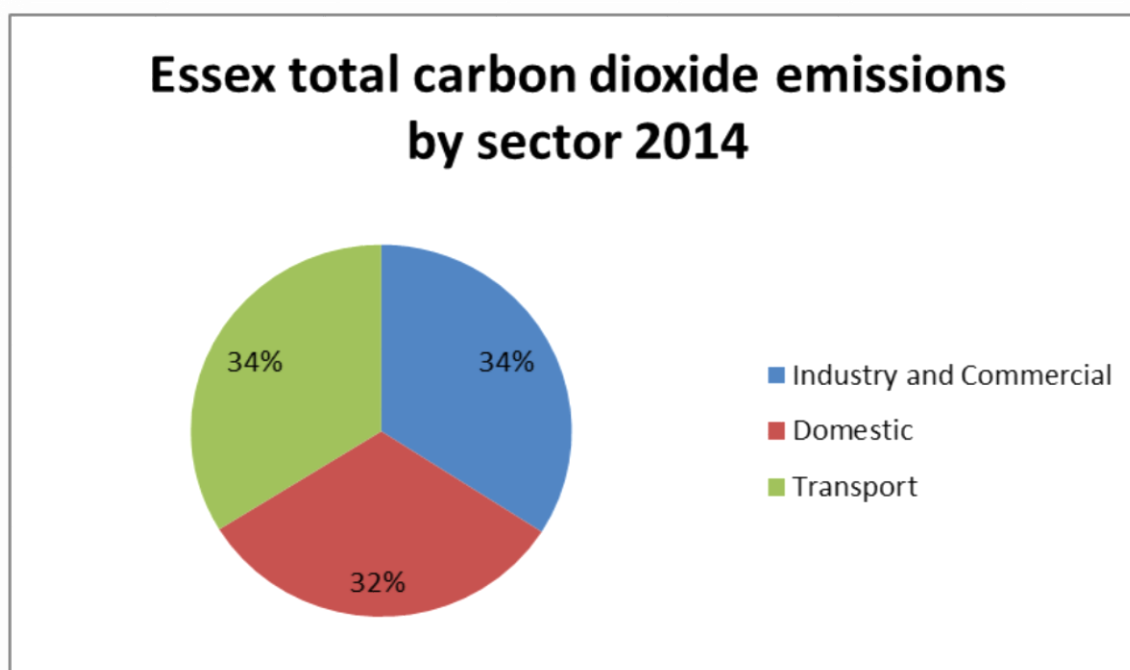
Year	Domestic	All Emissions
2005	3,398	10,090
2010	3,209	9,288
2014	2,642	7,758

Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change 2014

Table 6: Essex carbon dioxide emissions by sector (2014) showing that domestic emissions make up just under one third of the total.

Local Authority CO <sub>2</sub> emissions estimates (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> ) 2014				
Local Authority	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
Basildon	262,700	285,200	290,900	838,800
Braintree	243,200	252,500	352,200	847,900
Brentwood	95,700	150,100	209,500	455,300
Castle Point	58,000	158,200	107,000	323,200
Chelmsford	280,700	296,400	379,600	956,700
Colchester	<b>263,800</b>	<b>293,200</b>	<b>347,400</b>	<b>904,400</b>
Epping Forest	187,500	252,100	189,100	628,700
Harlow	145,100	125,600	79,900	350,600
Maldon	98,900	117,800	83,900	300,600
Rochford	70,200	149,600	103,400	323,200
Southend	184,100	307,600	154,100	645,800
Tendring	184,300	249,400	240,300	674,000
Thurrock	381,100	239,200	311,400	931,700
Uttlesford	187,000	163,200	239,700	589,900
<b>Essex Total</b>	<b>2,642,300</b>	<b>2,493,400</b>	<b>2,622,800</b>	<b>7,758,500</b>

Chart 3: Essex CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 2014



In 2014 the population of Colchester was estimated at 180,420. It is estimated that this is set to rise to 193,806 by 2020. This means that if the Council were to carry on with business as usual, services may become more resource intensive, so without taking any mitigating action Colchester Borough Council could see a potential increase in carbon emissions of 11% by 2020 compared to current levels.

The Council record and [publish greenhouse gas emissions](#) in a statutory report on an annual basis. In 2015/16 (the last GHG reporting period) the Council reported that it had reduced carbon emissions generated by gas, electricity and fuel consumption by 39% from its baseline year 2008.

The Carbon Trust worked with the Council to develop a [new Local Authority Carbon Management \(LACM\) Plan](#) up to 2020 and recognised within the plan that Colchester Borough Council as a leading carbon cutting Council in the UK.

## **Appendix 1- HECA Review of work completed by end of 2016** (12 month Reporting period January – December 2016)

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Action taken	Lead Officer
<b>Colchester Borough Council Housing stock improvement</b>	<u>CBH energy efficiency projects to Council housing stock.</u>	<p>CBH continue to research, trial and programme new energy saving measures into the Housing Investment Programme. Projects completed in 2016 include...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Battery Storage – Installation of 56 Moxia battery storage units have been installed in properties with a solar PV array and Air Source Heat Pumps. (Batteries are 2 &amp; 3 kW and these will be monitored over time).</li> <li>➤ LED lighting was installed in 30 of these 56 properties along with USB charging points. A 2 year monitoring programme is underway.</li> <li>➤ Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation – 141 properties received either loft or cavity wall insulation and a further 400 properties received a Hatch Thatch which insulates the loft hatch.</li> <li>➤ Solar PV installations on housing stock (1312 completed to date)</li> <li>➤ ASHP installations to off-grid rural properties (120 completed to date)</li> <li>➤ A rated boiler installations as part of the Housing Improvement Programme (approx. 350 per year)</li> <li>➤ Loft and Cavity wall insulation and loft hatch insulation</li> <li>➤ Voltage optimiser installations to all properties receiving an electrical rewire (approx. 350 per year)</li> <li>➤ PV electrical storage units (30 installed as part of a DECC funded pilot scheme)</li> <li>➤ District Heating Installation within Sheltered stock (1 completed to date serving 34 flats)</li> </ul>	<p>Colchester Borough Homes (CBH)</p> <p>CBH Head of Asset Management</p>

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Action taken	Lead Officer
<b>Colchester Borough Council Housing stock improvement</b>	<u>Work towards CBH SAP rating target</u>	➤ CBH has increased its average SAP rating to 71.5 (2015/16) from 70.91 (2014/15)	CBH Project Surveyor (Energy)
	<u>Identify energy efficiency improvements for Council housing.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ At the time of the last review in Jan 15 40% of the housing stock has an EPC. With all eligible void properties, mutual exchange and right to buy applications assessed for an EPC.</li> <li>➤ 600 Void properties have had an EPC in 2014/15 (This has improved our total numbers from 2500 in 2013/14 to 3050 in 2014/15)</li> <li>➤ F-G SAP rated properties have been identified and had energy efficiency measures installed. Data is currently being collated.</li> </ul>	CBH Project Surveyor (Energy)
<b>Community engagement</b>	<u>Energy efficiency advice and energy switching</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Energy switching - Total savings realised for Colchester residents so far is £259,682.00 with an average household saving of £223.00 per annum. In total 3,640 residents have registered to take part through the CBC Big Community Switch portal and an additional 966 Colchester residents registered through the ECC portal.</li> <li>➤ Continued roll out of alternative switching scheme to support vulnerable people to access energy switching advice. We applied for external funding in partnership with a local environmental charity, and they deliver the measures required. We have been successful in securing 3 rounds of funding for this project (BESN).</li> <li>➤ CBC Zone Wardens continue to make referrals directly to the project. This project will runs alongside the Council's Big Community Switch winter auctions.</li> <li>➤ Annual Big Energy Week events which included both CBC services and partners promoting projects designed to support energy efficiency in the home and reducing energy costs.</li> </ul>	CBC Sustainability and Projects Officer
	<u>Energy efficiency advice and energy switching</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Second grant secured in 2016 to develop a Winter Switching PR campaign. This enabled CBC to raise the profile of the project in high traffic areas of the Town and increase switching numbers beyond that of previous winter switching campaigns.</li> </ul>	CBC Sustainability and Projects Officer
	<u>Energy efficiency leaflet for CBH tenants</u>	Information leaflet sent to all CBH residents. The leaflet detailed ways that tenants can make their home more energy efficient and signposted them to organisations, including the Council who offer advice and support across a number of service areas.	CBH Energy Initiatives Officer
	<u>Partnership working</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Annual events and campaigns including Big Energy Saving Week and winter warmth roadshows to raise awareness of energy efficiency measures; reducing</li> </ul>	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer &



Work stream	Action/ Project name	Action taken	Lead Officer
Community engagement		<p>fuel poverty and supporting vulnerable people who need extra support to stay warm in winter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Working in partnership with local charity and volunteers to deliver an annual green open homes event so that residents can see energy efficiency at work in real life situations.</li> <li>➤ Informing residents and tenants on the benefits of smart meters to support a nationwide roll-out of the scheme.</li> </ul>	CBC Community Initiatives Officer.
	<u>Building Resilient Communities</u>	<p>The BRC event worked with local Ambassador Eco-school to deliver a large scale sustainability event for 150 people who took part in morning seminar and afternoon workshops for Councils, Housing, Education, Business and Communities Sectors.</p> <p><a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/brc">www.colchester.gov.uk/brc</a></p>	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer
	<u>CBC Website – making information more accessible</u>	<p>New CBC Sustainability webpages in place for residents who need help, advice and support; for those that want to take part in making Colchester greener; and for those that want to make improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes. Friendly links lead to information and advice with easy find online pathways to drill down into specific areas of information.</p> <p><a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/sustainability">www.colchester.gov.uk/sustainability</a>  <a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/sustainabilityevents">www.colchester.gov.uk/sustainabilityevents</a>  <a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/staywarm">www.colchester.gov.uk/staywarm</a></p>	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer & Community Initiatives Officer.
	<u>CBC Zone Teams events/campaigns</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual 'Find my zone' areas on website linking to events and campaigns to help residents find out what is happening in their area.</li> <li>➤ Coffee &amp; Chat events as well as a rolling programme of community events provide Zone Teams an opportunity to deliver energy efficiency advice.</li> </ul>	CBC Zone Managers.
Private Landlords	<u>Energy efficiency improvements to rented accommodation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Advice given to landlords where properties are rated poor for energy efficiency is also recorded.</li> </ul>	CBH Project Surveyor (Energy)
	<u>Private Landlords and tenants</u>	<p>Further engagement with Private Sector Landlords included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dealing with complaints about poor quality housing.</li> <li>➤ Proactive inspections of Houses in Multiple Occupation or properties accredited under the Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme.</li> <li>➤ Properties identified where upgrading of insulation and/or heating measures where enforceable using the Housing Act 2004.</li> <li>➤ Signposted landlords or tenants to Green Deal opportunities.</li> </ul>	CBC Private Sector Housing Team

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Action taken	Lead Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2016, 58 homes have had serious Excess Cold hazards removed and been considered to have been removed from Fuel Poverty.</li> </ul>	
<b>Funding</b>	<u>Funding secured to provide energy improvements for Council housing tenants.</u>  <u>Funding secured for resident/ community led projects.</u>	<p>CBH has appointed a member of staff to investigate viable funding opportunities through such mechanisms as European funding and ECO. Projects that have attracted external funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CBC secured funding from DECC (BESN) to deliver Energy Switching advice to vulnerable people, the project ran in the winter from Jan-March in 2014, 2015 and repeated in 2016.</li> <li>➤ Smart Energy GB funding has been secured so a third sector partner can deliver a programme of information and advice, both for CBH tenants and private sector on the benefits of smart meters.</li> </ul>	<p>CBH Head of Asset Management</p>  <p>CBC Sustainability &amp; Projects Officer</p>
<b>Energy efficiency schemes (including Green Deal and ECO)</b>	<u>Advice to residents on how to make their homes more energy efficient</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continued support for private sector residents to make contact with relevant agencies in relation to Energy efficiency schemes, and actively offering a range of referral mechanisms.</li> <li>➤ Separate URL's were set up so people could easily find information online:  <a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/warmhomes">www.colchester.gov.uk/warmhomes</a>  <a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/savingenergy">www.colchester.gov.uk/savingenergy</a> </li> <li>➤ Residents can now self-refer to energy improvement services online.</li> <li>➤ In addition to this a 24hour helpline was put into place so residents can access information offline as part of the 'staywarm' campaign.</li> </ul>	CBC Community Initiatives Project Officer
<b>Action to reduce Fuel Poverty</b>	<u>Energy Switching</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2013 the Big Community Switch (BCS) became a rolling programme offering 3 auctions per annum.</li> <li>➤ To date over 3,000 people have taken part.</li> <li>➤ Community partners are delivering additional support to people that need one to one help and advice in registering for the BCS, and supporting them if they are not online to find alternative methods of reducing their energy bills.</li> <li>➤ Dissemination of information goes to all new CBH tenants in Welcome Packs so they are able to take part and review their energy costs on moving into a new property.</li> <li>➤ BCS is inclusive of pre-payment meters.</li> </ul>	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer
	<u>Fuel Poverty prevention (CBH)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ongoing work being carried out to with owners of hard to heat properties.</li> <li>➤ Coordinated actions to alleviate fuel poverty, including provision of advice, referrals to relevant schemes and emergency heater provision.</li> </ul>	CBH Energy Initiatives Officer

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Action taken	Lead Officer
<b>Action to reduce Fuel Poverty</b>	<u>Fuel Poverty support and advice (CBC)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The warm homes emergency heater scheme has been upgraded, by purchasing a further 10 heaters for residents in an emergency heating situation.</li> <li>➤ A decision to further invest in a new stock of 1000 thermometer cards that will help more vulnerable residents to identify when a room is too cold (at risk to excess winter death).</li> <li>➤ Promotional offer sent to private sector housing through a borough wide mail out in October 2016, Aran Energy Services will be completing the scheme in March 17.</li> <li>➤ A new online self-referral system was launched in 2016 and is now the main route to getting heating, insulation and renewables information.</li> <li>➤ Although most residents would go directly to energy improvement companies listed on the website, 28 households were given one to one support and referred to energy improvement provision.</li> </ul>	CBC Community Initiatives Project Officer
	<u>Financial Assistance Policy</u>	Residents are supported to access the Financial Assistance Policy, where they have not been able to take advantage of any other external funding. This funding covers appropriate insulation/heating upgrading works as required.	CBC Private Sector Housing Manager
<b>Public Health Role</b>	<u>Strategies and partnerships where energy efficiency and fuel poverty influence health.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New CBC Public Health Improvement Coordinator in post 2016.</li> <li>➤ New 'stay warm' campaign launched in 2016 to bring services and projects together to support vulnerable people during winter 2016/17.</li> <li>➤ Annual review of Environmental Sustainability Strategy published 2016.</li> <li>➤ Annual review of Housing Strategy published 2016.</li> </ul>	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer
	<u>Environmental Health</u>	Activity recorded by the Private Sector Housing Team and captured under outcomes in connection to Fuel Poverty & working with Private Landlords.	CBC Private Sector Housing Manager
<b>Planning/ Building Control</b>	<u>Ensure that new developments are achieving the relevant standard of the code for sustainable homes</u>	<p>The code for sustainable homes ceased to exist. Therefore the Council is only able to advise developers and make recommendations that developers aim to work to achieve the old code 4.</p> <p>This cannot be enforced by Environmental Health until buildings energy efficiency standards are assessed and a SAP rating is available.</p>	CBC Planning Officer & Building Control

## Appendix 2 HECA – Work planned from 2017-2019

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Cost	Planned	Complete by (Date)	Lead Officer
<b>Community engagement</b>	<u>Delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS)</u>	Officer time and funding secured on a project by project basis.	Through delivery of ESS Strategic Priority 2 – Building Resilient Communities a number of projects will be rolled out focusing on community energy and energy efficiency. This will include (but not exclusive to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NE Essex WI Climate Change Group. Green Heart Campaign Launch 10 Feb 17</li> <li>➤ Green Office Week May 17</li> <li>➤ Big Energy Week 2017</li> </ul>	2017-19	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer
	<u>Advice &amp; Guidance</u>	Officer time	Communities and Zones Teams delivery of energy efficiency information sessions at Libraries and community events.	2017/18	CBC Community Initiatives Team and Zones Team.
<b>Private Landlords</b>	<u>Home finder scheme</u>	Officer time	Provide efficiency advice for landlords where properties are rated poor for energy efficiency. properties in band E (sap 39 to 54) access to appropriate energy improvement measures	2017/18	CBH Project Surveyor (Energy)
	<u>Landlords Forum</u>	Officer time	CBH to conduct a regular landlord forum in partnership with CBC Private Sector Housing team and other teams within CBC that presents an opportunity to educate and inform private landlords about energy efficiency, funding and initiatives.	2017-19	CBC Private Sector Housing Manager
	<u>Private Landlords and tenants</u>	Officer time	Address needs of residents with complaints about poor quality housing. The Private Sector Housing team will : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be proactive in making inspections of Houses in Multiple Occupation or properties to be accredited under the Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme.</li> <li>➤ Investigate complaints of poor quality housing including relating to cold and uninsulated homes and take appropriate enforcement action to remove serious housing hazards.</li> <li>➤ Proactively engage with health and social care partners to increase referrals in to the team of</li> </ul>	2017-19	CBH Private Sector Housing Team

Work stream	Action/ Project name	Cost	Planned	Complete by (Date)	Lead Officer
Private Landlords	<u>Private Landlords and tenants</u>	Officer time	vulnerable households living in poor housing conditions ➤ Signpost landlords or tenants to external grant funding opportunities. ➤ Remove serious Excess Cold hazards to reduce the number of households in Fuel Poverty.	2017-19	CBH Private Sector Housing Team
Funding	<u>Funding to provide energy improvements for tenants.</u>	Officer time	Investigate viable funding opportunities through such mechanism as European funding and ECO.  ➤ Community energy projects which make community buildings low cost to run and energy efficient.	2017/18	CBH Head of Asset Management
	<u>Advice given on fundraising for community led projects.</u>	Officer time and external partner time	➤ Development of a new advice sheet which provides funding resources for energy projects. ➤ Regular funding bulletins to community partners.	2017-19	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer
Planning/building control	<u>Ensure that new developments are achieving the relevant standard as prescribed by Building Regulations.</u>  <u>Ensure that home owners who are planning on significant home improvement works have regard to energy efficiency keep</u>		Ensure that newly built homes are developed to the minimum standards.  Provide relevant advice on the Council website and offer advice on efficiency improvements.	2017-19	CBC Development/building Control
Fuel Poverty	<u>Implement Big Community Switch energy switching campaign</u>  <u>Fuel Poverty projects (Communities &amp; CBH)</u>	Officer time only	➤ Publicise energy auctions ➤ Continue to seek funding to enable community partners to deliver support to people that need one to one help and advice in registering ➤ Identify hard to heat properties, in particular those that have specific needs in terms of remediation for energy efficiency works, for example alternative solid brick walls that cause cold bridging and condensation. ➤ Undertake actions to feed into alleviation of fuel poverty, including provision of advice, referrals to relevant schemes and emergency heater provision.	Rolling programme  2017/18  2017/18	CBC Sustainability & Projects Officer  CBH Energy Initiatives Officer  CBC Community Initiatives Project Officer



Work stream	Action/ Project name	Cost	Planned	Complete by (Date)	Lead Officer
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	<u>Financial Assistance Policy</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote opportunities through the Council's Financial Assistance Policy, so that if insulation or heating measures are required, and the client is not able to take advantage of any other externally funded form of grant assistance then funding can be secured to cover appropriate insulation/heating upgrading works as required.</li> <li>➤ To review the Financial Assistance Policy once the PSH stock condition survey has been undertaken to ensure that it</li> </ul>	2017 - 19	CBC Private Sector Housing Team
<b>Public Health Role</b>	Strategies and partnerships where energy efficiency and fuel poverty influence health.	Officer time only possible external funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Working in partnership to deliver events.</li> <li>➤ Implementing the Environmental Sustainability Strategy to help build resilient communities.</li> </ul>	2017/18	CBC Public Health Improvement Coordinator
	Environmental Health Appointment of a Public Health Improvement Coordinator	ECC Public Health funding matched by CBC	Coordinate public health activities delivered by CBC and key health partners across Colchester in tackling the wider determinants of health. Work to include housing and the negative health outcomes associated with cold, damp and energy inefficient homes.	2017 -19	CBC Private Sector Housing Team
	Housing & Health Project (Environmental health)	NHB Funding	Ensure multi-partner collaborative working on housing and health issues. Coordinate service delivery between environmental health, housing, and health services in areas of deprivation as part of a holistic approach to tackling health inequalities through the wider determinants of health. Undertake a proactive approach to support 'at risk' groups such as older people; low income families with children; people with disabilities or those living with long term health conditions.	2017-19	CBC Private Sector Housing Team

## Sources & References

- Table 2.2.1 reports ECO measures by ECO obligation by administrative area
- Table 2.2.4 reports households in receipt of ECO measures by administrative area
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics#headline-releases>
- CO2 Emission statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>
- Sub-national gas consumption statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-gas-consumption-data>
- Sub-national electricity consumption statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data>
- Fuel poverty statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>
- [http://www.housinglin.org.uk/ library/Resources/Housing/Support materials/Other reports and guidance/A Memorandum of Understanding MoU to support joint action on improving health through the home.pdf](http://www.housinglin.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/Support%20materials/Other%20reports%20and%20guidance/A%20Memorandum%20of%20Understanding%20MoU%20to%20support%20joint%20action%20on%20improving%20health%20through%20the%20home.pdf)