

Transition Black Isle Climate Challenge Fund 2011-12 - Sub-project Plan

ENERGY SUB-PROJECT

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To demonstrate the need to reduce household energy consumption and associated costs through draught stripping and insulation, the benefits of doing so, and the types of remedial work available. Part of the work will concentrate on households in fuel poverty.

BROAD ACTIVITIES

One part project will survey a sample of existing houses of types that are typical of the area, recommend improvements required, and use these case studies to disseminate information about benefits and methods. A second element will examine newly-built properties to compare the standard of insulation and air-tightness with that anticipated, and with existing older properties. The final element of the project will target households experiencing fuel poverty and offer support so they can take advantage of existing advice and funding schemes.

OUTPUTS

- Reports on 20 existing houses, proposing remedial work and benefits
- Reports on 10 new houses comparing actual energy-efficiency with that anticipated at the design stage, and if appropriate recommending changes to construction processes
- Event and publication to disseminate findings, attracting 100 visitors
- 200 households in fuel poverty offered advice
- 20 households in fuel poverty supported to reduce energy use.

CO₂ IMPACT

[Final results of CO₂ calculations from ccf guidance (working out shown below)]

TOTAL COST

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

ACTIVITY 1 – Home energy efficiency

DESCRIPTION

We will define 4 types of existing houses on the Black Isle (e.g. old, stone-build houses, post-war council homes, pre-1970 and modern timber-framed houses). Householders will be invited to take part by offering free surveys and advice on remedial work (and funding where relevant). Once 20 suitable houses have been selected we will commission surveys, including pressure testing and infra-red thermography. Each house will receive a report with specific advice. Householders will be provided with a “starter pack” including

draught strips and sealant to allow them to carry out minor remedial work themselves. They will also be asked to commit to spending up to £500 on remedial work, or, if they are eligible, to have work carried out under the Energy Assistance Package. Further testing will be carried out after the remedial work has been done, in order to establish the result of the work.

In addition we will also survey 10 brand-new houses across a range of types on one development, and compare results with the design specification of the houses, and with the performance of older properties. We may also be able to survey a wider range of new houses being built for a local housing association; negotiations with the housing association are on-going.

The results of the project will be presented at an event aimed to attract both householders and contractors, and will be summarised in a document made available in printed and electronic forms. The aims will be:

- For older houses, to identify the most cost-effective ways of improving energy efficiency for each of the property types surveyed, and to quantify the typical cost and benefit of the work carried out;
- For new houses, identify common faults in construction and help contractors to avoid these problems, and alert house-buyers of typical construction faults.

OUTPUTS AND KEY MILESTONES

- Publicise project and identify 20 existing homes (by end June 2011)
- Agree the scope of the project with one house-builder and, if possible, one housing association (by end June 2011)
- Carry out surveys and issue reports (by end November 2011)
- Re-survey homes where remedial work has been carried out (by end February 2012)
- Hold event with 100 visitors (March 2012)

COSTS BY TYPE

- Share of Energy co-ordinator's time (see Activity 3) – 30 days @ £250
- 30 surveys and reports – 30 x £300
- 20 airtightness starter packs – 20 x £30
- Re-survey after remedial work on older homes – assume some dropouts, so 15 x £300
- Dissemination materials - £1,000
- Publicity and venue for event - £500

TABLE OF MONTHLY COSTS WITH TOTAL

[Copy in from sub-project spreadsheet]

CO₂ CALCULATIONS EXPLAINED

ACTIVITY 2 – Fuel Poverty pilot programme

DESCRIPTION

We will pilot a programme to assist households exposed to fuel poverty by acting as a catalyst that encourages the take up of advisory services and subsidised energy efficiency measures. A number of areas will be chosen and community energy assessors will be recruited and trained. They will then visit homes that may be at risk of fuel poverty and offer advice and support to encourage the take up of existing schemes. They will offer to assist and support householders who are interested in making use of the schemes. We will work with other agencies and providers to smooth the path for uptake of the measures available. The work will be done as follows:

- Phase I – recruit energy co-ordinator (shared with Home energy efficiency project). Agree roles and links with advisory service (ESSAC) and identify potential installation contractors. Agree links with other bodies who are likely to be able to promote the scheme (Social Work Department, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc.). Plan promotional programme with help from TBI PR specialist. Review and map likely demand in consultation with The Highland Council and ESSAC. Decide target areas and sequence.
- Phase II – prepare contracts for local advisers, and recruit them. Prepare training plan for advisers, and background technical materials, and purchase training. Begin general PR activity. Identify TBI volunteers to promote project in target areas.
- Phase III – promote advisory service in target areas and carry out home visits. Provide backup support to interested homeowners and landlords/tenants to ensure advice is followed up and acted on. Monitor performance and maintain regular liaison with ESSAC and installation contractors.
- Phase IV – close pilot programme and review achievements. Draw up proposals for full project implementation in 2012. Publicise results and stimulate continued interest and participation.

OUTPUTS AND KEY MILESTONES

- Select target areas and recruit and train assessors (by end June 2011)
- Publicise scheme and visit (100) households (by end November 2011)
- Assist (50) households interested in taking action (by February 2012)
- Report on outcomes and future potential (March 2012)

COSTS BY TYPE

- Share of Energy co-ordinator's time (see Activity 3) – 40 days @ £200
- Share of project administrator time – 50 days @ £125
- Training for assessors - £1,000

- Home visits – 100 x £100 + training/monitoring days = £11,600
- Publicity materials - £500
- Travel and expenses - £1,805

TABLE OF MONTHLY COSTS WITH TOTAL

Total cost £29155

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CO₂ CALCULATIONS EXPLAINED

ACTIVITY 3 – Energy co-ordinator

DESCRIPTION

A contractor will be recruited to co-ordinate energy projects. This will include liaison with the PR manager to ensure effective publicity and influencing. Other specific duties are described under Activities 1 and 2. The contractor will carry out financial administration in collaboration with the CCF project co-ordinator and financial manager, and will complete progress and final reports and undertake other evaluation of the project.

OUTPUTS AND KEY MILESTONES

- Monthly reports on finance and milestones
- Other milestones as described in Activities 1 and 2
- Final project report and evaluation

COSTS BY TYPE

- Contract time – 80 days @ £250
- Travel and other expenses - £500

TABLE OF MONTHLY COSTS WITH TOTAL

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CO₂ CALCULATIONS EXPLAINED

Listed in Activities 1-2.