

**Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration:
Achieving a low carbon future
A strategy for Scotland**

**Consultation
March 2007**

Changeworks welcomes the Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration Strategy. We note our involvement in supporting a Scotland wide local authority workshop for the Scottish Executive during the drafting of this document.

Changeworks mandate to respond

Changeworks – resources for life: exists to improve quality of life and to protect the environment. Our activities:

- Increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy
- Prevent waste from going to landfill by reducing, reusing and recycling and
- Promote methods of transport with low environmental impact.

(See www.changeworks.org.uk)

1. Do you agree with the overall approach taken in this draft strategy for improving energy efficiency and encouraging greater uptake of microgeneration? If not, why not?

Changeworks believes climate change is a significant threat and that the Scottish response to this needs to be of a similar magnitude to the scale of the problem. As such, we believe that work in Energy Efficiency and microgeneration will be critical in meeting this challenge. Changeworks agrees with the focus of first being more energy efficient and then looking at local energy supply, such as through microgeneration.

2. Do you have any views on the key actions covered in the draft strategy summarised by Chapter 8 – Conclusions and Next Steps?

One stop shop for advice and support

Changeworks supports the idea for a one-stop locally based approach for energy efficiency, sustainable transport and renewable energy. However, our experience is that there is continued and increasing demand, as well as added value, for these and related services by local authority officers, small business, and communities as well.

These additional sectors already benefit from a one-stop shop based in the Energy Saving Trust funded Energy Advice Centres (base though-out Scotland and made possible with Scottish Executive funding). Changeworks welcomes the inclusion of continued services through SCHRI and for Small Business as well as for domestic consumers. Additionally, we would also like to see the continuation of strategic support for local authorities, registered social landlords that is presently through the Local Support Teams. Changeworks considers this broad range of services in a one stop shop approach will continue to prove an effective way to deliver support services. On our experience this one stop approach has clear benefits, providing one audience with a linked range of services from a trusted single source, thereby delivering on the sustainable development and climate change agendas.

Changeworks believes that targets for greenhouse gas emissions would broadly be accepted as part of a climate change mitigation programme. However, for this to be effective there will need to be significant support in understanding how to calculate carbon equivalents and to support planned approaches to implement reduction.

Changeworks believes that schools provide a useful community focus for raising awareness of energy efficiency and microgeneration.

Building

Changeworks supports the policy of additional energy efficiency targets for housing. We believe this should be for both new build and refurbishment of existing stock. We also feel there needs to be significant and realistic support to enable quick delivery of these targets. As such we encourage approaches that provide financial and other incentives to improve energy efficiency and encourage take up of Microrenewables.

Through Changeworks work with the public sector we know that there is a high level of awareness of Climate Change and a general desire to act to mitigate these effects. This is borne out by wide interest in initiatives such as Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, which we supported through the Local Support Programme. Changeworks would suggest there are benefits from a single point of contact for climate change advice, to share best practice and innovation, and to build confidence that there is credible action across Scotland in this area.

Changeworks welcomes the additional money into the Central Energy Efficiency Fund, but would note that the five-year repayment requirement needs to be lengthened if the fund is to be used in any meaningful way to support microgeneration.

Changeworks welcomes the new higher building standards. However, we believe more will be needed. We are aware that our Scandinavian neighbours are already achieving higher standards. Reports such as the '40% House' state that much higher standards across all housing stock are critical to reach the desired carbon reduction target of 60% target by 2050. Changeworks also believes that significantly more work is required to increase the energy efficiency and energy supply options for the existing housing stock. We would encourage increased standards when properties are refurbished.

Links to proposed further strategies

Changeworks supports the proposal to have both a Decentralised Energy and Renewable Heat strategy. We would like to see clear links with these proposed strategies and the Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration strategy.

Fuel poverty

We support the Scottish Executive's continued commitment to ending fuel poverty by 2016. Changeworks has supported the development and delivery of the microgeneration pilot and sees this as a potentially important tool in tackling fuel poverty in hard to heat, off grid and off gas properties.

Although behavioural change will be key to delivering on these commitments, we note that not everyone has the ability to make some changes, such as those in fuel poverty or in rented accommodation where insulating the property or changing the heating system is not an option. Continued work is needed to address this area.

Funding

Changeworks agrees that energy efficiency and microgeneration should be promoted through public procurement and in the public estate.

The grant mechanism for public sector, schools and registered social landlords is time-consuming, uncertain and often not compatible with the timescales of other grant and funding programmes, such as HAG. This means that many microgeneration proposals are taken to design, but often not completed or have to be redesigned at significant additional cost. We are aware of single projects forced to apply for a succession of different grants over a number years, which are then not always ultimately successful. This is clearly a significant waste of time for those involved and hinders the take up by others who hear of these difficulties. Further, the PPP process is often cited as a reason to not include increased energy efficiency or microgeneration, often due to the contractors unwillingness to agree to using or taking on the liability for these technologies. Changeworks supports changes in the grant and procurement rules and

process to urgently enable these technologies to be adopted as part of mainstream development.

Behavioural

Changeworks agrees that behavioural change should be key a focus and that understanding use is a vital step to individual and organisational guiding action. We see a need to strengthen the understanding of energy efficiency and microgeneration's role in combating climate change.

Changeworks believes there is a need to help individuals and organisations understand and measure their effect on climate change, related to energy efficiency and microgeneration. Changeworks recognises that Climate Change mitigation action is still very difficult to relate to personally and is challenging to measure strategically. We believe continued support is vital to drive forward and lead understanding in this area.

Technology

Changeworks disagree with the assertion that many of distributed energy technologies are emerging, as we believe most are already used extensively somewhere else in Europe.

Changeworks are supporting discussions between a range of interested parties including councils on the potential for these systems in south east Scotland. We can therefore report a surge of interest by communities and local authorities in this area that requires support.

Changeworks agrees that microgeneration can have a wider impact increasing awareness through high visibility. We would note that heat pumps are generally considered as a renewable technology and are supported through SCHRI. We would also highlight that micro CHP and district heating are being considered by some planning authorities as part of a percentage carbon reduction requirement, even if they are gas powered, due to the significant increase in efficiency compared to the national grid system. Changeworks would also note that Schools and Public buildings usually have a greater heating demand than 45kw thermal and there needs to be care not to inadvertently exclude these buildings when we consider grant support.

Changeworks support the eligibility of microgeneration for ROC's as soon as possible.

3. The draft Strategy states that we will consider targets to be included in the final Strategy and Action Plan:

- a) Do you have any views on specific targets referred to within the draft?**
- b) Are there any other targets which you believe should be considered?**

Overall Changeworks believes the proposals in this document are in the right direction, however the scale of challenge of climate change suggests that even higher aspirations will be required. We would also refer to our response to question 2.

Changeworks supports a combined one stop shop approach for householders, communities, business and local authorities for energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport. This should provide individual, project and strategic support.

Changeworks supports the policy to encourage greater uptake of energy efficiency and microgeneration across the public estate. We welcome the continued work of the carbon management programme to support estate management for local authorities, universities and other large public sector bodies. We would also encourage continued support in the development of service delivery, policy and community involvement, such as through the existing work of the Energy Saving Trust supported Local Support Teams. In particular support will be critical to enable public sector bodies to understand, measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We would encourage all work to be followed by a continual process of improvement and support to encourage innovation and driving the next steps, such once schools gain their green flag, what next?

We believe that further funding is critical as a package of support to drive forward this agenda. We support public sector funding for energy efficiency and microrenewables, such as through CEEF, should allow for longer pay back periods than the existing 5 years.

We support more accurate metering, and in particular meters that allow individuals real time information on their own energy use, either at home or at work. From our own experience with the Fridge Savers project we fully support the need for improvement of energy efficiency of products.

Changeworks supports the continued review of planning processes that look to support the mainstreaming of energy efficiency, decentralised energy and micro generation. We welcome the new building standards, but understand that even higher standards, alongside support for the industry, will be needed to meet the government targets.

Changeworks believes that significant effort should be given to addressing the energy efficiency and demand of existing buildings, such as through renovation.

We welcome Energy Performance Certificates and would encourage their promotion, in particular if they indicate the energy costs during purchase or rental of properties.

Changeworks believe standards need to be sufficient to drive improvement. The HECA targets are now too low and lack direct resources to deliver. Clear guidance and resources are also needed to drive and support the implementation of an increased tolerable standard. We consider the SQHS target to be too low in the present context. We believe these should be reviewed.

4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of energy efficiency and microgeneration in Scotland?

5. if you are responding on behalf on an organisation, how do you think your organisation will/can contribute to the success of the strategy?

We see this agenda part of Changeworks core business. Changeworks exists to improve quality of life and to protect the environment. Changeworks has a history of developing innovative projects and programmes, across the UK, in the area of sustainable energy, waste minimisation and sustainable transport. We see a strong role in working in partnership with the Executive in delivering on the success of this strategy.

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Mandate to comment

CHANGEWORKS brings a broad range of experience **managing energy and recycling projects and provision of expert advice**. We have worked in South East Scotland since 1993. The range of partners involved demonstrates CHANGEWORKS' understanding of partnership issues and multi-agency working. CHANGEWORKS appreciates the difficulties that can arise through presenting and developing innovative solutions. Below are a number of projects to illustrate our experience:

CHANGEWORKS has successfully managed the Lothian and **Edinburgh Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** since the beginning of the EEAC network in 1993. EEAC staff have developed many innovative projects and have consistently achieved targets. Clients include the Energy Saving Trust, the City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, Scottish Borders Council, West Lothian Council, Fife Council.

Since 1997 six innovative **HECAction projects** have been operated on behalf of a consortium of South East Scotland local authorities. ReWarm and ReWarm 2 (1997 to 2001) successfully encouraged private landlords to improve the energy efficiency of rented properties. SmiLE (1998 – 2000) and QAWS (2000 to date) engaged with energy efficiency installers to develop product packages to attract owner-occupiers to install measures. Cowarm (1997-1998) successfully harnessed the power and enthusiasm of local communities to promote energy efficiency. Warm and Well (2001 to date) brought together local housing and health authorities to confront the mutual benefits of identifying the health effects of energy efficient housing.

Since 1999 The City of Edinburgh Council has funded CHANGEWORKS to develop and monitor implementation of its **Warmburgh Plan** - the City's Home Energy Conservation Act strategy. The **Warmburgh Unit** has co-ordinated and implemented numerous partnership initiatives on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council. An inter-agency Affordable Warmth Strategy involving NHS Lothian was developed with 78 local organisations. An **Affordable Warmth Strategy Team** based in CHANGEWORKS has delivered this strategy since 2000. CHANGEWORKS has provided a comprehensive energy efficiency training resource for housing staff and numerous innovative projects such as the Carbon Reduction for Tenements. CHANGEWORKS coordinated a preferred supplier arrangement for Edinburgh Council Housing.

The Transco HEAT project (1999-) brings together Southern Scottish Local Authorities, The Scottish Executive, Transco, Scottish Power, Building Research Establishment, various housing associations and private householders. Staff gain energy efficiency training and employment using the National Home Energy Rating, under the New Deal.

Since 2003 the Energy Saving Trust has funded CHANGEWORKS to manage the South East Scotland **Local Support Team**. The team has played a central role in supporting **Scotland's Climate Change Declaration**. This works with local authorities, housing associations and other organisations energy efficiency and sustainability policy and projects. The project supports the local **HECA Forum** and initiated a **Social Housing Energy Forum**. Recent work includes the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and the supporting the first local plan carbon emissions reduction policies in Scotland.