

Grŵp
Cartrefi
Cymunedol
Cymru



Community
Housing
Cymru
Group

MEETING	CHC's Energy group
DATE	Thursday 5 th March 2015, 10:00am
VENUE	CHC offices

In attendance

Dewi Ilwyd Evans -Grwp Cynefin

Richard Snaith-North Wales housing

John Littlewood -Cardiff met university –representing Coastal Housing Group

Andrew Lloyd -Newport city homes

Sue Kidd -Monmouthshire housing

Nick Cremona-Newydd

Lee Jones- Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association

Lauren Tait –RCT Homes (meadow prospect)

Richard Essex, CREW fellow

Paul Helyar - Charter Housing

Jemma Bere- Regen Wales

Shea Jones, Community Housing Cymru Group

Léonie Cooper, Sustainable Homes

Flora Davies, Low Carbon Trust

Chris Blake, Green Valleys

Neil Lewis, Robert Owen Community Banking

Hannah Livesey-Ingham, Big Energy Saving Network

Apologies

Owen Jones, Wales & West

Angela Ireland, Coastal

Allison Cawley, Melin

Leonie Cooper, sustainable homes-SHIFT-a benchmarking initiative to measure, monitor and improve environmental performance

Leonie mainly talked about Sustainable Homes Index For Tomorrow (SHIFT). Sustainable Homes currently manages the Sustainable Homes Index For Tomorrow (SHIFT), the national environmental performance benchmarking group for social landlords. SHIFT, is the UK housing sector's independent sustainability benchmarking and best practice learning network. It is a recognized independent assessment of your sustainability performance. It is a robust framework to drive improvement across a wide range of environmental issues

SHIFT is the methodology registered providers are using to prove their environmental credentials-measurably reduced environmental impacts. SHIFT was developed by Sustainable Homes in partnership with DECC, Environment Agency, HCA, Mayor of London, UK Green Building Council and WWF. More information can be found here:

<http://www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/shift>

Sustainable Homes mainly work with social landlords. They do work on behalf of the BRE, etc. The areas Sustainable Homes focus on in SHIFT are:

- Section 1: Strategy & Management
- Section 2: Office Practices
- Section 3: Existing Buildings (this is the most taken up option)
- Section 4: New Build

With special emphasis on:

- Adaptation & mitigation
- Resident & staff engagement
- Broader issues - materials, waste & water

SHIFT isn't just about energy-it's about waste, water, etc. It considers building site construction work; work with supply chains, etc. You can map e.g. your transport of your maintenance teams, how much paper the office uses, etc.

You can make specific comparisons with peers – Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze. You can't see who has performed badly or well-it's not a name and shame type assessment. Some organisations have gone from gold to silver. Each measure has ranking against peers and best practice case studies.

SHIFT is a benchmark which allows comparison year on years – and demonstrates your direction of travel. The assessment includes a 50 page feedback report with recommendations on how to improve. You can see how near you to e.g. recommended figures suggested by the Environment Agency, etc. Metrics provide updates on your performance against Government targets for energy, water, waste etc. SHIFT does have members based in Wales but they aren't doing anything active at the moment. SHIFT has about 75 members in total (growing membership). Organisations have made significant savings.

How much does it cost? Costs, etc are broken down by the size of the organisation, etc. (it was noted the size categories include under 2,000 homes, 2,000 to 10,000 and so on, although it might soon be split to 5,000 to 10,000 homes) Its more expensive the larger your organization. Organisations always say they save money. There are discounts for organizations that join for more than 1 year (look on the website for costs). The cost of signing up to SHIFT includes consultancy, training & specialist advice at free or at discounted rates. The cost of signing up to SHIFT includes a range of services at discount including training in Energy Efficiency, tackling fuel poverty, consultancy Carbon assessments of homes training, free places at conferences, etc. and gives organisations the opportunity to attend SHIFT events, meeting experts & leaders in the field.

Solid outcome targets-you need solid evidence. You need to read the guidance note and make a list of the evidence you need. You need to fill in an online survey-could do in 30 minutes. Sustainable homes give you 6 weeks to fill in the questionnaire. Sustainable homes do checks e.g. go and view houses. Sustainable homes usually spend a day doing this and it can be an intense 3 hour period.

Organisations are assigned relationship managers, who are dedicated specialists to discuss ideas & improvements with each quarter. Each relationship manager has about 15/16 organisations. They have close relationships with members.

North Wales HA is a member of SHIFT. Richard Snaith who was representing North Wales HA at the meeting, noted that they found it difficult to quantify where savings have come from for tenants. North Wales have structures in place to make the most of

their membership which is very important. It's important that lots of departments build relationships with the relationship manager e.g. housing services-how you are recovering income (households are struggling to pay bills, etc). It can be useful to set up an environmental/green day etc in the organisation-impacts of cycling, etc and link with outside bodies.

Profile – SHIFT Certificates launched at 700 person dinner with CIH and Inside Housing (HOMES Conference). SHIFT is bespoke for regions or countries: AGMA. Your organisation can use of the SHIFT membership logo.

Additional Awards-Members requested so Sustainable Homes now also award: Most Improved, Best Newcomer, etc. Members requested 2 years between assessments. This allows time for Hearing from residents, Sharing latest expert research, Sharing best practice, Briefings on Government policy or practice updates, Networking: Time for people to catch up (highly valued), Workshops with practical steps for taking action and Business planning .

See the slides for an Event example and Case study analysis: Flooding & Adaptation Event-What an RSL is doing to manage the risk of flooding. See the slides for an Event example: Fuel poverty & engaging with residents (In association with HCA & CIH)

Leonie also talked about training that sustainable homes undertake tailored to your needs and targeted to frontline staff & contractors, residents, etc. Training topics include understanding energy use in home, using your controls, Condensation, Solar panels & heat pumps, Understanding energy bills, measuring your environmental performance, other topics/issues of your choice.

For more information on training, please see the slides. The slides also have more information about making stock energy efficient, cost effectively via the Carbon Reduction Options for Housing Managers (CROHM) tool. For more information, please see the presentation slides. CROHM is a stock analysis tool and covers CO2, SAP and fuel poverty:

- It can include analysis & impacts of behavioural change
- Workshops make it integral to client's business
- Archetype analysis provides bespoke results
- Scenarios – allow consideration of your selected potential solutions
- Investment planning – consider costs – default costs available
- Actual costs you use can be incorporated

CROHM -real time. Set up energy monitor-show cost rather than kw/h. 50-70 organisations have gone through this-you don't have to be a member of SHIFT to get CROHM. You can use CROHM to inform e.g. existing build assessment in SHIFT.

Sustainable Homes' National Energy Study (NES) was a major study involving 500 homes, looking at ways to encourage residents to change energy behaviours. There were 2 studies-National Energy Study One and Two-follow the links below for further information.

<http://www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/national-energy-study/report-pt1>

<http://www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/national-energy-study/report-pt2>

Sustainable Homes wrote a document on behalf of the London Climate Change Partnership (LCCP), entitled "Your social home in a changing climate"- follow the link below for further information:

<http://climatelondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Your-social-housing-in-a-changing-climate.pdf>

To find out more about the work that Sustainable Homes undertake as a consultancy, then please see their presentation slides as well as their website here:

<http://www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/>

Resource Efficiency Wales -Flora Davies, Low Carbon Trust and Susan Jay, WRAP

Flora talked about the Resource Efficient Wales (REW) programme. The way in which free, independent and impartial energy, waste and water saving information and advice for householders and communities is given centrally in Wales has changed. The new Resource Efficient Wales (REW) programme is administered by Welsh Government and is being delivered, partially in-house and partly through external client managers. The Carbon Trust is one of those client managers.

The Resource Efficiency Team can provide certain types of information and free support to all sectors. This includes access to information and advice on:

- using energy more efficiently;
- generating renewable energy;
- using water more efficiently;
- reducing the generation of all forms of material waste; and
- market development, training and accreditation for suppliers in resource efficiency markets.

If you would like further information please contact Resource Efficient Wales on:

E-mail: resource-efficient@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You may wish to contact the REW Contact Centre in the first instance and ask to be put in touch with the client manager, who may be able to advise on whether they can assist. Telephone: 0300 123 2020 - You can call us during the hours of 9:00am – 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. Your call will be charged at local rate, even from a mobile phone but these may be free minutes from a landline or mobile tariff.

The service for domestic and community clients is being delivered by a partnership of local organisations. Further information, leaflets and briefings that Severn Wye agency have asked us to circulate to the sector are available in Welsh and English. The information, leaflets and briefings contain short introductions and overviews which includes all relevant contact information.

Click here for the [REW briefing document](#).

See the link on Sell2Wales which has the following documents for you to review (please contact shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk if the links don't work correctly):

<http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk/Authority/Resources/Resources.aspx?ID=&Type=3162&Path=11752-3162>

- [Annex 01 Framework Rate Card – Lot 1](#)
- [Annex 02 Framework Rate Card – Lot 2](#)
- [Annex 03 Requirements Proforma](#)
- [Annex 04 Business Case Template](#)
- [Annex 05 Mini Competition Bidder Response Template](#)
- [Annex 06 Commercial Response Form](#)
- [Annex 07 Evaluation Spreadsheet](#)
- [Annex 08 Lot 1 Funnelling Tool & Guidance](#)
- [Annex 09 Lot 2 Funnelling Tool & Guidance](#)
- [Annex 10 Supplier Contact Details](#)
- [NPS Resource Efficiency Framework Guidance](#)

Please see [here](#) for Resource Efficiency framework guidance.

The Carbon Trust and WRAP (in partnership) have been appointed by the Welsh Government Department to deliver Client Manager (CM) services to the public sector organisations across Wales, for the Resource Efficient Wales (REW) Programme. WRAP also deliver the advice service for REW for businesses (including social enterprises).

Useful email addresses:

rewpubliccentre@carbontrust.com

rewbusinesses@wrap.org.uk

Other email addresses include Flora.Davies@Carbontrust.com and Susan.Jay@wrap.org.uk if you don't have a response form the above email addresses.

RSLs are eligible for free support under the REW public sector client manager service (as well as other client manager service areas-please contact the REW contact centre for more information-details were provided earlier in the presentation), despite RSLs not being classed as public sector organisations. This is due to the way they are funded by public money. Therefore, the specific service that is available to local authorities in respect of their area based housing retrofit schemes could equally be available and very much of use to housing associations/ RSLs. RSLs would also be eligible for the free 'standard' service that all other public sector organisations can receive, which includes CHC. The standard free client manager service includes around 4 days support on a project before it may go out to the framework, although this is only a guideline and can be more or less days depending on individual requirements. The potential for match funding was noted if you needed more specialist advice when going to the framework (as noted above, you can use the free 'standard' service before deciding to go to the framework) Example projects e.g. replacing LED lighting-can calculate what the savings would be and deliver an action plan. Another example-feasibility for biomass. Under/over 25,000?? Essentially pilot project

The support provided:

1. Support to develop and deliver programmes of activity, such as the portfolios of projects including energy efficiency/renewable energy projects with residents, and renewable energy developments on public land/estates
2. Technical support for energy and resource efficiency retrofitting activity in domestic housing stock, including:
 - advice and support in sourcing and using data to locate and develop area based retrofit schemes;
 - technical advice on appropriateness of plans provided by delivery agencies;
 - advice and support in implementation; and
 - monitoring of delivery

The focus includes stimulating improvements in resource efficiency across Energy, Water and Waste. Client Managers:

- Single point of contact throughout the customer journey
- To assist with identifying and/ or supporting development of projects
- Deliver workshops
- Write opportunity reports
- Develop Action Plans

The Client Managers support is tailored to individual requirements. It Includes quality control of further specialist support. It's free and its limited time availability (Please see

the presentation slides for more information on the types of areas that support has been received in.)

REW Framework- Specialist technical consultancy support:

- Typically match funded available with Welsh Government (50:50)
- Specialist support is selected from the framework-Total of 63 organisations

Please see the presentation slides to see a delivery diagram and details on who the client managers are and who does what (energy, waste and water).

Opportunity reports

- Founded on a baseline assessment, either from a detailed discussion and/ or a site survey
- Provides practical recommendations for improving resource efficiency
- Includes the business case and an Action Plan to implement the recommendations
- Supports referral for specialist technical consultancy through Framework, where applicable

Please see the below to see workshop examples:

Title	Details
Self-assessment tools	Getting the most from online tools and guides
General Resource Efficiency advice	Brief overview of energy, water & waste
Monitoring & targeting	Guidance on collecting and analysing data
Behaviour change	Guidance on best practice of no cost actions
Low energy lighting	Options for different spaces& fittings
On-site renewables	Overview of the options available and the financial benefits
Rainwater harvesting	Overview of the options available and the financial benefits
Source segregation of waste	Obligations, benefits and guidance
Materials re-use	Overview of the options available and the financial benefits
Finance and procurement options	E.g. Energy Performance Contracts

Further information on REW

Resource Efficient Wales provide the domestic, business, community, third and public sector audiences with a consistent and trusted place to go to for information, advice and support on all matters concerning resource efficiency. It provides advice and

information on energy, waste and water. Resource Efficient Wales is a single point of contact to help people and organisations to save on energy and water and to reduce and re-use waste.

Householders

Help for householders to make their homes more energy and water efficient, keeping their bills under control, and help with recycling and renewable energy generation.

Community groups

Help for community groups to make funding go even further, with lower bills and income generated through renewable energy projects.

Public sector organisations

Supporting public sector organisations to reduce their resource costs and consider renewable energy projects.

Whoever you are and whatever your questions on energy, waste or water, please call the Resource Efficient Wales helpline on 0300 123 2020 or get in touch with us via our website at www.wales.gov.uk/resourceefficient

Public Sector Client Manager Service

Reduce your energy, water and waste costs with free advice and support through the Welsh Government's Resource Efficient Wales service provided by the Carbon Trust and WRAP Cymru.

www.wales.gov.uk/resourceefficient

What can a Client Manager do to help me with resource efficiency?

Client Managers will help you identify resource efficiency opportunities, as well as the level of support you will need to take them up, and explain how you can benefit from the Resource Efficient Wales service.

What tools and workshops will be available from my Client Manager?

Self-assessment tools and questionnaires are made available to assess your needs. We will hold workshops with general resource efficiency advice and specific technical guidance.

What 1-2-1 support will be provided by my Client Manager?

Our reports on resource efficiency opportunities will help you to develop an action plan and business case. Your Client Manager can support you with procurement, funding, and project delivery.

What happens next?

Your Client Manager will provide follow up over three years, helping you track whether you are on target, evaluate outcomes and savings from your action plan, and help you to identify further opportunities

How can I get a Client Manager? Three easy ways:

1. Call Resource Efficient Wales on 0300 123 2020
2. Email REWPublicSector@CarbonTrust.com
3. Ask an existing contact at the Carbon Trust or WRAP Cymru

Please see the slides for more contact details

Flora Davies

E. flora.davies@carbontrust.com

T. 02078 324578

M. 07725 413969

Contact centre: 0300 123 2020 REWPublicSector@CarbonTrust.com

Updates from the sector- A chance for attendees to provide updates on current RSL projects and share any successes/problems occurred

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association have had issues with solar hot water schemes they have run - they had grant funding to install them so do not get any income from them but there is a charge to have an annual check of the systems which MTHA is having to absorb.

MTHA have found that there is a general issue with education in relation to standing charges with tenants. Many tenants, during the summer months, do not use a form of energy as there is no need due to the weather being warm and they do not need to heat their properties. Therefore, when it comes to the colder months, the standing charges have built up and there is a substantial debt on the meter. When you contact the

provider, they tell you that you need to pay 'x' amount of the debt off before you can access Gas being put on to the meter. This can have an impact on Gas servicing as you have a legal duty to check gas on an annual basis which they cannot do should there be no gas on the meter and so they have to cap the gas at the property. In essence, MTHA just need to advise tenants that even though they are not using an energy source, they still need to ensure there is money on the meter during the warmer months to ensure there is not debt on the meter when the colder months come. Educating tenants is key!! It was noted however that we need flexibility in the tariff.

Action: CHC to look into this and the potential for lobbying

British Gas void care – MTHA switched to the BG scheme as of January 1st 2015. It significantly reduced the time it took maintenance admin workers to discover which suppliers properties were with and has also ensured that all new tenants have no debt on their meters when they move into a property. MTHA did discuss the fact that BG put all new properties on their standard tariff and they said that they would contact all new tenants to ensure that tenants are on the appropriate tariff for them. As MTHA also know who every new tenant is with, they are able to advise tenants on their energy supplier options during their new tenancy visit after approximately 4 weeks. At the moment they have had no complaints from any department in relation to the scheme and they have also assisted several tenants to switch to different tariffs/suppliers following their follow up visit so they currently have no concerns over the way it is working. BG void care scheme-there's no obligation. Lee advised that if it takes BG a while to get in touch you may need to push them-start obligation on best tariffs.

RCT homes is piloting an energy saving project utilising a product called Hydromx – in simple terms this is a glycol based liquid additive that is put into an in-situ boiler. Hydromx works by transferring energy more effectively, heating the water faster and keeping it warmer for longer – it also claims to act as an inhibitor making the whole system last longer. The product claims to reduce gas costs by up to 30 % (currently only been tested in commercial properties – no domestic data trials have been conducted to date).

More info can be found at

<http://www.pbaenergysolutions.co.uk/AboutHydromx/WhatIsHydromx.aspx>

RCT homes will be carrying out a test utilising Hydromx over a period of six weeks at one of their sheltered complexes using sophisticated data loggers. The cost for the product per property has worked out at about £400. RCT see it as a project worth undertaking and analyzing.

Action: RCT to share the results with the energy group. It could result in big savings.

RCT will also be testing another, much cheaper product, called Endotherm (non glycol based) -however the cost savings expected are 10% compared to 30%.

More info can be found at <http://www.endotherm.co.uk/how-it-works/>

John Littlewood mentioned a product he was aware of for around £150? Neil Lewis from ROCBF mentioned a company? (no data?) Leonie mentioned chopclock-details here http://www.nigelsecostore.com/acatalog/Chop_Cloc.html

RCT are also undertaking a 2nd round of PV. They are hoping to generate a yield of between 3 and 5MW with our next round of Solar PV. They have had a great response from DNO so far with majority of properties having received approval (this had been the biggest barrier to date). It will be a standard rent a roof type scheme working with investors and an installer - CAPCO Energy. GES are the main investor for the project. If anyone wants to jump on board contact laurent@meadowprospect.co.uk and she will put you in contact to the necessary people. RCT are happy for people to speak to the supplier. It is possibly the last chance to receive such a large investment into PV in the RCT area with further tariff depressions looming – Lauren would encourage all other HA's to get on board as it would be a great collaborative project that all RCT residents could benefit from. Installers may consider two invertors when dealing with walk-up flats, i.e., both ground floor and first floor tenant could benefit from PV panels. This is not definite though and could depend on cost.

Note: Although there is no community 'pot' as such, this scheme will generate employment locally as local people will be trained to work with systems after installation (for repairs and maintenance etc)

Charter HA is also starting a round of PV again-they are currently considering self funding and rent a roof. The biggest issue can be people turning the systems off.

Monmouthshire HA has achieved the Green Dragon (environmental level 5) accreditation and ISO 14001. It has been intensive and audits are quite intense. Monmouthshire want to get to the marketing of it. They have received a lot of buy in from maintenance departments. Merthyr Tydfil HA-Green Dragon –they found it difficult and needed a lot of information mostly from maintenance, which at the time they were unable to gain as they had staff coming into and leaving the organisation. It was noted that Level 2 is a good standard.

Newport City Homes-Duffryn District Heating System

NCH have entered into a contract with British Gas to install a new Biomass energy centre to complement the existing gas fired gas boilers. They are in the early stages of the project with planning consent granted, with BG currently procuring the construction and mechanical and electrical work. Wildlife has been and is an issue with the scheme.

Their consultant will be testing the market for the fuel supply (woodchip), this is imminent and hopefully the woodchip will be sourced locally (Wales) with an opportunity of providing or sustaining local employment.

Action: If anyone is interested in visiting the site either during the construction and design stage or early in the new year during the commissioning stage, then please email shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk expressing an interest. CHC/CREW could potentially help organise a site visit with a presentation on the project, etc.

NCH currently have a another project of installing energy monitors (pre-payment meters) to residents connected to the district heating scheme. The units provide residents with heating / hot water consumption, on daily, weekly, monthly or annual basis and is a very good tool for saving energy and allowing their residents to budget for their use. There are various options of adding credit to the meter – over the phone, the local paypoint outlet or over the internet.

Action: John Littlewodd mentioned an ERDF project he has been working on-John to present at the next energy meeting. As well as the EU project, John would like to present at CHCs other forums and networks e.g. technical services forum and fire safety group on air testing/smoke testing. John is also doing work looking at the Health impacts of new build and overheating (40 degrees was mentioned).

- Potential for EU funding for energy efficiency/renewables

CHC are still in the process of developing project ideas and identifying partners. For a recent update contact shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk

- Update on the 'Our Power' scheme

There has been a significant and growing appetite in the RSL sector to intervene directly in the market and focus on local energy production and local energy supply to address the market failure impacting on low income households. Part of the reason for a growing appetite is to impact fuel poverty directly through price. CHC and some members met with Our Power (a registered Community Benefit Society) towards the end of last year to understand the work they are undertaking work. Our Power already has membership from social housing providers and community controlled organisations outside of Wales. Our Power is a licensed energy supply company. They are currently going through the process of set up, etc and CHC are in the process of pushing forward the opportunities that exist for the sector in partnering with organisations to set up an energy supply company. A meeting with Our Power, the sector and potentially other

organisations is likely to be held in September to explore the potential for partnerships. Our power could potentially cover a range of housing tenures.

Community renewable energy systems -Chris Blake, Director of the Green Valleys

How do you get the benefit of community energy to benefit people living in fuel poverty is the key question!

Chris talked about energy models-sleeving arrangements, ESCO's etc. Chris said to think carefully about setting up an energy supply company and felt that the best option for the RSL sector could be to set up a partnership with an existing partner

Generation is an option but you don't have to do generation-the real power can lie in bulk purchasing. Big opportunity- collective purchasing with the right partner-all about scale. Buying 100% renewable energy to meet customers demand is not really feasible for e.g. providing cheap tariffs. It's hard to be cheap and 100% green!

Lead time for capacity-5 years? Planning takes a long time for community renewable energy schemes-if we brought the social and fuel poverty argument into it, would it speed the system up? **Action:** CHC to look into the potential for a seminar to discuss this.

Cornwall-draft guidance-not been adopted. **Action:** CHC to get a copy of this and add to the CHC website

We need capital investment. The grids capacity isn't great-we need to create a new smart grid system-otherwise we keep perpetuating a failed system. Could this be funded via European funding? **Action:** CHC to look into this. Issues with grid capacity were noted for rural Wales in particular. (CHC to speak to Grwp Cynefin) There is potential for off site renewables, energy storage, etc.

There are RSLs investing in off site renewables but not currently in Wales. Chris felt that if there are opportunities to invest offsite-then fine-it might not directly tackle fuel poverty but could tackle wider social, economic and environmental objectives.

ESCO-pool together and find a company to supply it-they can run the call centre, purchasing power, etc where there isn't stakeholder?

It was noted that not enough people are switching energy suppliers. Brands are important-get a brand. RSLs have a lot of bargaining power due to tenant numbers when considering collective switching. For the latest information on the Cyd Cymru collective switching scheme in Wales, then please see here:

<http://www.cydcymru-energy.com/content.asp>

There's potential for RSLs and community energy organisations to collaborate more.

Community renewable energy systems, Robert Owen Community Banking-community energy fund and loan models

Action: Neil has encouraged colleagues interested in energy to sign up to a free public sector energy news updates. An example of the newsletter can be seen here <http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=85ca76981ee2f625dfa672029&id=439af85eb4&e=c9d4744e6a> To sign up email stephencirell@publicsectorenergy.co.uk or stephencirell@publicsectorenergy.co.uk

Funding opportunity for renewable energy

Up until March 31st developers could build any size solar farm and could claim ROC's (renewable obligation) -they could get their return by selling it to an insurance company. The Renewables Obligation (RO) has been the main support mechanism for renewable electricity projects in the UK, and is available to any generator over 50kW in size. ROCS has now been limited to 5MW.

FITs are also barred for above 5 MW schemes. Therefore all 10 MW schemes that have been planned are now dead in the water and if the developer has spent £100k on planning and up to £500k on grid connection, this is lost.

However, they can be split in 2 if a community group has a slice in one or both (the extent of community involvement is a bit unclear at the moment) -both halves can claim FIT payments and the scheme is salvageable so on this scenario community involvement is worth £600k to a developer

Community organisations can pre register a FIT for 12 months IF THEY ARE THE SCHEME OWNER (or some other ill defined amount) -you need an OFGEM account to do this. Gwent Energy/Gower Power, for example, have one and can pre register a scheme right away but it would be a 100% owner (this is unclear to at the moment).

How valuable is this? FIT digressions depend on the level of installations, so if all the big developers switch to FIT claims and not ROCs, FIT could digress by 30% every 3 months (that is speculation) but there will be a flood of large FIT schemes as developers have no other way. **SO PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY HERE IS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL JUNE'S FEED IN TARIFF DIGRESSION! CHC/members need to speak with developers and community groups (Gwent Energy, Gower Power, Carmarthenshire Energy) very soon if they want to explore taking up the opportunity.** After 12 months, income from a community registered scheme could be worth @10p a unit. For a developer pre registered scheme it could be worth 7p a unit.

For an unregistered unit it could be worth 5p a unit. Therefore, if an unregistered scheme cost £5m, a community scheme is worth £10m to sell for income. There is potential for a £5m return for a doing little work/a few minutes paperwork.

This is potentially an unbelievable opportunity for community organizations. Co-ops are hampered by rules around their share issues. A Community Interest Company with an agreement with a developer who can provide funding is potentially a massive financial opportunity.

There are around 10 x10+Mw sites around Wales in the planning stages. Robert Owen Community Banking have secured £100m + for the community energy sector but they are foreign owned venture capitalists that will allow a bare minimum to stay in Wales. Robert Owen Community Banking are in negotiation with some serious funders to take on a number of 10MW PV sites under the ownership of the Community Energy sector.

Drawback is foreign investors charging 8% so there is an opportunity for Welsh funders. They have one local authority pledging £2 million and EST £1 million. They are working with WG and various community groups and will need to buy the first of many sites very soon.

Organisations need to act fast. Please let neil.lewis@rocbf.co.uk know if you feel that Robert Owen Community Banking can help with this opportunity and potentially contribute funds or knowledge in the future. This opportunity could be massively more profitable than small roof top installations (important as they are).

Neil also noted that large scale, community owned, roof mounted PVs would be an excellent avenue to explore (maybe on local warehouses/offices/ factories). These could fund the small domestic installations and energy efficiency measures such as low energy lighting. Need to consider investing in inverters.

Please let Neil know if you feel that Robert Owen Community Banking can contribute funds or knowledge in the future. They could also administer a ZILF in a specific area (please see below for more information on the ZILF fund). Robert Owen Community Banking are a not for profit organisation. Neil Lewis who presented and works for ROCBF, is also the chairman of Carmarthenshire energy.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the main support mechanism for renewable electricity projects in the UK, and is available to any generator over 50kW in size. ROCS ends at the end of March 2015.

The Community Energy Fund.

ROCBF in conjunction with Community Energy Wales have secured funding from The Big Lottery Fund to support communities and community owned organisations develop

energy projects. We can ensure that all renewable energy schemes, renewable heat projects and energy efficiency measures can proceed without financial risk-taking.

We can provide contingency loans that will not have to be repaid should a project fail to proceed

This form of “mezzanine finance” covers the high risk costs of scheme development-the money that communities need to invest in the development of their scheme before they know whether it is viable, that planning consent can be obtained, or that they can raise the finance to install the scheme and re-coup their investment.

Neil-not a set fee for the community energy fund.

The Community Energy Fund exists to support all viable schemes throughout Wales and to ensure that they can proceed without too much worry for hard-working volunteers.

By the same token, we recommend and help develop a vigorous due-diligence process from the outset. This ensures that if a project is unlikely to be successful that we can identify the problems as early as possible.

Our philosophy is to ensure that all viable schemes proceed as quickly and easily as possible. The CEF team at ROCBF want to help make projects proceed!

Returned funds will be re-invested in the community energy sector as a Loan-Guarantee Fund e.g. for construction finance.-CEF 2.

5 + 5MW solar PV.

Will the glass slipper FIT?

ZILFs-zero interest loan funds-less expensive than The Green Deal and what the green deal should be. It's only in Powys at the moment but ROCBF are keen to do it elsewhere. Straightforward, no hidden costs, 0% interest, no penalties for early repayment, not attached to the property-SIMPLE.

These zero or low interest loan funds are targeted at the private sector housing market and recycle funds available for the sector held by the local authorities in those areas. The ZILF in Powys is targeted at home improvements in the form of loans to install renewable energy systems, such as pv panels, biomass boilers, etc. The loan is arranged by ROCBF through a local credit union account and is paid back from the proceeds of the FIT or RHI payments received by the householder.

The LILF in Flintshire is the same in principle, if different in detail, being linked to supporting fuel poverty householders in a number of targeted areas connect to mains gas supplies.

Needless to say, there is plenty of scope to adapt / create new loan funds where sources of capital are available.

Fuel clubs - clwbiau tanwydd-Neighbours talking to neighbours is a good way of e.g. getting numbers for fuel clubs

Wadebridge renewables- an example of local people selling local energy to themselves

Also a scheme in London where they were paying £12.9m for fuel bills to London. They started producing their own energy and have made profits. ROCBF want communities to do this! Its currently multinationals doing it.

For information on ROCBF or anything noted above, contact details for ROCBF and info on how ROCBF raise capital, then please see the presentation slides.

Update on the Big Energy Saving Network-offer on the services they are providing-Hannah Livesey-Ingham

The Big Energy Saving Network delivers an extensive programme of outreach to vulnerable consumers, focussed on helping them reduce their energy costs and energy consumption. The Big Energy Saving Network is grant funded and exists to make sure people can access what they are allowed to access-what individuals can do to save money. The funding is provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the advice is entirely independent. The programme of outreach is led by 160 specially trained Network 'Champions', voluntary workers that co-ordinate the training of further volunteers and front line workers. These volunteers and frontline workers will in turn deliver proactive advice to consumers on energy issues via an assisted action approach. RCT homes, change agents and others are delivering the big energy saving network.

Services aren't being used-people aren't aware of them. A non exhaustive list of the services being offered by the Big Energy Saving Network include:

- Help get the Energy Company Obligation funding to benefit from insulation and boilers
- Help apply for the warm homes discount
- Help people change energy tariffs- Promote big switch as well as encourage people to get in touch with energy companies.
- Help people get on the Priority services register. An example used was how Distribution Network Operators offer support during power outages e.g. they can provide generators for people on oxygen, etc. The link below provides examples of what Western Power support is available-please contact your local Distribution

Network Operators for more information. <http://www.westernpower.co.uk/Power-outages/Power-cut-Information-and-Advice.aspx>

Organisations have been looking to work with local housing associations to help their residents and train their staff on the basics of home energy efficiency. Although the deadline may have passed by the time you read this, if you are interested in this opportunity then please email shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk If there are 2 RSLs close together, organisations might be able to fit in 2 sessions in one day, or perhaps a joint session could be run. Open days or advice drop in sessions are suitable avenues for delivering the training

Warm Home Discount: Extension to 2015/16

As a result of the UK Governments consultation document “Warm Home Discount: Extension to 2015/16”, some key policy decisions have been made. The UK Government has outlined their position on proposals for extending the Warm Home Discount Scheme to 2015/16 and the key changes to the scheme are as follows:

- Retain the eligibility criteria of the Core Group to those in receipt of Pension Credit Guarantee Credit or Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (with Savings Credit) for the extension of the WHD to 2015/16.
- Keep the value of the rebate at £140 for 2015/16.
- Introduce compulsory standard criteria for the Broader Group but retain flexibility for suppliers to have additional criteria subject to Ofgem’s approval.
- Include the provision of a rebate to eligible park home residents in the list of approved Industry Initiative activities as well as additional groups of customers who may be at particular risk of living in fuel poverty.
- Introduce a number of further, small and technical changes to improve the help households receive and provide greater flexibility in how suppliers meet their obligations.

Next Steps -The next steps for the WHD are to make amendments to the regulations which underpin the policy. They expect the amendments to come into force before the end of March 2015. For the winter of 2015/16, the Government is introducing a set of standard criteria to define a vulnerable household, which all participating suppliers must meet (see the second link below for the criteria). It estimates that these changes will mean an additional 70,000 struggling families, disabled customers and other vulnerable people are eligible to apply. For more information on the scheme itself and who will be eligible to claim under the changes, please see the 2 links below (the bottom link is a particularly useful summary). The scheme requires energy suppliers with more than 250,000 domestic (not business) customers, by law, to help vulnerable customers pay for electricity.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398545/Warm_Home_Discount_Consultation_Response_-_Extension_to_2015-16_-_FINAL.pdf

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/utilities/2015/01/warm-home-discount-to-be-extended-to-low-income-families>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-extension-to-201516>

Boiler prescription schemes

Several 'Boiler on Prescription' pilot schemes have been set up in England where energy saving measures have been installed to the homes of NHS patients so that the impacts of the energy efficiency measures on health can be monitored. The link below shows an example of Gentoos scheme (click on link, then feel free to click on the link at the bottom of this page to view the report-sign up with your name and email address and you can then view the report)

CHC is currently in discussion with the health sector about the potential for a pilot study in Wales. If you are interested in exploring further, then please email shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk

<http://www.gentoogroup.com/news/gp-visits-reduced-after-patients-receive-energy-saving-measures-on-prescription-from-nhs/>

Heat network metering regulations

The Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 are now in force – you can download the regulations here

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3120/pdfs/uksi_20143120_en.pdf -These new regulations place new legal requirements on all heat providers (i.e. anyone who provides heat to customers from a communal or district heating scheme) that will affect many housing associations. It is essential to prepare now before the **first deadline of 30 April 2015**. There are two main legal requirements – all heat providers need to:

- notify the National Measurement Office (NMO) of all communal and district heating schemes (heat networks) by 30 April 2015
- assess the technical and financial feasibility of installing individual heat meters and, where feasible, install heat meters by 31 December 2016.

CHC discussed the regulations at the latest technical services forum in February. To get a copy of the presentation from the day, then please email shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk (the presentation will soon be uploaded on the CHC website). The National Measurement Office has published guidance to compliance and

enforcement of the legislation <https://www.gov.uk/heat-networks> and a notification template <https://www.gov.uk/heat-networks> , showing what information is required about each heat network. Housing associations that have already started to assess their schemes report that this information is not held centrally and it is likely that a dedicated resource will be required to identify schemes, collect required information and assess technical and financial feasibility. The regulations also specify minimum requirements for billing customers and billing information.

Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS)

CHC has been asked whether RSLs are required to comply with the ESOS guidance. ESOS guidance states that organisations that are required to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 are exempt from the ESOS scheme. RSLs must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations, and therefore are exempt from the ESOS. RSL's are exempt, but the guidance note which can be seen here [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/405078/20140901 - ESOS Good Practice Guidance v1 1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/405078/20140901_-_ESOS_Good_Practice_Guidance_v1_1.pdf) recognises that RSLs may benefit from it. Please note however that this guidance is published for background purposes only it has been superseded by the environment agency ESOS guidance, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/comply-with-the-energy-savings-opportunity-scheme-esos>

Want to work with Sustrans?

CHC are in discussion with Sustrans – a leading UK charity – to develop an exciting project that will investigate the role of sustainable transport on reducing tenant turnover and facilitating sustainable lettings. As you know, dealing with void properties can be very costly. We also know that a key reason for having void properties could be due to geography: lack of access to jobs, transport and services, such as GPs and supermarkets, rather than the quality of housing or family size in some instances. We want to work with Sustrans to investigate the potentially positive impact of one of their interventions: Personalised Travel Planning (PTP).

Previously, the Welsh Government funded Sustrans Cymru to conduct the biggest ever PTP project of its kind in the UK – working with 110,000 households in Cardiff, Pontypridd and Caerphilly and Mon and Menai. Using a hands-on, tailored service for each target household, levels of behaviour change included 21% rise in walking journeys, 13% rise in public transport journeys and a 30% rise in cycling.

Investing in a PTP intervention, directed at tenants/residents, may not only make existing 'voids' more attractive but help address some of the holistic benefits that housing associations grapple with, including:

- reducing poverty and relieving financial hardship (particularly transport poverty)
- improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities
- upskilling and increasing access to employment opportunities
- cutting levels of anti-social behaviour and encouraging thriving and engaged communities.

In order to have a meaningful set of data, with which we can extrapolate results to a larger population with a decent degree of confidence, the project needs to survey a target population of 200-250 households. This should be sufficient to ensure a net return of 100 results. A full evaluation of outcomes would need to take place from 3 months after the initial intervention. These households need to be in one or two distinct areas, to keep costs down – specifically in order to avoid duplication of work and development of marketing materials. Due to the innovativeness of this approach, we believe this should attract a good amount of 'trade' media coverage, as well as wider publicity. We also feel it chimes very closely with the Minister's anti-poverty agenda, and feel sure it will attract her support too.

Initial costs are in the region of £15,000 (which would be split between participating RSLs). Sustrans is able to start work immediately at this rate, with costs marginally increasing as we approach the new financial year.

We are looking for a number of housing associations to take part in this exciting and innovative project, as we believe this could lead to real in-roads in supporting our most vulnerable tenants, while also making vital organisational savings for our members.

Please could you email shea-jones@chcymru.org.uk if you are interested in participating in the project. Please see here for further information www.sustrans.org.uk/HousingAssociationsCymru