



SHARE

Social Housing Action to
Reduce Energy Consumption



Case Study 7



Financing insulation in social housing in the UK

The SHARE project in Gloucestershire has helped a local housing association secure more than £160,000 (235,000 euros) in funding from the energy supplier Powergen (part of E.ON) to improve the insulation in its housing.

The money will be spent on increasing the level of loft insulation in over 700 homes owned by Fosseway Housing Association in the Cotswolds. The properties are also being surveyed for other energy efficiency measures including cavity wall insulation, draft-proofing and low energy lighting.

Catrin Maby, SHARE director of SWEA in the United Kingdom, said "The partnership between Powergen and Fosseway, facilitated by the SHARE programme, will improve the lives of hundreds of people.

She continued "Insulation helps to reduce the amount of heating that is needed to make a home comfortable to live in."

The majority of these properties are not on the natural gas network, so they are usually heated by Economy 7 storage heaters. These run on an 'off-peak' electricity tariff which allows them to heat up at night at a relatively low unit price. They are designed to release the heat gradually during the following day.

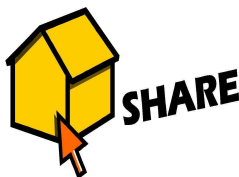
SHARE is an Intelligent Energy Europe Project working in eight European areas to develop energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in social housing. For more information about the SHARE project and for other case studies see the project website:

www.socialhousingaction.com

The extra insulation will reduce the rate of heat loss, helping to maintain a comfortable temperature for longer. An important result is that residents are less likely to use extra heating sources at peak times, (typically the following evening) when electricity is more expensive. The residents benefit by spending less on their fuel bills and reducing their carbon emissions.



Shirley Goodey, Key Account Manager at Powergen, said “The SHARE project has been instrumental in securing the funding for this work. The forums are a fantastic opportunity both to talk to social housing professionals and residents and to really understand their needs. As well as providing this funding for Fosseyway Housing Association, we have been assisting other social housing providers in the area. None of this would have been possible without SHARE.”



The UK's Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) Scheme

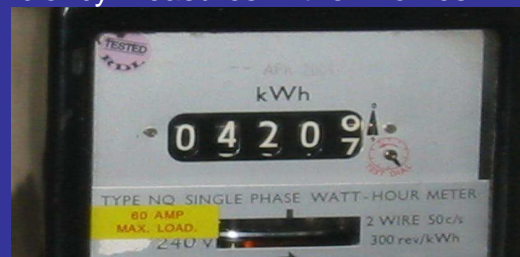
The funding from Powergen, which is part of E.ON, came through their Energy Efficiency Commitment. Under the commitment, electricity and gas suppliers are required by the UK Government to achieve targets for the promotion of energy efficiency.

At least half of the energy saving measures are targeted towards low income consumers.

EEC is designed to lower carbon emissions and reduce the number of vulnerable residents in fuel poverty.

Under the current EEC scheme (EEC2 – 2005 to 2008) the target is to save 130 TWh and the UK's energy suppliers have already spent many millions of euros on measures.

The Government's new scheme CERT (2008-2011) has set even higher targets for energy suppliers. This provides an opportunity to help even more vulnerable clients living in social housing to benefit from energy efficiency measures in their homes.



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