



Bringing together the latest sustainable energy efficiency news from around the UK

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the carbon capture

September 09 | Issue 02

UK should pursue efficiency and home-grown energy, says report

The UK should pursue energy efficiency and home-grown energy sources with "maximum pace and ambition", according to a report by former energy secretary Malcolm Wicks MP.

The report, **Energy Security: a national challenge in a changing world**, which was commissioned by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, says energy security should be a national priority for the UK as it moves to a low-carbon economy.

Many energy reserves are concentrated in unstable regions of the world, says Wicks. Although complete energy independence is probably unrealistic for the UK, the country can take actions to mitigate the risks.

"We must be far smarter with the energy we use and invest home-grown energy sources such as new nuclear and renewables without delay," he says.

Ensuring energy security does not have to conflict with climate change measures either. In fact, the measures laid out in the Government's recently published Low Carbon Transition Plan will put the UK on track to securing energy supplies, concludes the report.

The transition plan unveiled last month committed to producing 40% of the UK's electricity from low-carbon sources including renewables, nuclear power and clean coal.

"The ability to maximise domestic energy reserves and establish home-grown energy sources is vital alongside the UK's ability to pull on every lever internationally in support of energy security," commented Brown, who welcomed the report.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Ed Miliband, underlined this commitment, saying:

"We'll continue to use fossil fuels in the near term as part of our transition to the low carbon economy and maximise our own North Sea reserves, as well as do all we can to secure the most diverse range of energy imports."

Gas supply is becoming an issue of increasing importance, following last year's crisis in Eastern Europe. Various estimates indicate that the UK could be importing 45-80% of its gas supply by 2020.

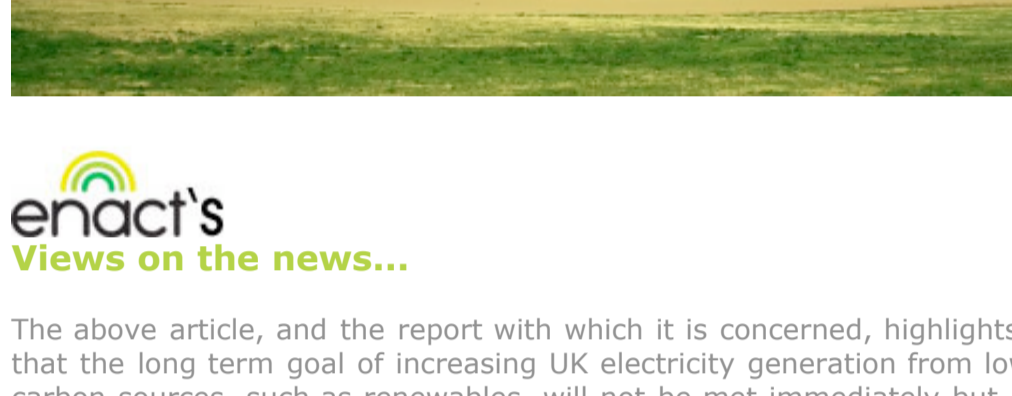
According to the Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA), we need to become much more astute in how we use it.

"Reducing our overall need for fuels by maximising efficiency in energy generation in the first place should be a given," says CHPA director Graham Meeks.

CHP saves around 10% in fuel consumption compared with conventional energy production and should have a pivotal role in the future, he says.

Read more...

Source: Energy Efficiency News, 07/08/09



enact's Views on the news...

The above article, and the report with which it is concerned, highlights that the long term goal of increasing UK electricity generation from low carbon sources, such as renewables, will not be met immediately but will be so very important for future energy security.

The UK's continued reliance on traditional fossil fuels is unavoidable in the interim, as the country, and indeed the world pulls itself out of a global recession and energy demand begins to rise at a rate too rapid for our low carbon alternatives to handle at this stage in the Low Carbon Transition Plan.

At the heart of reaching a better level of energy security for the moment, is without a doubt energy efficiency. Our increasing reliance on low carbon sources will take time but energy efficiency is something we can deal with now. While we may need to rely on these more undesirable forms of energy, it doesn't mean we need to rely on more than is necessary to meet our energy demands.

The report produced by the Prime Minister's Special Representative on International Energy Issues, Malcolm Wicks MP, welcomes the ambitious proposals put forward by last month's Low Carbon Transition Plan, in particular the support for households to reduce their energy use, something we are all working towards on a daily basis, in a bid to do our bit in the fight against climate change. The report sums up the UK's position on energy efficiency when it says:

"The Government has made considerable progress in improving our energy efficiency. There is scope to go further..."

"The Government needs to show leadership, ensuring that reducing the energy used in its own activities is seen as a priority by all Departments and Agencies".

The UK's commitment to energy efficiency and a more diverse energy mix must, in addition, be accompanied by a third prong, which will alleviate the increasing pressure on fossil fuels - the UK should use its position as a member of international institutions to maintain positive international relations, and educate other countries with significant potential to improve their energy efficiency and energy mix.

Calls for Pay as you Save loans to refurbish UK's housing stock

A recent report from the UK Green Building Council calls for the setting up of 'Pay as you Save' loans to enable householders to refurbish their homes to make them more energy efficient.

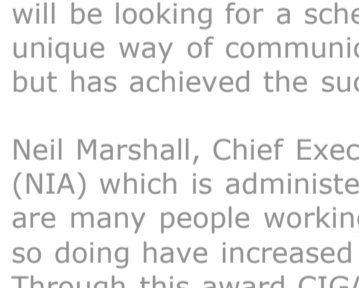
With 45% of emissions come from existing building stock, significant improvements in energy efficiency will be required if the UK is to meet the target of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

Under the proposed scheme, householders would be eligible for grants of up to £10,000 to upgrade their homes, with the repayments being spread out over a long period and collected by local authorities through the council tax system. The debt would even be passed from one householder to the next if the property is sold during the term of the loan.

Find out more here...

Source: Energy Efficiency News, 12/08/09

NHIC Innovative Insulation Award – Are you making a difference?



To recognise the efforts of organisations helping to ensure that the insulation message gets through to households across the UK, the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA) is searching for the most innovative project that has demonstrated a novel approach in successfully encouraging the take up of insulation measures.

The search is part of the annual National Home Improvement Council (NHIC) Awards: As sponsors of the Innovative Insulation Award, CIGA will be looking for a scheme or project which has not only found a unique way of communicating and explaining the benefits of insulation, but has achieved the successful uptake of insulation measures too.

Neil Marshall, Chief Executive of the National Insulation Association (NIA) which is administering the award on behalf of CIGA said: "There are many people working to explain the benefits to householders and in so doing have increased the demand for effective home insulation. Through this award CIGA aims to encourage the most innovative of these schemes as a message of encouragement to all involved."

In the past, local authorities across the UK have celebrated success at these awards. Last year's winner, Slough Borough Council, was presented with the award for its campaign to systematically insulate the homes of the Borough's private tenants, through adopting a street-by-street approach. Runners-up included Leeds City Council with its Fuel Savers Scheme, and Wolverhampton Borough Council with a campaign to insulate hard-to-treat properties.

Read more...

Source: NIA, 04/08/09

Bracknell Forest Council made a Big Difference

Bracknell Forest Council were inspired with an innovative idea; a way to make a difference during small change, big difference week, which ran from 13th-18th July. Residents were able to borrow electricity monitors from Great Hollands library to help cut energy use in their homes.

The Owl electricity monitors were launched during the week at the library in Great Hollands Square on Wednesday, July 15, and Friday, July 17. Library members were able to borrow them like books for up to three weeks.

How do the monitors work?

Once a sensor is easily and safely connected to the incoming mains cable near the electricity meter, it wirelessly transmits up the minute information on energy use to a display unit, which you can place anywhere in your home. It can show the cost of electricity use, greenhouse gas emissions and kilowatts used.

Residents were able to see how much energy they were using, from continuing use like fridges, freezers and alarm clocks; to occasional high energy usage such as kettles and the impact of other appliances like televisions, washing machines and lights.

The council is going to make Owls available in the autumn for residents to buy for their own use, and so this clever 'try before you buy' idea was an ideal way to introduce them before energy saving comes to the forefront of everyone's minds in the autumn.

Before the monitors were placed in libraries for the public to try, council staff tried them out, as Hazel Hill, sustainable energy officer, remarks:

"The Owl energy monitors are very good at highlighting what uses the most energy in your home. Why not monitor it with your usual electricity use in the first week, take steps to reduce it in the second week, and then see how much you have saved in the third week."

In anticipation of small change big difference week, Cllr Mrs Dorothy Hayes, executive member for the environment, said:

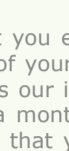
"If everyone in Bracknell Forest made a small change to their electricity use, it would make a big difference to the total amount of energy used here. The Owls are free to borrow, so please try one out and see how much electricity you could save."

Small Change Big Difference climate change week is run by the Local Government Association and is designed to help councils encourage residents to tackle climate change.

Bracknell Forest Council published its first climate change action plan last year, which includes plans to encourage a new from the community and local businesses. The council launched a new borough-wide partnership earlier this year to plan and implement the borough's response to climate change.

For more details, click [here](#) or call 01344 352536.

Source: Bracknell Forest Council, 29/07/09



enact news

We hope that you enjoyed the first issue of our revamped newsletter - it's our intention to bring you a monthly Carbon Capture, so that you receive only the most up to date information within the arena of energy efficiency!

Tesco Home Insulation Service

Tesco refer-a-friend mailings continue, as do store visits by assessors working with the Tesco scheme; intended to encourage close working relationships with store managers in anticipation of a busy autumn scheme promotion.

Double Clubcard points across Tesco also means those who install their cavity wall and loft insulation through the Tesco Home Insulation Service can take advantage of this additional benefit, just in time for the autumn, when many households will be planning to insulate their homes.

A blanket mail campaign of the Tesco scheme will be rolled out across selected areas of the UK, to remind households of the 'green' Tesco Service, that is the Tesco Home Insulation Service.

Heat Project

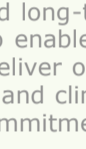
The Heat Project is gearing up for the autumn ahead, when as always the scheme comes into its prime as one of Britain's most established grant assisted loft and cavity wall insulation schemes, helping hundreds of homes across the UK save money and stay warm through green action.

Promotion of the scheme is currently being aided by Heat Project assessors self-generating work through identification of properties that may be suitable for insulation installation within areas that they are working.

A leaflet door-drop to these identified properties provides direction for the householder should he or she be interested in finding out more information or applying to the scheme.

Enact Australia

The Australian Green Project is going extremely well, with fulfillment of a major contract achieved a whole six months ahead of schedule - which is an abatement of 100,000 tonnes of carbon! Discussions also continue with new parties every day with regards to new contracts - an exciting time for the team down under, and the expanding business.



events

NEA Annual Conference 14th-16th September

Taking place this year at the University of Sussex in Brighton, the annual NEA conference entitled this year, 'Innovation and Change: A New direction for the Fuel Poverty Strategy' will examine the short and long-term changes needed to enable the Government to deliver on its fuel poverty and climate change commitments.

Enact's MD, Adrian Liddell, will in addition, be participating in a 'Dragon's Den' style feature at this year's conference in partnership with Lexin founder Aad de Ruiter, who has created a number of products based around the innovative and scientifically advanced Lexin infra-red technology, which could be of huge benefit within 'hard-to-treat' properties.

Tackling Climate Change Through Renewable Energy: Towards a Low Carbon Economy 24th September

This day conference will consider among other things, the role of the public sector in movement towards a low carbon economy, and will address in particular, the use of renewables in doing this.

The Green Apple Awards for Environmental Best Practice 17th November

The product of Enact and Tesco's partnership, the Tesco Home Insulation Service, has been awarded a Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice, for which an awards presentation will take place at the House of Commons this November.

The award also signifies the opportunity for Enact and Tesco to represent the UK in the European Business Awards for the Environment, as the Green Apple Awards is one of the few accredited feeder schemes into this international event.

Enact last won a Green Apple Award when they entered in 2004, and the company is thrilled to repeat this success five years later; an achievement which is truly demonstrative of Enact's consistent good practice and environmental commitment.

Small Change, Big Difference Week: 13th - 18th July

Thank you to all of you who let us know what your council did during this week, and what you are doing on a daily basis to combat climate change and help your residents reduce their carbon footprints. We hope this week was a huge success for all of you who took part.



headline links

[WBCSD project eyes 60% energy cut](#)
Source: Energy Efficiency News, 20/08/09

[UK invests £20 million in new materials for energy applications](#)
Source: Energy Efficiency News, 10/08/09

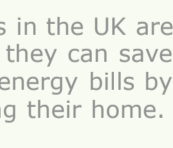
[UK government urged to move ahead with smart meter roll out](#)
Source: Energy Efficiency News, 04/08/09

[DECC figures show increase in UK renewable electricity](#)
Source: Energy Efficiency News, 04/08/09

[Time 'runs short' on climate deal](#)
Source: BBC News, 10/08/09

[UN chief in Arctic climate visit](#)
Source: BBC News, 01/09/09

[EU bans old-fashioned lightbulbs](#)
Source: BBC News, 01/09/09



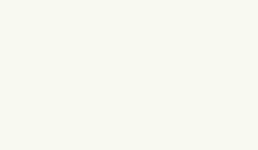
facts

...from the National Insulation Association (NIA)

2 out of 3 adults in the UK are unaware that around half a home's heat can be lost through the walls and roof of an uninsulated home.

4 in 5 adults in the UK are unaware that they can save over £250 in energy bills by insulating their home.

More than half the homes in the UK have insufficient levels of insulation.



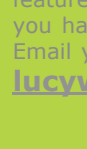
For more information on our services please call us on **0870 442 7601**
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On a lighter note...

Traffic lights get 'green' as bulbs energy saving light bulbs are to be installed at 3,500 traffic lights across London to reduce electricity consumption and carbon emissions.
[Read More...](#)

But Kent is already one step ahead! Kent's switch-over to low-energy traffic light bulbs is nearly finished according to the council.
[Read More...](#)



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