

Community Housing Cymru Group Written Evidence to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty in Wales

Introduction to Community Housing Cymru Group (CHC Group)

CHC Group is made up of Community Housing Cymru, Care & Repair Cymru and Crew Regeneration Wales, who came together to form a Group in 2010 to jointly champion not-for-profit housing, care and regeneration, effectively collaborating for communities. Community Housing Cymru (CHC) is the representative body for housing associations and community mutuals in Wales, which are all not-for-profit organisations. Our members work closely with local government, third sector organisations and the Welsh Government to provide a range of services in communities across Wales and ensure that the Welsh social housing movement is kept fully informed and represented.

CHC Group welcomes the opportunity to provide oral evidence on energy efficiency and fuel poverty on behalf of the sector at the Environment and Sustainability Committee in July 2014.

Examine progress towards meeting the Welsh Government's statutory targets for eradicating fuel poverty in Wales by 2018

1. The Welsh Government's set an ambitious statutory target in 2003 for eradicating fuel poverty in social housing by 2012 and in Wales by 2018. The Welsh Government as part of the Fuel Poverty Strategy 2010 launched a number of ambitious programmes to eradicate fuel poverty including Arbed and Nest.
 - 1.1 CHC Group and HAs in Wales were key strategic partners with the Welsh Government in the delivery of both Arbed phase 1 and 2. The Welsh Government raised £30m towards the delivery of Arbed phase 1 with an additional £32m from HAs own budgets and match funding from energy efficiency programmes. Arbed investment has enabled a large number of HA properties install with energy efficiency installations taking the number of tenants out of fuel poverty. The Welsh Government should be commended on its continued investment in energy efficiency programmes targeting fuel poverty in Wales.
 - 1.2 The Welsh Housing Quality Standard requires all social landlords to improve their housing stock to an acceptable level by 2020. As part of the standard, social housing providers are required to increase their energy SAP rating to 65 and above. As of 2013, 75 per cent of HA in Wales were compliant with the WHQS, including raising the SAP rating of its tenanted properties to 65 and above. Along with the WHQS, our members have specific long term targets to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock and reducing the fuel poverty of its tenants.
 - 1.3 Despite CHC Group and HA continued work in raising the quality of the energy efficiency of its housing stock through WHQS and Arbed and other energy efficiency programmes, tenants and householders remain or have become fuel poor. According to the Wales Fuel Poverty Projection Tool released in 2013, 31 percent of social housing tenants in Wales still lived in fuel poverty in 2012, equating to 70,000 households, a rise of 6 per cent from 2008 indicators. In 2012 30% of households and 33% of vulnerable households in Wales were estimated to be in fuel poverty. Tenants and older people are more vulnerable to fuel poverty as they are often on fixed income and often spend disproportionately more time in their homes.
 - 1.4 The rise in fuel poverty since 2008 has been affected as a result of a number of mitigating circumstances. Since 2008, tenants living in HA properties have been affected significantly by rising fuel bills, benefit changes and the bedroom tax. High energy prices in Wales are compounded by the energy inefficiency of Welsh housing and lack of access to mains gas in rural areas. Recent information from the National Housing Federation has identified that 26% of 'bedroom tax' claimants have cut back on heating to pay for the cut in housing benefit.
 - 1.5 Recently, the CHC Group on behalf of its members signed a Pact with the Welsh Government to deliver 10,000 new and affordable homes in Wales between 2011 and 2016. This will increase the number of affordable homes and improve the housing stock levels in Wales, enabling tenants and homeowners to move into new energy efficient homes.
 - 1.6 CHC Group is supportive of collective fuel switching and of Cyd Cymru's collective energy buying scheme. A number of HA's in Wales were partners in the scheme or signed up and a large number of tenants in Wales benefited by signing up to Cyd Cymru and will save money on future energy bills.
 - 1.7 CHC's Your Benefits Are Changing campaign (YBAC) involves over 70 organisations raising awareness of the welfare reform. CHC lead on the campaign using television, social media, newspapers and radio to raise

awareness. The preventative advice team at CHC supports the YBAC helpline where callers are given information and advice on changes and any possible solutions. The network of organisations involved in the campaign allows advisors to signpost to other supporting agencies if required. One area of success has been the identification of the Warm Home Discount. The number of callers currently claiming a qualifying benefit is 94% and therefore last year we successfully assisted over 800 people to claim a rebate which equates to an annual sum of £140,000. Of which 250 people have also been added to the priority services register.

- 1.8 HAs in Wales own approximately 150,000 homes. Our HA members have invested heavily into energy efficiency measures. Installing energy efficient improvements are the most sustainable way to reduce the risk of fuel poverty for any individual household by increasing the household's energy efficiency.
 - 1.8.1 Approximately 70% of tenants in Wales claim some kind of income support. Our members are proactive in supporting fuel poor tenants obtain their entitled benefits that relieves them of fuel poverty. Our members provide benefit advice, helping tenants secure warm home discounts and winter fuel payments. Our members also provide tenant fuel debt advice by supporting them, for example in negotiating re-payments of gas and electric debts with energy providers. Further evidence on fuel poverty by members is provided in Appendix 1.
- 1.9 Our members have developed and delivered a variety of successful energy efficiency and behavioural skills, events and projects supporting tenants at risk or in fuel poverty. There are a number of successful examples of projects run by HAs that educate tenants through targeted engagement programmes aimed at reducing fuel poverty and reducing energy consumption. A number of these projects have been successful in training and employing unemployed tenants to become energy advisors and mentors and install small scale energy efficiency improvements. These projects have had positive results in encouraging tenants to become energy efficient and highlighting fuel poverty, saving tenants money and changing their behaviour. Information about specific projects and support provided by HAs is provided in Appendix 2.
- 1.10 Many HAs members have responded to CHC Group to state that rural fuel poverty needs to be recognised and addressed specifically by the Welsh Government. The cost of living in rural areas is higher than in more densely populated areas. Tenants and homeowners living in rural areas are more likely to be in fuel poverty as they are required to pay more for energy, transport and food.
 - 1.10.1 Rural traditional HAs have a smaller number of stock and members have stated that this affects their ability to attract energy efficiency funding and energy inefficient housing stock. A number of our member's housing in rural areas is hard to treat with low SAP ratings.
 - 1.10.2 Many householders and tenants living in rural areas off gas areas do not have the choice on the type of fuel they can have in their properties and have to rely on costlier oil and LRG gas to heat their homes. The cost of oil and LPG gas is a problem for many tenants; it is harder to budget compared to gas and other heating systems. Rural HAs also have the highest proportion of homes off grid with higher energy costs. One HA in South West Wales has 451 off grid properties, amounting to 19% of its total stock.
- 1.11 Various member HAs working in rural areas are continually looking at new technology to address rural heating of new and existing houses and deal with tenants in rural fuel poverty.
- 1.12 Many tenants in Wales are on prepayment meters to pay for the gas and electricity bills. Many tenants have no option but to be put on prepayment meters, whilst others prefer them as it enables them to budget better. One HA based in the south Wales valleys estimates that approximately 70% of its tenants use prepayment meters. The benefit of having a prepayment meter is that it allows the tenant to budget the amount of electricity and gas that they use. However, prepayment meters are on the whole more expensive than a standard meter. For every £10 a tenant puts into a prepayment meter, approximately, £1 gets used before the tenants uses it. The most vulnerable and fuel poor tenants are likely to be on prepayment meters. CHC Group and HA members are concerned in the rise of prepayment meters in tenant homes.
- 1.13 Care & Repair agencies work with older people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and maximise income, to support people out of fuel poverty. Agencies are skilled in accessing all grants, charitable funds and fuel poverty schemes, locally and national and UK wide to support older people to live in warmer, more comfortable homes. In 2013/14 Care & Repair agencies provided over 1800 people with energy advice and assistance and over 1000 older people were supported with issues of damp and energy inefficient housing.
- 1.14 CHC Group and members in Wales have expert knowledge, experience and awareness of fuel poverty issues affecting tenants and householders across Wales and would like to work closely with the Welsh Government to develop new up to date fuel poverty strategies, action plans and initiatives.**
 - 1.14.1 CHC Group and members are keen to work with the Welsh Government to develop specific rural fuel poverty policies to support rural tenants and homeowners in fuel poverty.**

1.14.2 CHC Group and members are very concerned with the rise of prepayment meters in tenanted properties and are keen to work with the Welsh and UK Governments and energy suppliers to make prepayment meters cheaper for tenants and develop alternative forms of gas and electric payment for fuel poor tenants and homeowners.

To consider the impact of the Welsh Government's existing energy efficiency programmes (Nest and Arbed) and UK Government initiatives such as the Green Deal.

2. HA members have taken advantage of all energy efficiency programmes to improve its housing stock. The impact of energy efficiency programmes on HAs and its tenants is provided in Appendix 3.
- 2.1 Arbed has had a significant impact on improving the HA housing stock and has supported a large number of tenants out of fuel poverty. The Welsh Government has benefited from having Melin Homes as one of its scheme managers. Melin Homes has calculated that for every £1 invested through Arbed phase 2, £2 goes back into the community.
- 2.2 CHC Group and its members played a significant role in the delivery and have been instrumental in the success of the Arbed programme in Wales. HAs in Wales were a key strategic partner in the delivery of Arbed phase 1, which was targeted mainly (though not exclusively) at the social housing sector in Wales. HAs in Wales successfully delivered phase 1 on behalf of the Welsh Government using its own local suppliers and Welsh based installers sourced from their Welsh HA supply chain and installer network.
 - 2.2.1 Given only a relatively short timeframe; HAs across Wales were successful in delivering Arbed phase 1 on behalf of the Welsh Government, leveraging an additional £32m from HAs own budgets and match funding from Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) to reduce the cost of installing energy efficiency measures in tenanted and homeowner properties.
 - 2.2.1 Arbed phase 1 model was successful in targeting the householders and areas most in need and in fuel poverty. Using local suppliers and installers kept money in Wales. HAs and homeowners benefited significantly from investment in the installation of a mix of energy efficient measures including solid wall insulation, solar PV, new boilers, communal solar thermal systems and other technologies through Arbed phase 1 funding. As a direct result, the majority of properties improved from EPC rating F to a C, raising a number of tenant and homeowner beneficiaries out of fuel poverty.
- 2.3 Arbed phase 2 was delivered differently to Arbed phase 1; focusing on the private rented/owner occupied sector and led by local authorities. Local authorities were required to work with HAs and other partners to develop their bids. The delivery mechanism for Arbed phase 2, targeting homeowner properties over HA owned properties and being led by local authority has meant that less HA energy inefficient properties have been supported in this phase. While we recognise that Arbed is a programme which should apply cross tenure we believe that the change in the application process from Arbed phase 1 and 2 has led to a patchy approach which is too dependent on local government priorities and processes. In some areas good partnership bids are developed, but in others, some HAs have not been involved in bids for funding. Various HAs have indicated issues with the delivery of Arbed phase 2 in particular in North Wales, including communication issues and using the local supply chain, one of the main aims of Arbed.
- 2.4 Care & Repair Cymru have set up a social business to work with an energy company/ECO provider to support them in providing measures, funded under ECO. With Care and Repair's experience of working closely with older people, they are in a great position to support and identify older home owners entitled to ECO through the process and help to lift them out of fuel poverty.
- 2.5 Care & Repair agencies utilise the Nest Portal system, in order to refer clients directly to the scheme, whilst visiting the client in their own homes. The Nest partnership with Care & Repair ensures that the scheme is made accessible to vulnerable older people, living in their own homes. There has been concern over certain aspects of Nest, for example its eligibility criteria, the type of measures funded and the application process, however, most recipients that Care & Repair have spoken to have reported that NEST has allowed them to live in a more fuel efficient home, reduced their fuel bills and improved their wellbeing.
- 2.6 Members have utilised CERT and CESP funding through energy suppliers to install and replace old inefficient G rated boilers, top up loft insulation and install solid and cavity wall insulation and other measures. These measures have greatly benefited tenants and energy efficiency of HA housing stock.
- 2.7 HAs have also benefited from the UK Government's Feed in Tariff and the Renewable Heat Incentive. HAs have invested heavily in electricity and thermal technologies to improve the energy efficiency of its tenants homes across Wales. Through investing in solar PV and solar thermal and other technologies, tenants receive

reduced energy or heating bills and HAs receive the FIT tariff payments. Investment in solar PV and thermal is a big investment for HAs. Early adaptors were able to benefit financially from tariffs, however, due to tariff digression and other factors, the investment in alternative energy and heating sources is less financially attractive than in previous years. HAs continues to invest in alternative heating and electricity technologies as it is a low-risk; long-term sustainable investment and tenants reduced bills.

- 2.8 CHC Group and members are keen to work with the Welsh Government to ensure that they take full advantage of the next phase of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to utilise investment opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Wales.**
- 2.9. CHC Group and members believe that the Welsh Government needs to continue developing energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes that improve the energy efficiency of tenanted and homeowner properties in Wales and raise more people out of fuel poverty. CHC welcomes the opportunity to discuss the future delivery, design of new energy efficiency programmes.**
- 2.9.1 CHC Group believes that HAs in Wales are best placed to lead and deliver future Welsh Government energy efficiency programmes. HAs in Wales have shown in their delivery of Arbed phase 1 their flexibility in developing and running successful energy efficiency schemes. They also have valuable knowledge, skills and experience of installing and dealing with hard to treat properties in Wales.**
- 2.9.2 CHC Group and its members also wish to work with the Welsh Government to develop a targeted energy efficiency programme targeting rural off gas areas.**

To review the implementation to date by the major energy suppliers of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and other measures to alleviate fuel poverty in Wales.

3. A number of HAs in Wales have obtained ECO funding to improve its hard to treat housing stock since its introduction in January 2013. Between January 2013 and December 2013, they were successful in obtaining funding from energy providers to install energy efficiency measures in its low income tenants living in 'hard-to-treat' properties. Evidence of how ECO has impacted HAs in Wales can be found in Appendix 4.
- 3.1 CHC Group welcomed the additional Arbed match funding support in early 2013 by the Welsh Government to attract early ECO energy efficiency money into Wales. This early funding allowed HAs to take advantage of ECO funding to improve and target it's hard to treat properties in Wales. In the future however, CHC Group and HAs agree that the Welsh Government needs to work closer with the sector when considering releasing funding under Arbed or other funding streams. The Welsh Government release of funding needs to be planned, allowing HAs time to consult and develop effective energy efficiency projects. CHC welcome discussions on this matter.
- 3.2 The UK Government's autumn budget announced plans to reduce the solid wall insulation target for 2017 to only 100,000 properties and cut funding to its main programme, Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) has had a huge impact on HAs in Wales. As a consequence of UK Government changes, a number of energy companies withdrew their ECO funding offers. Changes to ECO targets and the withdrawal of ECO offers from energy companies have hit HAs who were reliant on ECO funding to improve its hard to treat housing stock.
- 3.3 Uncertainty in income arising from the recent changes to ECO has meant that HAs have been unable to plan ahead their energy efficiency and maintenance programmes to treat their hard to treat housing stock. As a consequence to changes, more tenants across Wales could remain in fuel poverty and live in hard to treat homes.
- 3.4 **CHC Group believe that UK Government should consider putting a regional target or quota on the number of solid wall properties an energy supplier must target, especially as the target for installing solid wall insulation will be severely cut. The Welsh Government should put pressure on the UK Government to create a regional target on the number of solid wall properties an energy supplier must target in Wales.**
- 3.4.1 **CHC Group is supportive of the role the Welsh Government is doing to maximise ECO in Wales. CHC Group represented the HA sector on the Maximising ECO Core Working Group and welcomes the Welsh Government's £70m commitment to encourage energy companies to invest in energy efficiency projects and maximise ECO investment in Wales. The Welsh Government needs to ensure that local authorities discuss and include HAs and their properties when developing or coordinating their maximising ECO bids in their communities in Wales.**

Appendix 1 - Evidence from HAs on fuel poverty

Pembrokeshire Housing Association

Pembrokeshire HA stated that rural associations whilst having smaller numbers of stock are generally faced with dealing with the challenge of a high proportion of homes off-grid with higher energy costs, and therefore greater fuel poverty. Tenants are faced with poor or no public transport links, forcing those tenants to have to pay for private means of transport, making them poorer still. This has not been recognised by previous funding initiatives.

Tai Ceredigion

Tai Ceredigion will soon be looking into the proportion of its tenants who fall into the category of fuel poverty so that it can focus its activities even more effectively.

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association

Merthyr Tydfil HA is in the process of canvassing all tenants on their gas and electricity use in order to produce an overview of fuel poverty amongst tenants.

Off gas properties

Pembrokeshire HA has a total stock of 2339. The total off grid is 451, amounting to 19% of its stock. Off grid property stock includes, 200 with electricity only, 65 LPG gas, 185 with oil and 1 solid fuel.

Appendix 2 - Projects and support by HAs to support tenants in fuel poverty

Here is evidence of support and successful projects led by HAs in Wales to support tenants in fuel poverty.

Tai Eryri (Now part of Grwp Cynefin)

Tai Eryri in partnership with Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd delivers its successful *Energy Wardens* scheme. The *Energy Wardens* scheme has invested in the recruitment of local people to become fully trained energy wardens. These wardens visit tenants in allocated areas and give advice and support as required.

Below are the results of latest scheme;

- The refurbished recently started at the end of September 2013. 6 unemployed people were employed as Energy Wardens in three wards.
- Altogether, 27 events and consultation sessions have been held across the three wards.
- Over 1,900 marketing materials and consultation literature has been distributed within the 2 wards during the phase
- A total of 106 installations were carried out including installing energy efficient light bulbs, heat reflector radiator foil and draft excluders.
- In total there have been 61 applications 'Warm Home Discount' has been introduced with a value of £ 8,175.
- 5 of the Energy Wardens have been given an additional six-month extension of employment. 1 Energy Warden left due to health and personal problems.
- Since the start of the current phase in September 2013 there has been a CO2 saving of 171,600 kg in the 3 wards (calculated using Energy Saving Trust and Directgov data).

The Energy Wardens project developed an extensive training package which enabled:

- 6 wardens to successfully complete 'introduction to energy efficiency' City + Guilds level 1
- 5 attended Fuel Debt Advice course by NEA
- 5 completed a course essential skills (ADT)
- 5 were successful in achieving the awareness of energy and 6876/6176 City + Guilds level 3 qualification
- 7 received training in health and safety and fire safety.

Charter Housing (Seren Group)

The *Money saver project* provides support and advice to tenants and their families on how to save money on their energy bills by advising them on energy usage and helping them to switch to lower cost tariffs. They run Money saver road shows which include a large element of energy advice including how to search for deals online.

Below are the results of scheme;

- Money savers promoted the Warm Home Discount scheme after identifying all eligible tenants and offering assistance in applying this resulted in over £50,000 worth of energy credit gained for over 400 tenants in 3 years of the scheme.
- Money savers are also working in partnership with SWALEC smart services team to provide specialist, home-energy assessments and advice as well as drop in/advice surgeries.

The *Radiate* project was developed and implemented by Charter Housing, initially working in Monmouthshire County Council, later joined by Bron Afon in Torfaen and Caerphilly. The project was funded by Charter, Monmouth County Council, Bron Afon and Engagement Gateway. The project works with young people to develop their skills and employability the youngsters install energy efficiency measures in people's homes and provide them with energy saving advice.

Below are the results of scheme;

- *Radiate* has installed energy efficiency measures in 176 homes and given energy advice to tenants, given an average monetary saving of £186 per household, totalling £19,530 over the course of the project so far.
- *Radiate* has also trained 46 young people to fit the energy measures, so far. 35 have gained qualifications i.e. 25 achieved NOCN level 2 in teamwork skills, 23 achieved NOCN Entry 3 in Skills for employment. 21 have gone on to other training schemes and 5 have gone into full time employment, 9 into volunteering.

Pennaf Housing

Pennaf has delivered Energy Best Deal training over a number of years to residents who are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty: In the past it has delivered to sheltered housing and supported living project residents. This year it was successful in securing funding to run two Energy Best Deal sessions, which it delivered at its Residents Conference in October 2013. Energy Best Deal training aims to make people aware of the savings that can be made by switching or negotiating with fuel providers, it provides information about help available for people struggling to pay their gas and electricity bills and advice on using less energy in the home.

Family Housing Association

Family Housing provides support to tenants in or at risk of fuel poverty. This year, it has supported over 60 tenants to secure warm home discounts totalling over £8,200, it has sign-posted tenants to energy suppliers to ensure they are on the correct tariff and helped tenants re-negotiate payments of gas and electric debts. It has also produced a number of leaflets and booklets produced including Home Heating Helpline, Energy Checker and Insulate to Save.

Linc Cymru

Linc Cymru visit tenants who are paying excessive amounts for their energy as they are trapped on a pre-payment method and support them with energy efficiency, behavioural and budgeting skills.

Linc Cymru also provides energy advice and aims to identify tenants who qualify for 'warm home discount' payments. It has a relationship with SWALEC, whereby it refers tenants via SWALEC Smart Services. Around 25% of tenants visited qualified for the Warm Home Discount payment. Around 10% of people seen are in fuel poverty.

Tai Ceredigion

Tai Ceredigion offers support to households in fuel poverty through two Financial Inclusion Officers, a Community Inclusion Officer and an Energy Efficiency Advisor. These ensure that tenants are in receipt of all benefits payments to which they are entitled (including any concessions from energy suppliers), to help tenants understand domestic energy usage, to understand energy billing, tariffs and energy plans, to facilitate changes in energy behaviour, to provide detailed monitoring of energy usage on a per-home or even per-appliance basis to help prevent wastage. It provides a series of events throughout the calendar year which include assistance for those individuals categorised as fuel poor.

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association

All new Merthyr Tydfil HA tenants receive a visit from its maintenance team member in order to ensure that they fully understand the heating system which is fitted in their home and how to most efficiently use it. All tenants who believe they are paying too much for their energy are supported to change supplier, receive discounts or alter habits to assist alleviate the situation including offering access to digital means in tenants homes. Merthyr Tydfil HA provides assistance in applying for warm home discount including offering digital opportunities to apply in tenants homes. 30 tenants assisted to apply for warm home discount this year as well as those from previous years who are continuing to apply.

Appendix 3 - Impact of energy efficiency programmes on HAs and its tenants

Here is evidence from HAs across Wales on how they have secured funding from Arbed, CERT, CESP, FIT and RHI.

Arbed phase1

Linc Housing

Linc benefited from Arbed phase 1 funding, receiving funding towards increasing solid wall insulation and solar hot water panels to 150 of Linc's properties.

Charter Housing

Charter Housing secured £1.6m of Arbed 1 funding to upgrade properties across tenure types in Markham, Caerphilly. The project involved the installation of 269 energy saving measures to 197 properties. In addition, £240k of top up CESP was obtained for work to Charter properties. A similar amount was also secured for the private and local authority owned properties.

Pennaf

Pennaf received £160,000 Arbed phase 1 funding to install solid wall and cavity wall insulation and new windows and boilers. Pennaf received £60,000 CESP funding towards the £350,000 total cost of the project.

Pennaf also received £140,000 Arbed phase 1 under spend funding to install more solid wall and cavity wall insulation and boilers. Pennaf received an additional £378,000 CESP funding towards the £700,000 cost of the project.

Newydd

Newydd received Arbed phase 1 funding to install 35 properties with solid wall insulation, 99 properties with solar PV panels and 34 properties benefitted from communal solar thermal systems.

Arbed phase 2

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd

Under Arbed phase 2, Gwynedd County Council received funding to install mains gas in the village of Nantlle. 16 Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd properties benefitted from new gas central heating.

Charter Housing

Charter Housing accessed £63,259 Arbed 2 funding supporting an £110,000 project to install external wall insulation to 19 non-traditional properties in Newport. Resulting in a potential saving of 19.46 tonnes of CO2 omissions and an estimated annual saving of £3,417 to our tenants heating bills year on year.

Linc Cymru

Arbed phase 2 had only a marginal effect on improving the energy efficiency of Linc Cymru's housing stock due to the small number of Linc properties included.

NEST

Tai Ceredigion

Tai Ceredigion thinks that the Welsh Government has made good progress towards tackling fuel poverty in Ceredigion, especially directly to householders through the NEST scheme. Ceredigion County Council have pioneered Cymdogion Cynnes, a scheme to promote awareness of fuel poverty and energy issues, assist those who are affected and to signpost to other organisations and programmes of which NEST is an important part.

CERT and CESP

Charter Housing

Since 2006 Charter Housing received in excess of £1.6million in CERT and CESP funding resulting in total potential savings of 858 tonnes of CO2 omissions and total possible annual savings of £181,721 for the tenants living in the homes upgraded.

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd received almost £500,000 funding in total through CERT to install solid wall, cavity and loft insulation and 'A' rated boilers in a number of its properties.

Tai Ceredigion

CESP funding enabled Tai Ceredigion to install external wall insulation to 65 homes and replaced over 100 heating systems.

Newydd

Newydd received CERT funding to install loft and/or cavity wall insulation to all properties where required across its housing stock. They also received partial funding for four properties to have their economy seven electric heating replaced with air source heat pumps.

Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd

Having installed Photovoltaic (solar) panels on the roofs of 18 properties on a 2 year trial basis, the results have shown that the electricity generated by the panels is saving residents around £50 per year, enough to cover the electricity requirements of appliances but not their heating needs.

Pennaf

Pennaf have installed over 500 solar PV installations on a number of houses, Extra-Care, Hostel and office buildings. It has invested over £3.3M in solar PV which has allowed its residents to benefit from reduced electricity bills. Pennaf has been able to obtain the "Feed in Tariff" to pay for the installation.

United Welsh

Over the last 5 years United Welsh have installed PV systems to 975 of our properties (this represents 23% of our total stock), over 700 were installed by utilising the FIT system as United Welsh borrowed the money commercially to improve the housing stock.

For the properties which have received energy efficiency enhancements, the average SAP score has increased from 69.52 in May 2010 to 80.97 in May 2014.

In 2013 there was a total 1,212,831.37 KWH generated by the PV systems on UWHA properties. If the OFGEM suggested assumption is made that our tenants used 50% of this energy (and using an energy price of 16.5p per KWH) the energy savings from its solar PV programme alone is more than £100,000 per annum.

United Welsh have since circulated leaflets to its tenants advising them how to get the most from their PV systems so that they can benefit from a bigger proportion of the energy produced.

Appendix 4 - Impact of ECO on HAs in Wales

Pennaf

Pennaf received £80,000 ECO funding towards the costs of installing solid and internal wall insulation on 29 Homes.

Charter Housing

Charter Housing received £62k of Energy Company ECO pilot funding which installed enabled Charter to install external wall insulation to 14 flats, resulting in an estimated annual saving of £2,100 to our tenant's heating bills year on year.

They received ECO funding from British Gas to support Arbed 2 project but funding was cut before the end of the project due to changes in the energy company's commitment.

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd

Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd had provisionally secured over £800,000 ECO funding via British Gas. However, even though contracts were signed, British Gas withdrew their offer due to changes to ECO. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd is now in the process of conducting talks with the various energy suppliers to secure new funding under the revised ECO agreement.

NPT Homes

They have been developing a scheme to pilot an ECO project in preparation to fund a further 2000 over the next 3 years. They have collected different information for various energy providers, but have yet to receive funding. It continues to meet with energy companies but still have not secured a single offer.

Linc Cymru

Linc Cymru have not benefited from ECO or Green Deal funding.

Tai Ceredigion

Tai Ceredigion has taken advantage of ECO by working with SSE to apply external wall insulation to over 500 homes; they are currently just over half way through this programme.