

## Chapter 13: Key Partners and Responsibilities

### Summary

- **Achieving our ambitious energy efficiency targets will require action from across society, including central and local government, business and industry, communities and individuals.**
- **The public sector is well placed to lead on energy efficiency and to consider it in all its policies, programmes, legislation and on its own estate.**
- **Companies should recognise the business sense of energy efficiency and can also influence their supply chain, as well as the behaviour of consumers, through choosing to use or sell more energy efficient goods.**
- **Communities and the third sector should take advantage of energy saving measures in the projects they implement and can also raise awareness of energy efficiency among individuals.**
- **Individuals should play their part in meeting targets by taking advantage of government incentives and adopting more energy efficient behaviour.**

### Overview

13.1 Taking action, and doing so quickly, is a social, environmental and economic imperative. The impacts of climate change will cause suffering to millions throughout the world. This is just one of the reasons why the Scottish Parliament has set such ambitious emissions targets and why we need equivalent ambitious energy efficiency targets. We cannot simply carry on with business as usual.

13.2 In order to meet these targets, it will not be enough for one type of organisation to act alone. Central and local government, including its agencies, business and industry, households and individuals all need to act. As Ian Marchant, CEO of Scottish and Southern Energy, has stated:

The responsibility for delivery should be shared by every one of us.... Government has its roles and responsibilities of course, but so do businesses, and every single individual.<sup>219</sup>

13.3 We want to ensure that every household, community, public body and business is aware of its energy use, takes responsibility for its actions, and strives to make Scotland a leader in this area. Chapter 5 has emphasised the importance of individuals changing their attitudes and behaviours. Chapters 6 and 7 have highlighted the importance of owners, landlords and occupiers improving the housing stock and how it is used. Chapters 8 and 9 have discussed how businesses and the public sector can improve the energy efficiency of their operations, and Chapter 12 has outlined some of the business opportunities available and how the skills sector and individuals need to ensure that we are equipped to take advantage of these. Chapter 11 has outlined the action required in the field of transport.

13.4 Some of the activity required is the responsibility of individuals or groups, and some of it is about enabling (see Chapter 10, which discusses cross-cutting infrastructure). Individual actions will make a difference, helping us across the range of our objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve business competitiveness, reduce fuel poverty, and reduce the cost of delivering public services. However, Scottish Government and its agencies, local councils and businesses have just as important a role in enabling individual householders and firms to make the right decisions. This chapter outlines some of the key

---

<sup>219</sup> Ian Marchant, 'Let's lead the push to get 42% cuts by 2020', *The Scotsman*, 18 June, p. 30.

areas to be considered by each of these types of organisation in the short term. There is also a role for these organisations to be aware of and emulate what others are doing in this area.

## **Public Sector**

13.5 Key considerations for different parts of the public sector are identified below. However, all public sector organisations need to be aware that the Climate Change (Scotland) Act introduces a new duty for public bodies that requires them, when exercising their functions, to act in a way that contributes to the delivery of the emission reduction targets set out in Part 1 of the Act, and also to act in a way that they consider is most sustainable.

### The Scottish Government

13.6 Central government is well placed to take a strategic overview of what action is needed on energy efficiency and who should lead in this. The core purpose of the Scottish Government is to promote higher levels of sustainable growth. It is crucial that legislation, programmes and policies aimed at increasing energy efficiency complement this overarching aim.

13.7 The Scottish Government's key responsibilities relating to energy efficiency will be:

- to provide leadership through development and implementation of an Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Scotland;
- for every part of government to help drive down energy consumption, and to spread the message with reference to its own area of operations;
- to develop a consistent methodology to be used across the Scottish Government and its agencies for assessing the impact of policies and programmes on greenhouse gas emissions and end-use energy consumption, ensuring this is used where any proposal could have a significant impact on emissions over its lifetime;
- to implement regulation to increase energy efficiency and keep under review the need for further regulation;
- to undertake an ongoing review of emerging energy efficiency opportunities and technologies, and an ongoing appraisal of policy options;
- to report annually on the Action Plan to the Scottish Parliament, providing further updates, as appropriate, on policies and programmes to drive uptake of energy efficiency;
- to lead by example when procuring buildings and goods, taking account of energy use over the whole-life cycle of goods and services and not just the upfront cost;
- to engage key stakeholders who can help the Scottish Government to deliver its energy efficiency aims, such as local government, environmental agencies and trade bodies; and
- to encourage both the public and private sector to factor energy efficiency into decision making in all relevant professions. This includes, but is not limited to: traditional trades, designers, architects, regeneration specialists, building standards officers, facilities managers, procurement officials and local authority councillors.

### Local authorities and COSLA

13.8 Local councils in Scotland can, through the delivery of their services, have a significant impact on energy efficiency. Further, through their leadership of Community Planning Partnerships, local actions on energy usage can be delivered through the Single Outcome Agreements. As an example, East Lothian community planning partnership has

set its local contribution to National Outcome 14 ('We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production') as 'East Lothian will be a less resource intensive, oil dependent county, by reducing its ecological and carbon footprints by 80% by 2050.'<sup>220</sup>

13.9 Councils will play a key leadership role as representatives of the people. Scottish local authorities have a strong history of public engagement on sustainability issues, such as successful increases in recycling rates. Given that their services often involve the face-to-face public contact, which central government more generally does not, they are also well placed to influence the energy consumption behaviour of individuals.

13.10 Areas in which local authorities can positively impact on energy efficiency include:

- procurement of goods, services and buildings; facilities management; and asset management for a Council's sizable estate;
- utilising purchasing power to help bring down the cost of energy efficient goods for the wider community, e.g. buying a critical mass that enables prices to reduce for everybody and more local companies to become involved in production;
- examining options for acting as an anchor heat load for efficient CHP and district heating systems;
- seeking increased efficiency for street lighting;
- ensuring that local planning policies, development of strategic and local development plans and interpretations of national planning policies take energy efficiency into account;
- enforcing building regulations to maximise the contribution made by energy standards;
- enforcing Energy Performance Certificates for domestic and non-domestic buildings;
- through local housing strategies, using any influencing role or ownership of social housing to drive improvement;
- through Trading Standards units, ensuring that energy-using products are not inaccurately sold as more energy efficient than they actually are;
- briefing Council-funded advisory organisations on energy efficiency advice to pass on to their customers (e.g. Citizens Advice Bureaux, Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland);
- providing advice to local businesses through services such as the Business Gateway;
- where providing social support through housing, furniture or services, ensuring these are to high energy efficiency standards;
- working with schools in implementing the sustainable development aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence; and
- helping create Energy Services Companies (ESCOs).

13.11 Through its representation of local authorities, COSLA will play a key role in taking forward the energy efficiency agenda. COSLA should help deliver a common agenda where possible to help councils achieve greater energy efficiency, while ensuring that central government takes account of the various drivers across different parts of Scotland (e.g. varying levels of fuel poverty) and the potential need for specific local energy saving policies to address this disparity. Officer groups such as the Scottish Energy Officers Network, the Sustainable Scotland Network and the Scottish HECA Officers Network also play a role.

### NHSScotland

13.12 Chapter 9 (public sector) has already referred to the significant progress which the NHS has made in reducing energy consumption on its own estate over a number of years.

---

<sup>220</sup> East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement, 2009 ([www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/Final2009SOA.pdf](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/Final2009SOA.pdf)).

While this will continue to be of major importance, the NHS can help drive energy efficiency improvements in several other ways, including:

- spreading energy efficiency messages through Community Health Partnerships, engaging with local communities to encourage uptake of energy saving measures, thereby helping to reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions of those in poorly heated homes;
- drawing on the large anchor heat load of many of its buildings to drive development of efficient CHP and district heating systems;
- identifying opportunities for the installation of biomass and ground or air source heat pumps;
- identifying the fuel poor through front-line services and referring them on to relevant energy efficiency programmes; and
- as a major employer, NHSScotland can help drive cultural change through the dissemination of energy saving messages through its staff base.

#### Government agencies and public bodies

13.13 It will be necessary to work with individual government agencies in specific areas. For example:

- **Scottish Enterprise** and **Highlands and Islands Enterprise** should help ensure businesses are aware of regulatory requirements and the potential to save money through energy efficiency. The enterprise agencies also provide business support activity to help new businesses in this area.
- The **Scottish Environment Protection Agency** (SEPA) enforces the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations. This covers many plants, including industrial installations, and requires, as a minimum, basic energy efficiency improvements. SEPA is therefore a potential source of improved energy consumption data.
- **Skills Development Scotland**, together with its partners such as the Sector Skills Councils, should seek both to identify the growing requirements for energy efficiency skills and gear up training provision to ensure that relevant industries are adequately equipped for increasing demand for energy efficiency measures.
- **Historic Scotland** will provide guidance on improving energy efficiency in traditional and historic buildings, recognising the need to consider innovative measures as energy efficiency targets become increasingly challenging.
- **Transport Scotland** should work to ensure that, in funding and specifying the Scottish rail network, maintaining and operating the motorway and trunk road network and delivering new transport infrastructure, they take into account climate change and energy efficiency objectives and work with public and private sector partners to promote this approach.

#### **Business**

13.14 Given the high fuel costs for large companies and the marginal profits under which SMEs often operate, energy efficiency makes good business sense through the financial savings it achieves. Businesses are therefore well placed to lead a shift in attitudes such that energy efficiency behaviour becomes standard rather than exemplary. Through their choice of suppliers, product specifications and the product ranges they offer to their customers, businesses also have a significant impact on the energy used by others.

13.15 Areas where businesses and trade bodies should improve energy performance or can influence others to do the same include:

- Retailers' degree of control over customer choice: In stocking the most efficient energy using products, they can positively impact on the products that consumers use and manufacturers choose to produce.
- Procuring energy efficient buildings, goods and services.
- Considering energy efficiency when undertaking financial planning.
- Including energy efficiency within Corporate Social Responsibility strategies.
- Trade bodies helping to ensure that members understand and comply with energy efficiency regulation.
- Businesses being encouraged, and encouraging each other, to capitalise on incentive schemes which help them to save energy (e.g. Energy Saving Scotland small business loans, Enhanced Capital Allowances).
- Being alert to, and taking advantage of, new materials and processes coming out of research and development; engaging in networks and develop partnerships where this adds value (e.g. between different component manufacturers); seizing the opportunities to provide new energy efficiency products/services together.
- Insulation installers should be encouraged to come up with solutions for hard-to-treat buildings, to help achieve targets and sustain local employment.

### **Communities and the Third Sector**

13.16 A variety of community groups – from religious organisations to island communities - have become more involved in the climate change agenda in recent years. It will therefore be vital to engage with communities to establish energy efficiency at the forefront of their climate change considerations.

13.17 For example, the Church of Scotland has established the “Responding to Climate Change” project which encourages churches to reduce their carbon footprint and provides advice on ways to take action, such as through the Scottish Government’s Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). The CCF encourages communities to take forward solutions which make significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with energy efficiency a key component in many projects. As well as improving their own energy performance, community groups such as those supported by the CCF will play a key role in spreading the word and sharing practical know-how throughout the wider community that energy efficiency reduces emissions and saves money.

13.18 The Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC), the national representative body for community councils in Scotland, advises that a number of such organisations operate sustainable energy projects either directly or in participation with local partners. The ASCC is therefore another potential avenue to encourage the implementation of energy saving policies and projects at a community level.

13.19 The third sector has an important role to play in encouraging energy efficiency, given that it often focuses on social and environmental issues. Through its communications to members it can play a significant role influencing behaviour and attitudes. The sector can also draw on Scottish Government funding programmes such as the Scottish Investment Fund, the Third Sector Enterprise Fund and the Social Entrepreneurs Fund, the latter of which is aimed at individuals who want to set up a business with a social or environmental purpose. This kind of support can help place energy conservation as a key consideration in social enterprises.

### **Householders and Individuals**

13.20 Chapter 5 has discussed the need to raise awareness and encourage informed public debate about the environmental and energy impact of the goods and services that

consumers buy, including their production, transportation and eventual disposal. Scotland's energy efficiency targets are significant, and individuals must play their part to meet them. If the current policy of providing incentives is not successful, the main alternative might be for the Scottish Government to impose greater regulation. The UK Government may also consider greater financial penalties and incentives through taxation and fiscal policies.

**Q 61: Is this a fair balance of activity across society?**

**Q 62: Are there other partners who should share responsibility for delivering energy efficiency improvements?**