

ALEO Awards 2017

The annual awards of the Association of Local Energy Officers
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North West

Winner: Debbie King
Lancashire County Council
Collected by: Hazel Hill

Debbie was instrumental in bringing together the Lancashire HECA Officers back in 2006 to form the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group (LHEOG). Throughout this time she has kept the group motivated and enthusiastic, organising meetings every six weeks to discuss energy efficiency initiatives and to listen to guest speakers from the Energy Sector.

In the last 12 months, through a combination of passion and determination, Debbie has been able to secure £1m funding from Lancashire County Council's 'Green Energy Fund' to run Affordable Warmth projects across Lancashire which has allowed additional matched funding to be secured.

Also commended: Chris Birkett of St Helens Council

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South East

Winner: Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP)

Collected by: Dipna Pattni

Excellent teamwork, commitment and dedication led to “Delivering Affordable Warmth – A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent” being implemented. A workshop for stakeholders has been planned, delivered and we now have an outcomes report collated and agreed. Task groups of members working on different strands of the strategy for the benefit of all are well underway. KEEP continue to build on the success of the strategy nurturing new partnerships, looking at new ways to reach vulnerable residents effectively and applying for funding. We must not underestimate this achievement with twelve districts, one county council, seven CCGs and numerous other interested parties.

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South West

Winner: Alan Plumridge

Alan displayed professionalism and enthusiasm in project managing Bournemouth's Local Energy Advice Programme - a pilot project of Agility Survey Ltd. with national roll-out depending on its success. Bournemouth was one of eight trials and Ridgewater Energy Ltd worked with the Council to achieve 350 surveys. The expertise of Alan's team delivered assistance to over 440 households and resulted in a total of £313,444 saved on energy bills and increased client benefits. The scheme ran for six months from February 2017 and the success of the Bournemouth pilot helped pave the way for the next phase in over 50 areas.

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London

Winner: Rory Prendergast London Borough of Hounslow

Collected by: Alex Gerard

Groundwork London's WARMTH project delivered 2,600 visits in 11 London boroughs between 2016 and 2017. The personal dedication of Rory Prendergast from Hounslow Council was an important factor in the overall success of the programme, contributing over 900 home visits in the borough that delivered a range of benefits to highly vulnerable households. In particular Rory helped facilitate strong participation from Hounslow's public health team with high numbers of referrals from GPs and other front line health professionals. Key to this was Rory's engagement with all three Directors of Public Health. His commitment demonstrates the benefits of strong local networks.

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East

Winner: Wendy Bixby Colchester Borough Council

Wendy developed the Council's first Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). The ESS won regional and countywide awards for successful delivery of priorities, to reduce the environmental impact from Council buildings, services and operations and build resilient communities.

Wendy manages carbon reduction work which resulted in a 55% carbon emissions reduction from its 2008 baseline year; she raises awareness through an annual sustainability event bringing in regional and national speakers to support staff, and key sectors including other Councils and manages 30 local community partnerships to support projects including conservation, energy switching, sustainable travel, rural training, local food buying and reuse/recycling initiatives.

Runner up: Matt Hullis – Suffolk County Council

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West Midlands

Winner: whg's Energy Team

Collected by: Thomas Store

whg developed a comprehensive fuel poverty service for residents. In 2017:

- Secured external funding from Big Energy Savings Network and WPD
- Over 1000 households contacted
- Provided support to over 500 customers
- Installed 246 power outage devices to protect vulnerable customers in the event of a power failure
- Put 266 customers on Priority Service Register
- Claimed 117 unclaimed Warm Homes Discounts (saving £16,380)
- Helped 65 customers switch to cheaper energy tariffs (saving £6,274)
- Gifted 217 high quality LED lightbulbs (saving £651)
- Distributed 180 Warm and well packs
- 60 customers on a water meter or apply for social tariff (saving £2272)

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East Midlands

Winner: Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription

Collected by: Leanne Monger

All seven local authorities in Nottinghamshire are working in collaboration with other frontline professionals, particularly health colleagues, to identify 'high risk' patients with long term health conditions which are made worse by cold living conditions who are also on a low income.

The project team assess the energy efficiency of the home and if the householder/patient can afford to keep the house at a healthy warm temperature. A range of actions are then taken to achieve affordable warmth on behalf of the householder, including commissioning heating and insulation works and income maximisation – in turn delivering health and social benefits.

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North East

Winner: Warm Homes Campaign

Collected by: Martin O'Brien

The Warm Homes Campaign works with a very wide range of partner organisations in County Durham to provide a one stop shop for all fuel poverty and domestic energy efficiency enquiries from the general public and stakeholder organisations. The campaign promotes fuel poverty grant programmes directly to low income households using countywide mail shots and a variety of promotional activities including advice surgeries in community venues and training for front line health and social care practitioners and third sector organisations. This is aimed at providing credibility, support and encouragement for households to apply for assistance. In addition home visits take place to provide one-to-one help and advice on fuel tariff switching. The Campaign currently has almost 900 community venues and activists that help promote awareness of fuel poverty grant programmes and distribution of the Warm Homes Campaign newsletter.

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Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner: Jenny Saunders OBE DCL

Jenny Saunders has been Chief Executive of National Energy Action since 2007, and prior to that was Director of Communications.

She has a number of public advisory roles , including the Committee on Fuel Poverty and Ofgem's Sustainable Development Group, and also has a number of advisory roles to the energy sector.

Jenny served as a trustee of the British Gas Energy Trust for six years, until October 2010, and the Cheshire Lehmann Fund from 2009-2016 and was a member of EDF Energy's CMA scrutiny panel. She is Chair of a local community group in Newcastle and is also a Non-Executive Board Director of National Grid Affordable Warmth Solutions Community Interest Company and a Trustee of Energy Action Scotland.

Jenny was awarded an OBE in the 2013 New Year Honours List for her services to the fuel poor, and an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law from Newcastle University in 2016.

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