

National Home Energy Conference
Solihull, 13-14 May 2008

HECA, What If?

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Seminar objectives

- Inform members on future plans for UK HECA
- Explore HECA Officer experiences in context of HECA Review and introduction of new indicators
- Share issues relating to implementation of National Indicators, particularly NIs 186 and 187

UK HECA response to Review

Agreed that:

- Whilst HECA has played an important role, national programmes have delivered the majority of energy savings (with ECAs help)
- The HECA reporting process is flawed and unlikely to drive the level of engagement in tackling climate change
- Removing the annual reporting requirement would assist authorities to deliver CO₂ reductions across the community
- Retaining HECA alongside the new indicators would lead to duplication in the performance management

Therefore supported repeal providing replaced with framework that:

- imposes more rigorous requirements
- smarter and more outcome-focused indicators
- allows meaningful comparisons of performance

UK HECA response to Review

In addition we proposed:

- Changes to indicators, particularly NI187
- Monitoring/Review of inclusion of NIs in LAAs
- Campaign to raise profile of work of HECA Officers and role they can play
- Support for a programme of training and events

Findings from member survey

Aimed to gather views on:

- Government's HECA Review Consultation
- Future development of UK HECA network
- Support required to manage the transition

- 25% response rate (95 returns)

Survey findings (cont)

Support for current UK HECA aims:

- Share information: 4.2
- Act as voice for officers with Govt: 4.2
- Build partnerships: 4.1
- Provide leadership and support to LAs: 4.0
- Develop and support officers' roles: 3.9
- Act as a channel for Govt to consult: 3.9

Survey findings (cont)

Need for future officer network?

- Yes: 63%
- No: 5%
- Unsure: 32%

Survey findings (cont)

Focus of network in future?

- Domestic carbon footprint: 40%
- All climate change issues: 35%
- Maintain current focus: 20%
- Not sure/no reply: 5%

Survey findings (cont)

Would repeal of HECA weaken/strengthen role?

- Strengthen: 9%
- Weaken: 43%
- Neither: 47%

Survey findings (cont)

Support for HECA officer roles:

- Training: 71%
- Events: 64%
- Networks: 48%
- Mentoring: 25%

Future direction of UK HECA

UK HECA Executive Away Day. Agreed:

- National Climate Change Action Network:
- Launch once HECA future announced
- Focus on domestic carbon footprint initially
- Widen membership to other LA officers

Closer working with the LGA:

- Bi-monthly meetings on climate change issues
- Seat on National Environment Officers Network
- Joint consultation responses

Discussions with Defra on joint announcement

Discussion

- What are your experiences of changes to the LA HECA/energy officer role in view of the HECA Review and new CAA?
- Do you see the change as a threat, opportunity, or a mixture of the two?
- What approaches are people taking to the new NIs?
- What support would you like from our network and other agencies to help you implement the new NIs?