



SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

A report summarising the ALEO & BEIS joint survey
conducted in March/April 2020 (n = 45)

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1. Survey methodology

The survey was conducted using Microsoft Forms and was sent to all the ALEO secretariats for distribution. The survey coincided with the 100th email newsletter and ALEO supported BEIS by asking questions that they requested. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix 1.

2. Aim of the survey

The survey was discussed with BEIS who requested some information from ALEO and following these three objectives were agreed with the National ALEO Chair:

1. To ascertain the extent to which the Simple Energy Advice Service is being used by Local Authorities
2. To gather information regarding how many Local Authorities have/have not got a Local Energy Officer in place
3. To find out how ALEO can support members in their work.

3. Data protection

Respondents were asked to give their name, email and telephone number which has been held securely but not included in the results.

4. Pilot survey

The survey was piloted with three people and small amendments made before distribution.

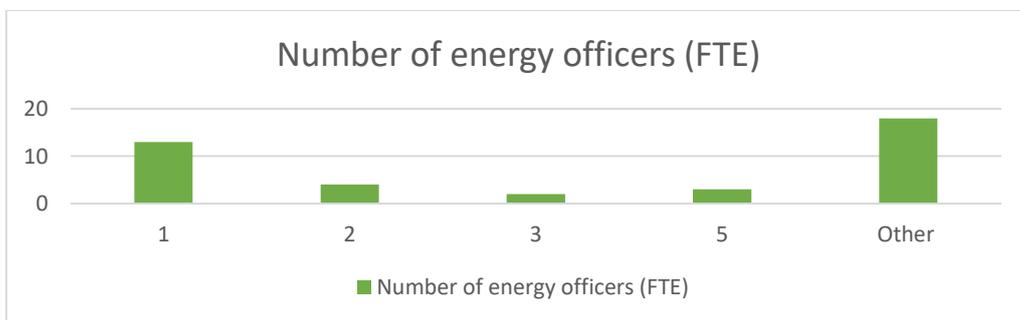
5. Response rate

45 responses were received which represents approximately 15% of the 300 local authorities. The average time taken to complete the survey was c.11 minutes.

6. Survey results

6.2 Energy officer resource

89% of those Local Authorities who took part in the survey had an energy officer. The majority (13) had one full time equivalent with some having 2, 3, or 5. The graph below represents this¹:



¹ In hindsight there should have been a zero on this question and this equates to five authorities who do not have an energy officer therefore it can be elicited that 13 have more than 5

The majority of LA's had at least one full time member of staff with other staff working on other tasks as well as that of energy officer.

Respondents knew of 14 councils that do not have an energy officer at present.

6.3 Simple Energy Advice (SEA) Service

47% of LA's who completed the survey had heard of SEA, 38% had not and 16% were not sure.

16% LA's did not use SEA and used other service providers such as local or national charities.

33% of LA's had already checked that the schemes listed for their area were up to date. 53% intended to after the survey and anecdotal evidence from BEIS is that this survey prompted LA's to do so.

6.4 Energy Saving Schemes²

87% of LA's operated energy saving schemes in their area and 57% of these said they envisaged having funding to help promote energy saving in the future.

53% of LA's envisaged having some funding to deliver energy efficiency measures over the next four years.

6.5 Statement of Intent

86% of LA's reported that they had a published Statement of Intent. 8% of those who responded asked for an administration fee as part of the Declaration process.

6.6 Climate Emergency

79% of LA's had issued a climate emergency and 62% had developed an action plan to deal with Climate Change.

6.7 Further support requested from ALEO

When asked how ALEO could support energy officer roles several suggestions were given including:

- Networking/learning from others. We are a very small team so time-limited which restricts what we can deliver alone
- Money to start energy efficient schemes for residents
- Lobby for Government funding for revenue costs
- Perhaps some access to wider partnership funding bids
- Notification of Additional Funding opportunities
- Continuing great work in assisting with joined up and collaborative work in and across London
- Guidance on how to achieve corporate zero carbon by 2030
- Conferences are helpful. Remote access for regional meetings? Travel time means they are not currently feasible to attend.
- I currently take advantage of ALEO support where I can.

² This survey was conducted at the start of the COVID 19 epidemic during lockdown. It is not known what effect this will have on future funding or resources.

- Periodic meetings/events and communicating with BEIS on Local Authority perspectives are probably most useful
- Networking on good practice, technical and practical solutions for low carbon heating, insulation and renewable energy
- Sharing climate change info resources. Helping each other calculate emissions
- Frameworks for domestic energy efficiency schemes would be helpful
- Always keen to find out more on future funding opportunities and partnerships
- newsletter?³ Promotion of energy job vacancies across LAs (to help us promote opportunities)

Positive comments were also given for this question including:

- The networking ALEO provides is excellent in sharing ideas and schemes etc
- Fairly new to post. But information provided so far has been informative and very useful.

7. Conclusion

This survey was sent to all ALEO secretariats for distribution, so the response rate is disappointing albeit 15% of LA's is still a good base on which to draw conclusions. The relevant responses were shared with BEIS who were thankful for the data.

The majority of those who completed the survey had at least one FTE energy officer in post. Less than half of respondents had not heard of SEA, but the survey served the purpose of highlighting this resource and anecdotal evidence suggests that more LA's are updating their details on the SEA website. The vast majority of LA's operated energy saving schemes and more than half said they envisaged this funding would continue alongside the funding of energy efficiency measures. The vast majority of LA's had published a Statement of Intent with a small minority asking for an administration fee as part of the Declaration process. A large majority of LA's had issued a climate emergency and more than half of these had developed an action plan to deal with Climate Change.

There were several positive comments about the support received from ALEO and suggestions of how ALEO could further help their members

8. Recommendation

1. This report be considered at the next National ALEO meeting with the specific intention to review the requests for other types of support that ALEO could offer members
2. Publish the email newsletter on full on the website (currently it is the news stories that are published rather than the whole document)

Angela Eason
National Secretariat
17th April 2020.

³ A monthly newsletter is distributed by email to all Secretariats so this would indicate that not all members are receiving it

Appendix 1: Survey

ALEO are working with BEIS and are sending this survey to all ALEO members. Please respond if you are an officer working in a Local Authority working on any of the following albeit part or full time; fuel poverty, climate change, energy efficiency.

The key outcomes desired from this survey are:

1. To ascertain the extent to which the Simple Energy Advice Service is being used by Local Authorities
2. To gather information regarding how many Local Authorities have/have not got a Local Energy Officer in place
3. To find out how ALEO can support members in their work.

The information from this survey will be shared with BEIS on an anonymous basis and you will not be identifiable.

If you have any questions in regards to this survey please contact the National Secretariat at: Angela@aleo.org.uk

1. Name
2. Local Authority
3. Email
4. Telephone number
5. Do you have an energy efficiency officer (full or part time working on fuel poverty, climate change or energy efficiency) in your local authority?
6. How many energy officers do you have in your Local Authority (full time equivalent)?
7. How many work part time and how many full time?
8. Please list any local authorities you are aware of who do not have a dedicated energy officer (i.e. a person working in the area of fuel poverty, climate change or energy efficiency)
9. Had you heard of the Simple Energy Advice Service (SEA) before today? The link to the SEA is: <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/>
10. If no are you accessing another service provider who you refer to and if so, who
11. Do you currently refer residents to SEA for energy saving advice, for example via Local Authority staff or your website?
12. Simple Energy Advice refers users to energy saving schemes in their local area. Have you checked whether the schemes currently listed on SEA for your local authority are up to date?
13. Do you currently operate any energy saving schemes for your local residents?
14. Do you envisage having any funding available to help promote energy saving?
15. Do you envisage having any funding available to deliver energy efficiency measures over the next 4 years?

16. Do you have a current SOI as part of delivery of the Energy Company Obligation?
17. If you do have a current SOI please provide the web link:
18. As part of the Declaration process are you asking for an administration fee?
19. Has your council issued a Climate Emergency?
20. Has your council developed an action plan to deal with Climate Change?
21. Is there any further support that ALEO could offer you to support you in your role?