



Affordable Warmth Strategy – Eradicating Fuel Poverty by 2016?

West Midlands HECA Forum – 11th Conference

Tuesday 25th April 2006

The Ward Arms Hotel, Dudley

Background

The West Midlands Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Forum is part of a national network enabling the exchange of ideas and information between the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes and local authorities.

The West Midlands group is amongst the most active in the country and has held a series of successful conferences since 1999; the most recent taking place at Coventry's Transport Museum entitled 'A glimpse of the future – Energy & Housing in the West Midlands'.

The 11th Conference

On Tuesday 25th April 2006, the West Midlands HECA Forum will hold its 11th conference in Dudley. The event will focus how local authority Affordable Warmth Strategies can meet the Government's challenge and make fuel poverty history by 2016. Many commentators are predicting energy price increases for year's to come as the UK strives to become a low carbon economy. How will this affect the most vulnerable in our communities? What help is out there? Will technology come to the rescue?

An inclusive series of workshops will explore practical examples of how energy saving and renewable energy measures are being delivered to urban and rural vulnerable and able to pay households. The event will also highlight the increasingly important role that HECA Officers will play in the climate change agenda, and identify routes through which local authorities can encourage more widespread sustainable use of energy.

We are pleased to announce Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and npower as sponsors for the 11th conference and once again look forward to a lively and exciting debate.

The 10th Anniversary Conference – 'A glimpse of the future'

Over 75 delegates from across the West Midlands joined the regional HECA event at Coventry's Transport Museum on 13th April 2005. Focusing on how the changing policy and planning agendas will provide opportunities to encourage more widespread sustainable use of energy, 'A glimpse of the future' incorporated key note speakers and workshops showcasing good practice examples of energy efficiency integration into Decent Homes delivery and private landlord accreditation. The use of Energy Efficiency Commitment funding 2005-2008 was also explored.

Exhibitors at the event included heating control and ventilation and domestic-CHP specialists, regional EEAC and installer partners and the conference sponsors London Energy. As an addition to the main conference event, attendees were also given an opportunity to experience simulated travel at over 760 mph, and see the vehicle in which the world Land Speed record was broken.

Graham Jones, Chair of the West Midland HECA Forum, said of the event: "the conference was a resounding success, providing an essential opportunity for local authority officers to share skills and experiences, explore future opportunities to promoting energy conservation and raise HECA up the local agenda."

Further information

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Please note that venue and date arrangements are provisional and could be subject to alteration.