

Community Energy Efficiency Toolkit

Training and education for home energy efficiency

This guidance is based on the experiences of 11 community projects working under the Big Lottery’s Communities Living Sustainably programme.

Aims

- Enable householders and their neighbours to better understand home energy use, identify possible energy reduction measures and access local services to make improvements
- Show parents and children what can be done to save energy and generate renewable energy
- To enable people to learn to detect and fix draughts in their homes
- Teach GCSE students about urban sustainability
- Reach the Orthodox Jewish community with fuel poverty messages
- Enable non-English-speakers to learn the language of energy in the home, understand bills, meter readings and heating controls and enable communication with landlords on energy/heating
- Support energy champions to gain employment and start green businesses
- Enable people to go out and advise others
- Help social landlords to reduce tenant bills

Types of training delivered under Big Lottery’s Communities Living Sustainably programme

Type of training	Audience
Energy assessor	volunteers/champions/unemployed (employability skills)
Fuel poverty and energy awareness to help tenants	front line staff (Registered Social Landlords)
Fuel poverty and home energy saving training (theoretical)	Householders
Practical draught proofing	Tradespeople, local authority and housing association staff- housing officers, maintenance crews, social workers
DIY draught proofing and curtain lining	Householders
Energy in the home ESOL course	English for Speakers of Other Languages tutors and students
One Planet Living	Anyone- all service users
Urban Sustainability	GCSE students
Carbon Literacy	School children

General tips

- Define groupings of people to train
- Be clear who to target with specific interventions
- Trying to engage non-interested people is hard- focus where there is need and interest

Tips for considering the needs of particular audiences

Elderly

- Use retired volunteers to engage with older people on climate change

Non-English-speaking ethnic minority groups

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- Target women, as they tend to make household decisions
- Consider women-only sessions, female trainers and childcare

Building industry and people needing employment skills

- Target and involve building professionals (architects, etc.) and industry bodies
- Architects can provide professional challenge for installers
- Young people can be trained in construction and renewable energy installations

Case studies

Greening Wingrove's 'Energy in the Home' materials, to be used in 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) courses, have been used in the delivery of classes, incorporated into existing programmes and have also been taught in addition to pre-set ESOL programmes. The materials cover 3 x 2 hour sessions, covering a wide array of topics including ways to keep warm, different types of energy, how to read a meter and how to read energy bills. In 3 cases, the Greening Wingrove Project has supported the delivery of sessions by covering costs including crèche, venue hire and tutor time.

One Planet Middlesbrough has used a simplified version of this course material in a training project they were funded to deliver by DECC to help foreign migrants granted leave to remain in the UK. The project aims to prevent people who have recently arrived in the UK from entering into a cycle of poverty by training interpreters in the language of heating and energy, as many people from hotter countries have never used a heating system before. This is a great example of how enabling communities to network and share ideas can spread good practice and lead to innovation.

The **Irwell Valley Sustainable Communities project's** Broughton Trust is an experienced education provider; they know that the key to helping people learn is to put the learner first and tailor messages to them, rather than trying to change their values and outlook on life. The energy and fuel poverty sessions delivered by Binoh to the Orthodox Jewish community under Irwell Valley CLS, led to workshops on energy and financial management, the Rabbi asking that more sessions be arranged and a follow-on carbon literacy day course was delivered for 125 Orthodox Jewish girls. 31 home visits were also delivered to the same audience. What stands out about this work is that poverty is a religious imperative for the Orthodox Jewish community; Binoh has experience in working with this audience and has therefore focused on ensuring that messages on energy and financial savings fit within the religious conceptual framework of the target audience- making what little they have *go further*.

Carbon Co-op was contracted by Broughton Trust to deliver accredited Domestic Energy Assessor training as part of a deeper learning, energy efficiency retrofit and behaviour change project.