THE NATIONAL ENERGY FOUNDATION

Impact Report 2020-2021



Our misssion

Using our past to help shape our future

We will utilise our experience to deliver forward-thinking projects. We will provide leadership, support and advice in promoting domestic energy and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable housing for the health of the public and the planet.

Contents

Welcome

From Dave Evans, CEO



What we do

Independent, comprehensive and cost-effective advice to improve all aspects of the management of energy.

The National Energy Foundation is an independent domestic energy and sustainability charity who have been at the forefront of improving the use of energy in buildings for more than 30 years. Our passionate and experienced team are focussed on reducing fuel poverty, cutting household carbon emissions and creating healthier communities through innovative projects and community integration.



Warm People

Better Housing Better Health

1392 households supported

150 large measures installed

Provided 1626 Interventions

604 referrals from health and social care professionals

Better Housing Better Health

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council and Local Authorities across Oxfordshire. In a preventative approach to health and wellbeing, the free to use service is available to anyone looking for advice and support with staying warm and well at home. BHBH can offer access to impartial advice, local support schemes and help apply for local and national grant funding schemes.

As a result of the pandemic, BHBH saw an increase in service users requiring support with their energy bills as an increasing number of people were furloughed/lost their jobs, had a reduced income or were forced to stay at home during national lockdowns. The BHBH helpline was unaffected by the pandemic so was able to offer advice to people in need, however some of the referral services had to be put on hold due to risk of COVID-19 infections (e.g. home visits and surveys for large measures).

In November 2020 NEF won funding via the Energy Redress scheme to distribute 500 emergency fuel vouchers (over 3 months) to households with pre-payment meters in a crisis situation. This mean that if householders were struggling to top-up their meters, BHBH could offer a £49 voucher to ensure they were never without heating or electricity over the winter period.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, BHBH still managed to support over 1,000 households, offer £291k worth of grant funded energy efficiency installations and help identify £34k of new incomes.



Green Homes Grant Local Delivery

We have recently won funding to administer the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 1b on behalf of three consortiums.

These are Oxfordshire, Watford and Buckinghamshire and Hertsmere and Three Rivers. LAD funding is a continuation of the Green Homes Grant Scheme but this time focused on low-income households with low Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). This means the households are very inefficient in terms of heat retention and also that the households have less disposable income to spend on heating the property so are facing high energy bills that they may be struggling to pay.

Our aim is to retrofit 430 properties across the three consortiums and to raise their EPC level by at least one grade. This exciting project consists of funding of over £4million to distribute to vulnerable households across the project areas.

We will be aiming to retrofit using a fabric first approach in order to maximise the benefits to each household with an average grant spend of £10,000 per household. This project is due to complete at the end of September 2021 which is a tight deadline!



Home Energy Link Programme

Over 8,000,000 kg of CO2

1,000 households identified

1,177 measures installed

37 "Approved" Suppliers registered on our network

14 Local Authorities taking part

Over 46 million lifetime kWh saved

£2 million in lifetime energy savings

Home Energy Link Programme

The Home Energy Link Programme helps vulnerable residents access information, advice and financial support to ensure they live in a warm and happy home. We understand that Local Authorities have commitments and requirements to reduce carbon emissions and support their residents to live happier, healthier lives. H.E.L.P has been expertly developed to shoulder the administration of grants and allow more people in the community to benefit from the available support. One of the key grants that H.E.L.P delivers, in conjunction with the 'NEF Supplier Network', is The Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

ECO is a government energy efficiency scheme in place to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. NEF is currently working with a consortium of 14 Local Authorities to deliver the 'Flexible Eligibility' or 'Flex' element of the scheme in their areas. Before any installer can request a declaration from a Local Authority represented by NEF they must register for the Supplier Network and provide accreditations, certificates and insurance documents to demonstrate both competence and quality.

The NEF Supplier Network aims to expand this service across the country and welcome more Local Authorities and installers to contact a member of the team to better understand the service and how we can H.E.L.P!





Whole Home

SuperHomes

This year has been a very busy one for SuperHomes with the establishment of a new, five-tier rating scheme for domestic retrofit for both individual homeowners and landlords.

With the support of funding from the MCS Charitable Fund NEF the new scheme measures residual carbon dioxide emissions, heat demand per m2, plus health and comfort.

As a SuperHomes rating is based on actual rather than modelled energy savings, each home has to be monitored for a period of one year before achieving SuperHomes status. Research into what retrofit measures would be needed to achieve a SuperHomes Rating for different property types and the methodology to be used to monitor energy performance and establish health and comfort was undertaken thanks to a second grant, from Innovate UK.

This year also saw the start of the SuperHomes Network, a membership scheme for organisations and individuals with an interest in domestic retrofit.

NEF collaborated with the Good Homes Alliance to offer Social Housing Providers and Local Authorities a competitive joint member discount and delivered a preview event in February 2021.

A formal launch of the Network, which will deliver events and networking opportunities for members, is due to take place at the end of April 2021.



YouGen

This year saw the launch of the new YouGen website, a much-needed improvement due to the age of the old site which meant it was difficult to update and unstable.

The launch of the new website also provided NEF with an opportunity to renew the site content and simplify its member offer.

A big task, but with support from a former NEF volunteer, all the pages on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and financial incentives were updated and gaps filled.

A more difficult question was what to do with the approximately 1500 energy-related blogs that had been posted on the site since it was launched 15 years ago. Shifting through such a mountain of material was a daunting task and ultimately, unnecessary due to the introduction of a new and improved, search facility on the site.

After a break of a few months, while the website was being redeveloped the monthly YouGen newsletter was relaunched in September.

With a circulation list of over 8000, the newsletter is a great way for YouGen members to communicate with an engaged audience about their activities.





Engaged People

Energy Envoys





Don't just take our word for it...



Creating change through your relationship with energy