

Background

Warm Streets is a carbon emissions and fuel poverty reduction initiative managed by the Centre for Sustainable energy and funded by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) as part of their Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) commitment. It concentrates on the installation of loft and cavity wall insulation, alongside benefit entitlement checks and energy efficiency advice. Additional funding is provided by the five district councils of Somerset together with Bath & North East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council. Warm Streets insulation subsidies are available to all households across these council areas.

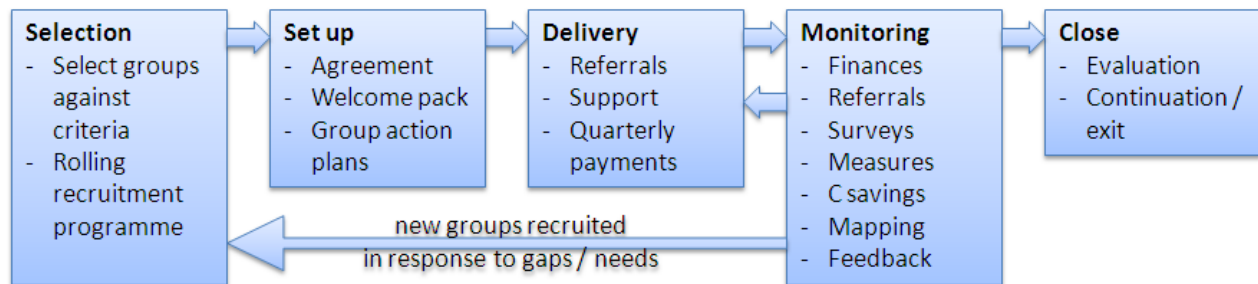
Warm Streets Communities Plus is part of the Warm Streets initiative and is an extension of the 2009-10 Warm Streets Communities Pilot. Under the scheme, community groups will receive payment for referrals to Warm Streets, together with practical support from CSE (subject to time and funding limitations) to help with community engagement activities and local energy projects.

The scheme aims to:

- establish a network of local groups that can share ideas and experiences
- improve capacity at community level to encourage individuals to act on energy issues
- generate referrals to Warm Streets for home insulation measures

Process

The chart below summarises the key stages of the scheme. We anticipate 15-20 active groups at any one time. It will run from April 2010 to March 2011 (or until funding runs out).



Recruitment & selection

The scheme will be offered to community groups working on sustainable energy projects. Groups that return an application form will be selected on the basis of:

- Local need (including priority areas where there has been little take up of Warm Streets to date)
- Track record, number of active group members and anticipated referral numbers
- Planned activities and the extent to which the scheme complements group aims
- Geographical coverage (avoiding duplication of activities)
- Having a registered bank account and authorised signatories (to claim funding)
- Willingness to share ideas and take part in research / evaluation of the scheme

Set up and delivery

- An agreement between CSE and the group must be in place before any payments can be made.
- New groups can join the scheme at fixed points through the year.
- All groups will receive a 'welcome pack', including: project details, sources of information, leaflets, posters, templates, referral forms and claim forms.
- In addition to payments, there may be some CSE support available to groups for the following:
 - a) School workshop
 - b) Energy awareness training
 - c) Energy champion training
 - d) Talk / presentation
 - e) Energy monitor workshop
 - f) Community event
 - g) Action planning session
 - h) Checking a funding application
 - i) Other community engagement activity
 - j) Other community energy project support
- Some support will also be provided by phone to respond to queries and help generate ideas.
- Groups will ensure appropriate insurances are in place and that members act in accordance with the law when carrying out Warm Streets activities.

Referrals and payments

- Warm Streets referrals (posted to CSE or emailed in an encrypted spreadsheet) will trigger payments of £10 inclusive of VAT per fully completed referral form.
- Payments will be made quarterly through the year, except where fewer than ten referrals have been made (in which case payment will be carried over). Payments will be subject to a check to ensure that a minimum of 50% of referrals result in a survey being carried out.
- A maximum of 100 paid referrals (i.e. £1000) can be claimed over the year. This cap may be lifted depending on availability of funds. All payments are subject to funds being available. If the funding allocation is used up before the end of the scheme, agreements will be suspended.

Targets and monitoring

- Quarterly checks on the progress of individual groups and the scheme as a whole will be made, including regular monitoring of number of referrals, number of surveys, measures installed and carbon savings.
- Regular feedback will be given to groups on numbers and on ideas that are working elsewhere.
- Depending on funding and time available, meetings may be scheduled to give groups the opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences.

Evaluation

As well as close monitoring of numbers, performance and finances, feedback will be collected from groups, staff and partner organisations. This will be used to assess achievements, review how money generated under the scheme was spent, and identify opportunities for improvement in future.

Application

To apply for the scheme, please request an application form from:

Bridget Newbery, Community Projects Manager, Centre for Sustainable Energy

Email: bridget.newbery@cse.org.uk Tel: 0117 934 1413 or 0117 934 1400