

# Local home energy projects to reduce energy use and address fuel poverty

This is a collection of useful resources for assessing your local situation in order to make the best recommendations for residents, start up a fuel poverty project, or plan the installation of the most suitable home energy improvements to reduce bills and improve housing.

## 1. Background reading and viewing

- Read the PlanLoCaL guidance '[Understanding your area](#)'. The guidance gives a good introduction to different ways of assessing housing in a given area and understanding the types of improvements which would make the biggest difference to energy use. If you're planning a fuel poverty advice project we also recommend reading the WISH case study.
- Watch the [four short films](#) 'Coping with Cold' addressing causes of fuel poverty and practical ways to address it. They were developed to support anyone working with individual householders to improve understanding of key issues and some of the solutions.

## 2. Carry out a basic assessment of your area

- Carry out one of the activities [Understanding your local area: walk around exercise](#) or [Opportunities for whole street retrofit: exercise](#)
- This is the starting point for making a plan based on the actual properties in your area and improving your knowledgeability about what sort of home energy improvements to recommend (including zero and low cost improvements). Once you have carried out one of these activities, review the '[improvements suitability table](#)'.
- If you specifically want to address fuel poverty in your area, look at the guidance on CSE's [fuel poverty calculator](#) and contact us for your own version of the tool to look at how individual households would be rated using the official definition of fuel poverty.

## 3. Planning an approach

You probably already know what sort of project you want to carry out – whether that's installing improvements, giving advice locally, carrying out door to door surveys, running workshops or something different. Knowing your area will really help to inform your planning. There are more resources in CSE's PlanLoCaL toolkit to support all aspects of project planning, including funding and finance, developing a community engagement strategy, working with volunteers, establishing partnerships and guidance on contracts and tendering. Ask us if you want some pointers. But here are some core resources to look at.



GET INFORMED	HOME ENERGY AUDITS	FUEL POVERTY SUPPORT
<p>Here are a few resources which will help you to give the best advice to people in your community or to plan installation of any improvements.</p> <p><a href="#">Advice leaflets</a> - CSE's advice leaflets have more information about specific improvements, costs and payback times, and ways to reduce home energy use (including things like using heating controls). They are free to download if you want printed versions to share.</p> <p><a href="#">Giving energy advice in your community</a> – this short video highlights some things to consider if you're thinking of running any kind of energy advice service.</p> <p><a href="#">Getting the best out of your improvements</a> - we'd also recommend this guidance which explains the importance of user behaviour if any physical improvements are made to a property.</p> <p><a href="#">Putting together your own event kit</a> – if you are out and about it really helps to have some samples and demonstration resources to show people. Our guide shows how to put together your own kit on a low budget.</p>	<p>Visiting people in their homes is a really valuable way of assessing possible energy saving changes and explaining options in situ.</p> <p>This guidance, <a href="#">Using home energy assessments to engage householders</a>, will help you plan how to work with householders in your area.</p> <p>There is a <a href="#">template home energy survey</a> you can use to structure your visits. You'll probably follow up the visit with a conversation with the householder, and/or a written report.</p> <p>This <a href="#">template report</a> can be adapted depending on what you find in your survey. It's a good way to flag up and discuss options for making improvements or using energy in the home more efficiently.</p> <p>We'd also recommend watching this short <a href="#">Energy Efficiency Walkaround</a> animation which runs through the key things to check in an energy audit. It's clear and straightforward and a great resource for anyone planning home visits or making recommendations for home energy improvements.</p>	<p><a href="#">WISH case study</a> – this case study provides an overview of a successful fuel poverty advice project which could be adapted to run at a smaller (or larger!) scale.</p> <p><a href="#">Fuel poverty calculator</a> CSE developed this tool as a way to assess the level of fuel poverty in a given area (using the official definition of fuel poverty). There is a PowerPoint presentation explaining the main issues and how the calculator works.</p> <p><a href="#">Information sheets</a> Some specific CSE advice leaflets may also be useful to give practical low and zero cost suggestions for people to reduce their energy bills even if they don't have much money to make improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Getting the best from your energy supplier</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Upgrading to energy efficient lightbulbs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to draught proofing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Finding the right installer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Getting the most from your solar panels</a></li> </ul> <p><i>(This last one may not seem an obvious resource but many housing association residents have solar panels which actually increase their bills because of poor understanding of how they work.)</i></p>