



Campaigning for Warm Homes



“Fuel poverty – raising awareness and helping to bring solutions”

The Future Rural Energy in England (FREE) programme. FREE is a partnership project supported by NEA (the national energy efficiency charity); Action for Rural Communities in England (ACRE) and Calor UK

Context

Unbelievably in the 21st Century, an estimated 6 million households in the UK cannot afford to heat their homes to a reasonable standard for health and comfort! Households which are particularly affected are those that do not have access to mains gas which is the cheapest fuel for heating accommodation and water at present. To try to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency in off-gas villages in England, Calor UK is providing support to nominated off-gas villages in England.

Rowena Tyler, a Community Development Officer with Action in rural Sussex (AirS), is coordinating the partnership project in West Sussex. One of the villages involved is Bury in West Sussex.

The entire village has been involved, beginning with an information event at the village hall, which was well attended. Characteristics of Fuel poverty were discussed, along with demonstrations of resources which can help alleviate rising fuel costs to households.

Questionnaires were then distributed to all residents, seeking feedback on the energy efficiency of their own homes by asking a series of related questions.

From the 270 questionnaires distributed 68 were returned, a 25.1% return rate. .

NEA Technical Project Development Coordinator visited 4 households to conduct domestic energy audits on a variety of different housing types. A ‘walkthrough’ audit of the village hall was also undertaken by the NEA assessor on the day to generate recommendations on potential energy saving measures and actions

The full report, published by NEA can be viewed at the Action in rural Sussex website www.ruralsussex.org.uk

Rowena Tyler, Community Development Officer, Action in rural Sussex, January 2012

FREE (England) is supported by NEA, ACRE and Calor UK

- NEA develops and promotes energy efficiency services to tackle the heating and insulation problems of low-income households. Working in partnership with central and local government; with fuel utilities, housing providers and health services; and with consumer organisations, NEA aims to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor or vulnerable
- ACRE is the national body of the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) and member agencies provide support and advocacy to help rural communities take action for themselves to achieve a vibrant and sustainable future
- Calor Gas Ltd is an energy provider that aims to bring independent advice and information to rural residents regarding fuel choices, energy efficient technologies and carbon reduction measures.



Campaigning for Warm Homes

