

LOW CARBON HOUSING AND FUEL POVERTY BRIEFING PAPER

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY'S STRATEGIC REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WITHIN THE SOUTH WEST

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP APRIL 11TH

This briefing paper is based on the emerging findings from the development of the South West Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan Carried out on behalf of Regional Partners with funding from the Government Office for the South West and Energy Saving Trust

The modelling that is supporting the development of regional targets as part of the strategy development is not yet complete. The following actions are still to be undertaken:

- An analysis of the impact of rising fuel prices on fuel poverty
- An analysis of the implications of extending the scenarios beyond 2016
- A final iteration of the model to take into account a range of further assumptions including short term limits on industry capacity, potential reduction of installed prices for building integrated renewables and the implications of increased demolition rates

N.B. Whilst data presented here is believed to be accurate at the time of writing, figures will change during the modelling process and should be regarded as indicative, the final results may in turn affect the final conclusions and content of the proposed action plan.

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BACKGROUND

"Climate change is probably the greatest long-term challenge facing the human race." Tony Blair, Forward to the Climate Change Programme 2006

"... the impacts of global warming are such that I have no hesitation in describing it as a 'weapon of mass destruction'". Sir John Houghton, former chief executive of the UK Meteorological Office and co-chair of the Scientific Assessment Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, The Guardian, 28 July 2003.

Climate change is the biggest issue for us to face this century. It's manmade. The science is done. It's complete. It's a matter of political understanding - Sir David King, UK Government's Chief Scientist, giving evidence to House of Lords select committee (March 2004)

The Impact of Climate Change in the SW

Modelling undertaken by the Hadley Centre estimates that cumulative net sea-level change for around the 2080's for the Southwest England varies from plus 16cm under a low emissions scenario to 76 cm under a high emissions scenario.

The same modelling suggests an increase in summer temperatures of 2 to 5.5°C, and summers which are dryer by 25 to 55%. Overlaid on these gradual changes are more extreme weather events such as high peak summer temperatures and high intensity precipitation

Such a significant environmental threat will have far reaching implications for society and can not be addressed without being mindful of the impact on the most vulnerable. As a result this strategy and action plan looks to integrate where possible and appropriate the twin domestic sector priorities of low carbon housing (including both energy efficiency and renewable energy) and fuel poverty (the inability to adequately heat the home without spending more than 10% of household income).

The government has set challenging targets on carbon reduction which it has just acknowledged will not be met in 2010¹ without greater action, and for fuel poverty² which also appear threatened by rising fuel prices. The domestic sector generates just under 30% of carbon emissions within the UK, which in itself is significant.

However the impact of domestic sector action goes beyond the confines of the related emissions, as householders may also take improved awareness into their work lives and into their choices about transport. Regional strategy on mitigation must also be integrated where appropriate with the region's approach to adapting to the significant regional impacts of climate change

The targets outlined within the strategy and action plan will require a step change in the scale with which the region addresses low carbon housing and fuel poverty. And yet, whilst action at a local level has been underway for many years, these issues, particularly within existing housing, have only recently started to be addressed at regional level. This has reduced the region's ability to:

- Understand the scale of the task set by national government targets on carbon reduction and fuel poverty within the South West
- Consolidate key messages within the region's policy framework and provide the regional advocacy necessary to raise the profile of key issues within the policy and practice of regional stakeholders

The Impact of Fuel Poverty

Living in cold damp properties exacerbates the incidence of cold-related illnesses and is linked to the incidence of excess winter mortality. The medical intervention of those preventable illnesses places a huge burden on the NHS.

In addition, a cold damp home has impacts on the quality of life, affecting levels of social interaction and children's educational attainment

¹ Within the revised Climate Change Programme published in March 2006, government acknowledged that it would be only possible to achieve 15-18% cuts in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010, based on the programmes government had so far put in place, as opposed to the original target of 20% reduction by 2010

² Government's target for fuel poverty is to eradicate by 2010 fuel poverty in vulnerable households and in all households by 2016 as far as is practicably possible

- Build on regional experience to collate, disseminate and promote key messages regarding the delivery of effective local action
- Deliver consistent communication through regional networks and draw in non energy stakeholders crucial to the delivery of this strategy and action plan
- Enhance data management at a regional level enabling more effective targeting and monitoring
- Maximise the region's share of nationally available funding for local action
- Enhance and focus the research base within the region on addressing the technological and institutional challenges faced by the region
- Develop a strategic view of the region's contribution to addressing the skills, training and quality agenda as raised by enhanced action
- Deliver a coherent and powerful message to national government about the needs of the South West

This regional strategy and action plan will address this gap and provide added value by bridging national and local interests, securing maximum benefit from the national framework and supporting, enhancing and promoting the step change required in local action within the region.

Integrating approaches to fuel poverty and climate change

Integrating approaches to domestic sector mitigation of climate change and fuel poverty will enable the region to:

- Address environmental, economic **and** social issues within a strategy that affects issues at the core of the region's approach to sustainable development
- Take advantage of the significant overlaps between the required programmes of action
- Take a co-ordinated approach to addressing issues that do not overlap in order to minimise conflicting priorities

In particular, differentiation will be required around approaches to:

- Targeting householders, using both different techniques and tools, for example the use of fuel poverty indicators,
- Engaging intermediary stakeholders as a means of involving individual householders
- Ensuring measure priorities meet the needs of all householders
- Increasing benefit take up as a means of securing passport benefits to energy improvement measures and maximising incomes

This differentiation in approach can be supported through more effective regional action.

Dealing with hard to treat properties³ is a central part of dealing with fuel poverty, however the analysis outlined here emphasises their importance to successfully reducing carbon emissions as well. There is however a higher proportion of hard to treat properties amongst the fuel poor than the rest of the households within the region.

It will also be vital to the eradication of fuel poverty that the wider issue of deprivation is successfully dealt with through mainstream social policy. Energy policy can address the related energy issues and support the process of income maximisation by helping maximise benefit take up, but it won't be able to fully address the wider issues of deprivation that are integral to the incidence of fuel poverty

³ Hard to treat properties are considered to be properties that have a restricted number of cost effective energy efficiency measures available for improvement and include properties with solid wall and that are not connected to the gas grid. The 2003 English House Condition Survey suggests that just over 37% of properties in the South West fall into this category

SOUTH WEST BASELINE ANALYSIS - SUMMARY

Box 1: Baseline Analysis – Key Messages

1. The South West has on average:
 - The most energy inefficient housing all of the English regions
 - The highest proportion of homes failing the decent homes standard on thermal performance
 - A higher proportion of households in fuel poverty than the average for England as a whole and a high proportion of off gas households
2. The average SAP rating (a measure of home energy efficiency on a scale to 120) across fuel poor households within the South West is 24 compared to all households where the average is 49
3. The 2003 English House Condition Survey indicates 6.5% or just under 140,000 households as being in fuel poverty. However, rising fuel prices have substantially increased fuel poverty numbers. Assessments vary depending on the assumptions but numbers could have doubled by 2006⁴
4. There is massive potential for higher levels of energy efficiency and the installation of building integrated renewables, for example:
 - 43% of all households in the SW have un filled cavity walls (30% of households have filled cavities with the remaining 27% with solid walls)
 - 30% have less than 100mm of loft insulation
 - 60% have no low energy lighting at all
 - The only renewable energy technology being installed in any numbers within homes is solar water heating
5. Private sector housing including owner occupied and private rented has a lower SAP rating than social housing. Private rented housing also has the highest proportion of households failing the Decent Homes Standard on thermal performance, the highest proportion of hard to treat homes and the highest percentage of fuel poor households. As can be seen from figure 5 this will result in the need for significantly higher levels of investment within this sector as a proportion of the number of private rented households
6. Initial estimates suggest that the current installer base within the region currently employs just under 500 staff and generates GVA worth approximately £14 million annually to the regional economy (not including mainstream activity that has an energy efficiency impact like glazing and boiler upgrades). In addition this doesn't include other related activity including consultancy, advice, R&D, equipment supplies, manufacturing etc and only covers the domestic sector. A more comprehensive analysis for the low carbon technology sector is being undertaken by Ecotech as part of their work on business resource efficiency for the RDA
7. The Warm Front funding programme provides excellent information and data about the levels of take up within the region, suggesting that the region is only claiming 70%⁵ of its fair share of national funding through this route and demonstrating the huge range of take up levels within local authority areas within the South West. If the lowest level of take up was increased to the highest it would triple the funding availability within the region.
8. Information on take up of Energy Efficiency Commitment funding is not currently obtainable at a regional level. The analysis assumes the region installs a

⁴ Based on the statement in the Climate Change Programme that the numbers of vulnerable fuel poor households is likely to have increased by 1 million households between 2003 and 2006 in England

⁵ Based on a comparison of the Warm Front take up from 2000 to 2005 within the South West and nationally, with what might be considered a 'fair share' share based on household numbers.

proportional share of the national breakdown of installed measures. If in reality it, like Warm Front, delivers installation rates within the South West that are lower than the region's share, it will have the effect of making the targets discussed here harder to achieve.

9. The South West has an active Energy Efficiency Advice Centre network that is the most significant source of energy advice for householders. The Community Renewables Initiatives within the South West have had their funding extended for a further year, though their engagement with householders is limited. Energy suppliers run their own energy advice services but the level of contact with householders is a lot lower than through the Energy Efficiency Advice Centres.
10. The EST is currently piloting an approach that builds upon the work of the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre network to develop a number of Sustainable Energy Centres, operating as part of a Sustainable Energy Network. The roll out of the programme in England will take place during 2007/2008.
11. Under the Sustainable Energy Network model the provision of an advice service (currently delivered through the Energy Efficiency Advice Centres) will be part of an integrated approach to changing consumer behaviour on a much larger scale, covering energy efficiency, building integrated renewables and personal transport.

Table 1: Key Energy Indicators for the English Regions

Data for England	Average SAP	% in fuel poverty*	% all vulnerable	% hard-to-treat**	% failing DHS-TC***	No. of excess winter deaths 04/05	Total no. of households
GO Regions							
North East	54.8	8.7	76.6	21.8	15.5	1,500	1,091,972
Yorks & Humber	51.5	8.6	73.5	29.8	23.7	3,200	2,089,786
North West	52.5	6.3	73.2	26.7	24.0	4,500	2,827,661
East Midlands	51.1	6.3	70.7	37.6	18.1	2,500	1,777,207
West Midlands	49.6	6.7	71.6	40.1	23.4	3,600	2,163,226
South West	49.3	6.5	69.7	37.6	27.7	3,200	2,136,132
East England	51.1	5.1	68.8	38.7	19.5	3,400	2,267,996
South East	52.4	4.4	71.1	30.0	21.6	4,500	3,359,097
London	52.4	3.6	68.0	66.3	21.8	3,400	3,011,077
England Total	51.6	5.9	71.1	37.8	22.1	29,700	20,724,154

* Excludes survey sample not grossed to regional populations (66 cases in SW)

** All households with solid walls, of pre 1981 non-traditional construction or in a postcode with no gas supply.

*** Decent Homes Standard Thermal Component

Source: ODPM 2003 English House Condition Survey

Table 2: Regional Indicators by Tenure

Data for SW only	Average SAP	% in fuel poverty	% all vulnerable	% hard-to-treat**	% failing DHS-TC	Number of households
Tenure						
Own with mortgage	49.9	3.1	58.0	38.2	22.1	946,197
Own outright	47.7	11.0	83.1	30.7	28.9	677,024
Private Rented	42.3	12.2	51.0	55.4	42.8	227,356
Local Authority	54.9	3.6	92.1	40.5	32.4	140,525
RSL	58.6	1.8	90.8	35.0	31.2	145,030

Source: ODPM 2003 English House Condition Survey

Table 3: Potential for Key Insulation Measures within South West

% of all properties	Lofts insulated		Cavity Walls	Un-insulated cavity walls	Solid walls	Un-insulated solid walls
	None	<100mm				
Fuel poor households	10%	40%	57%	49%	43%	27%
All households	2%	28%	72%	43%	28%	19%

Source: ODPM 2003 English House Condition Survey

Table 4: Potential for Energy Efficient Lighting, Heating and Controls within South West

% of all properties	Low energy lights		Heating system >12yrs old	Heating controls		Average SAP rating
	None	>60%		No programmer	No thermostat	
Fuel Poor Households	50%	1%	69%	35%	26%	24
All households	59%	3%	44%	8%	5%	49

Source: ODPM 2003 English House Condition Survey

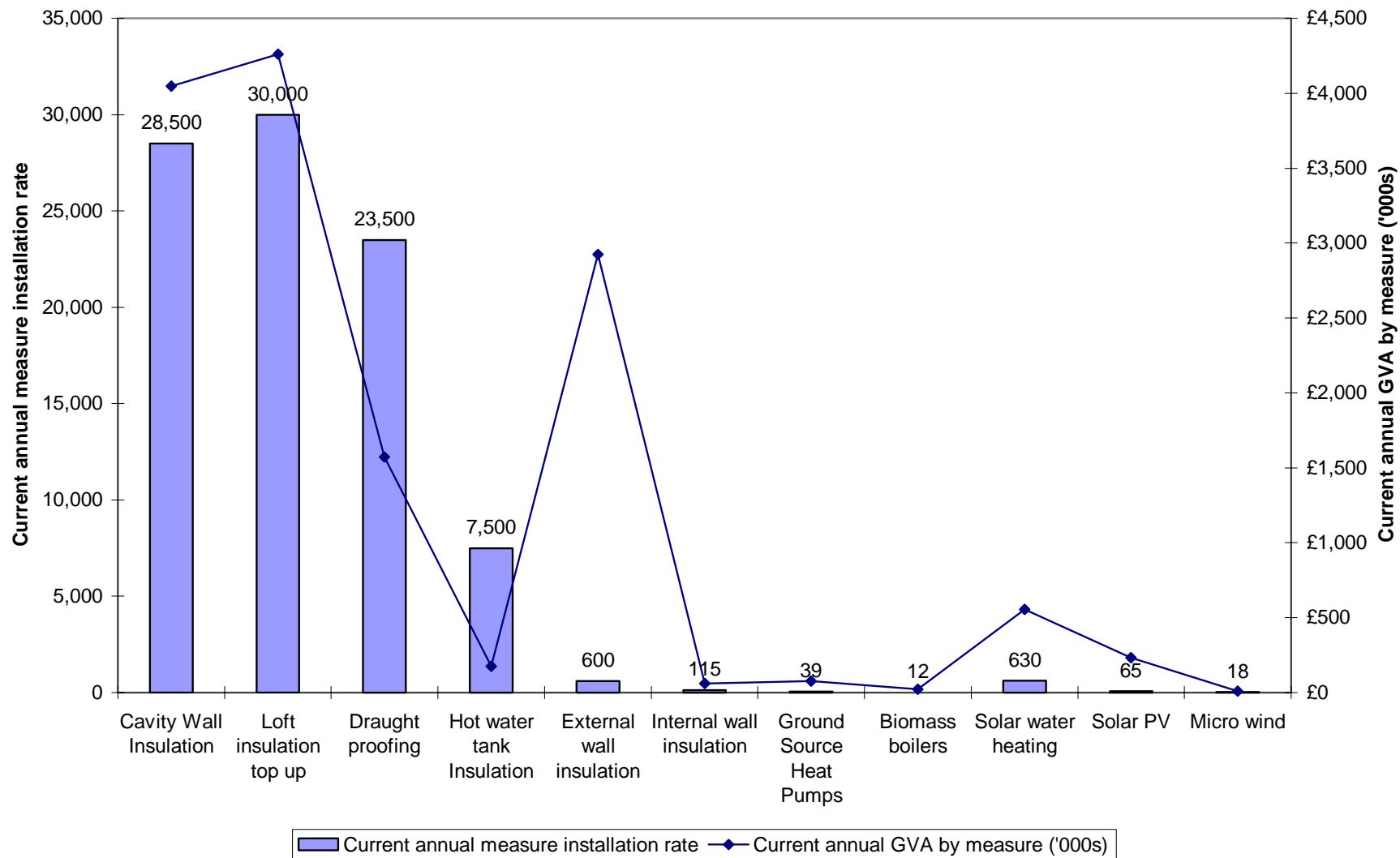
Table 5: Average Fuel Price Increases

Gas		Average annual bills	
Supplier	% increase	Jan-03	Mar-06
British Gas	70.0%	£370	£628
EDF	61.2%	£324	£539
npower	60.4%	£329	£536
Powergen	75.2%	£311	£544
Scottish Power	51.2%	£319	£532
SSE	39%	£326	£453
Across GB**	63.3%	£330	£539

Electricity		Average annual bills	
Supplier	% increase	Jan-03	Mar-06
British Gas	65.40%	£237	£391
EDF	42.50%	£240	£331
npower	44.60%	£234	£362
Powergen	47.80%	£241	£358
Scottish Power	up to 38.5%*	£251	£337
SSE	up to 32%*	£246	£313
Across GB**	44.2%	£242	£349

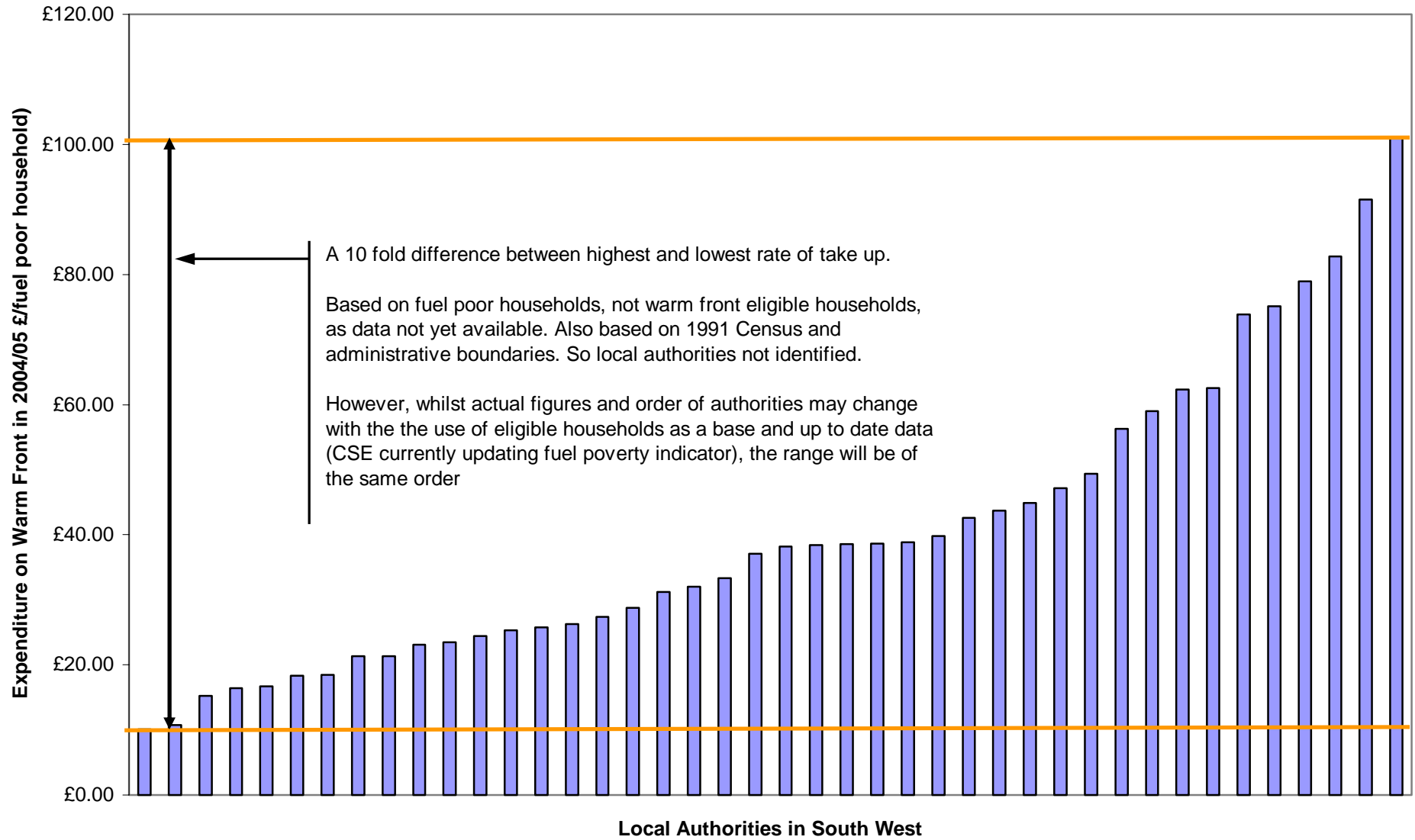
Source: EnergyWatch website

Table 6: Current installation rates and GVA by measure



Source: EAGA, DEFRA, and assumptions derived from discussions with industry

Table 7: Expenditure on Warm Front 2004/2005 by Fuel Poor Household

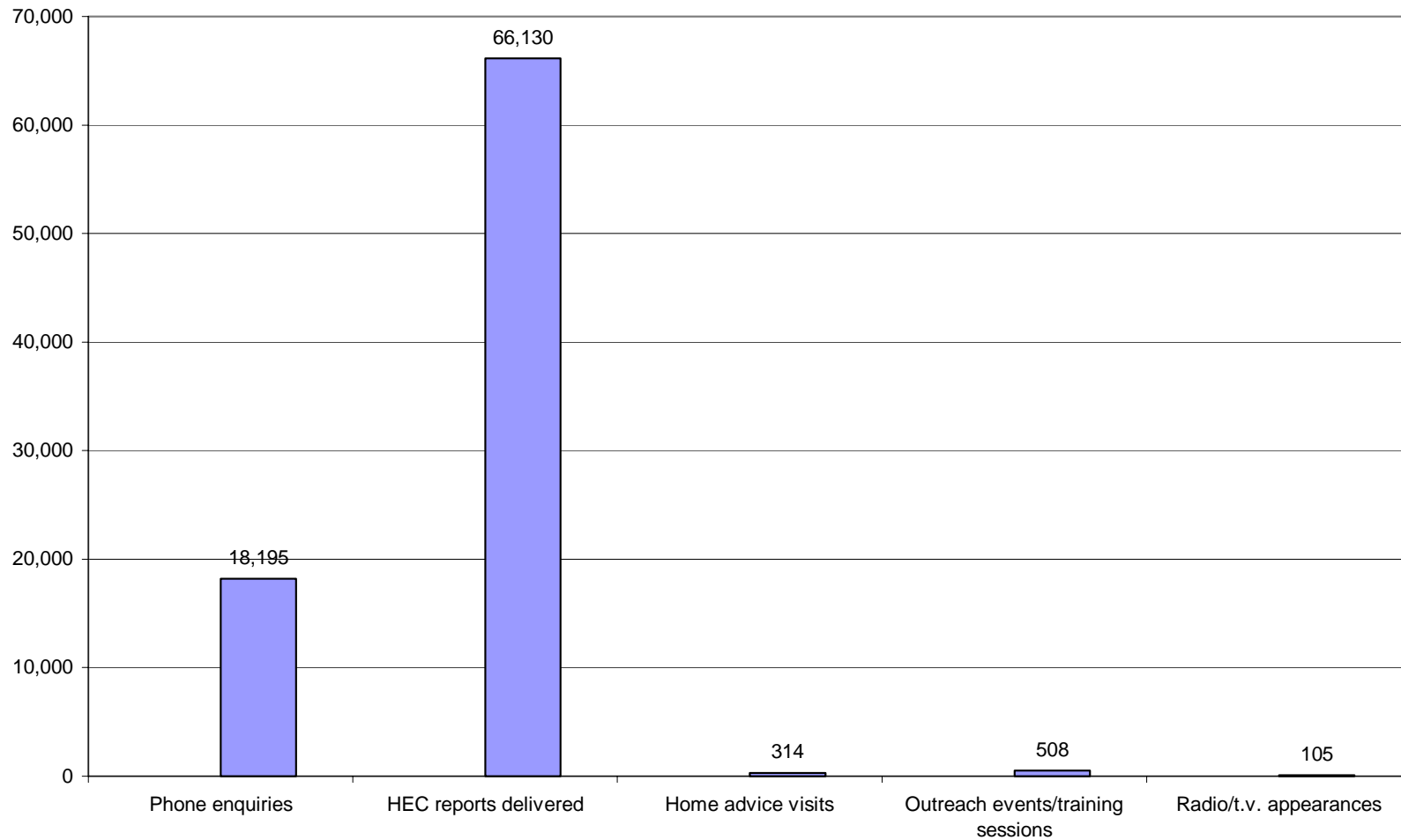


Source: EAGA, CSE Fuel Poverty Indicator based on 1991 administrative areas and Census data

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Table 8: Combined activity levels for the South West Energy Efficiency Advice Centre for 2004/2005 (HEC = Home Energy Check)



Source: EEACs

DEVELOPING REGIONAL TARGETS – EMERGING THEMES

Box 2: Developing Regional Targets – Key Messages based on the modelling completed to date

1. The robust approach to sustainable construction adopted by the draft Regional Spatial Strategy should be welcomed and will play an important role in the region's response to climate change
2. The existing Regional Housing Strategy target of delivering average SAP 65 across all households by 2016 and in vulnerable households by 2010 will not eradicate fuel poverty within the South West. indications are that neither will it deliver sufficient carbon savings to meet government targets,
3. The Regional Housing Strategy 'Plus' scenario (assuming minimum SAP 65 in all households by 2016, vulnerable households by 2010) is the only approach that delivers carbon savings that exceed the government's forecast within the revised Climate Change Programme and approaches the minimum level of savings necessary to keep the South West's contribution to mitigating the impacts of climate change in line with current demands of climate science.
4. Delivering the step change in activity implied by the regional targets as currently envisaged would deliver a 10 fold increase in the economic value of the sector to the region's economy.
5. Delivering minimum SAP 65 across the region's housing stock by 2016 will require installation rates for key energy efficiency measures like cavity wall insulation and loft insulation to increase by a factor of between 2.5 and 3. This is probably achievable given the increased funding regimes proposed by government within the revised Climate Change Programme.
6. Delivery by 2010 in vulnerable households raises concerns about rate of increase across all measures but may be just about achievable in terms of standard energy efficiency measures, depending on confirmation of government plans for EEC 3.
7. Required installation rates for solid wall insulation and building integrated renewables are questionable across all scenarios and will require further discussions with industry and clarification of government funding plans for EEC and the low carbon buildings programme before decisions can be made as to their feasibility
8. Neither scenario as they currently stand will deliver on the government's target of eradicating fuel poverty in vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016, with the Regional Housing Strategy 'Plus' achieving less than SAP 60 within the sub set of fuel poor households. Target setting should meet the needs of both climate change and fuel poverty.
9. This is due to both the impact of rising fuel prices and the problems associated with dealing with the lowest SAP rated properties where either major renovation or demolition are the only satisfactory options.
10. Whilst having one figure (e.g. minimum SAP 65) is useful as a means of establishing the scale of the task and the general impact in terms of carbon reduction, it is inadequate in terms of leading practice. Targets will need to be more able to reflect the needs of a diverse housing stock.
11. As a result regional targets on low carbon housing could be structured to provide:
 - Headline targets in terms of carbon reduction and alleviation of fuel poverty that replicates national targets, notwithstanding a decision on selecting either the current government aspiration for carbon (15-18% by 2010) or the previous commitment (20% by 2010)
 - A series of sub targets as necessary to deliver regionally as much of the national target as is considered feasible given the current national framework. For example,

- a defined standard for new housing that includes high minimum energy standards and is established within the Regional Spatial Strategy
- delivering minimum SAP 65 across all existing housing as far as is possible
- delivering higher SAP levels for a sub set of the poorest housing in order to encourage bringing forward cost/benefit decisions on investing in major refurbishment or increasing demolition rates
- a target in terms of number of households that can be addressed with the standard cost effective energy efficiency measures by local authority area or in terms of funding take up by local authority area
- Clarification of the shortfall between delivering the above and the government's national targets for carbon reduction and fuel poverty
- A clear set of messages to national government saying 'delivering national targets in the South West will require national government to.....'

Box 3: Developing Regional Targets –Scenarios

The purpose of the modelling is two fold:

1. To understand the extent to which existing regional targets relating to housing will deliver the South West's contribution to national targets on fuel poverty and carbon reduction, providing the evidence base for additional regional targets if required
2. To provide greater transparency on the level of domestic energy improvements required to meet regional targets and therefore provide an additional tool to aid policy makers and practitioners in the process of prioritising, targeting, monitoring and evaluating the impact of activity within the region

The analysis behind the range of targets discussed within this section has three main elements:

1. Modelling the energy efficiency and building integrated renewables (heat) measures required to raise the housing stock within the region from its current average SAP of 49 to a range of higher levels.⁶
2. Modelling the carbon reductions generated assuming a range of SAP targets, alongside assumptions about appliance use growth, rates of new build and installation of building integrated renewables (electricity) within the region.
3. Assessing the SAP required to remove households within the South West from fuel poverty assuming current and future fuel prices rises.

The data analysis and modelling uses the South West sample of properties from the 2003 English House Condition Survey, the SAP 2001 algorithms, revised Climate Change Programme forecasts of carbon emissions as baseline and comparator and a range of assumptions that will outlined within the final report along with the detailed modelling methodology.

Three initial scenarios have been developed.

Scenario 1 – Base case: Assumes all new developments meet building regulations (2006) and continuation of existing levels of energy efficiency improvement

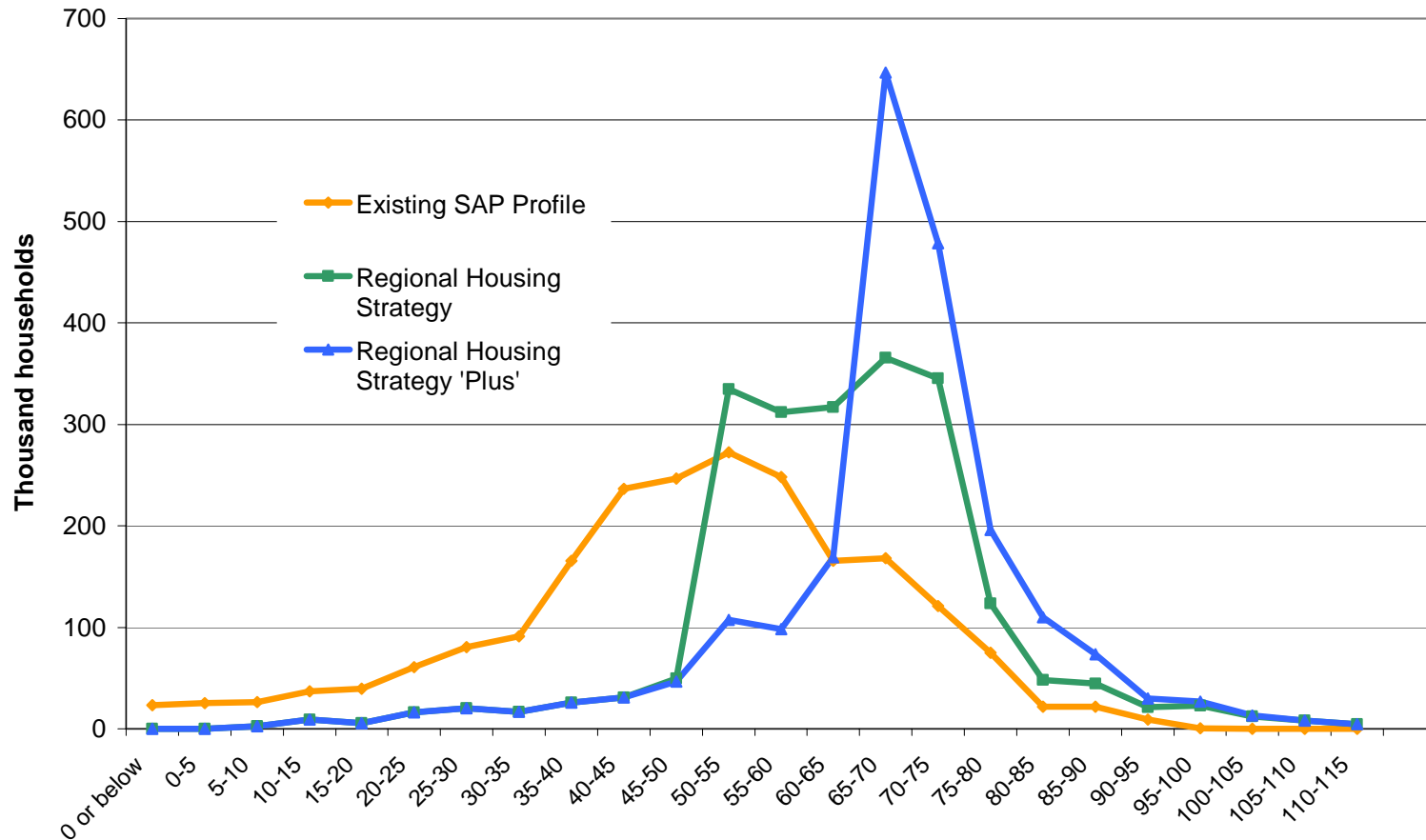
Scenario 2 – The Regional Housing Strategy: Assumes all new development to meet standards as outlined within the Regional Spatial Strategy and achievement of average SAP 65 in all vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016

⁶ A SAP of 65 is the level at which it is thought that thermal improvements will no longer have an impact on fuel poverty. An average SAP of 80 was the level considered within the 40% House Report from the Environmental Change Institute to be necessary to achieve 60% carbon reductions within the domestic sector

Scenario 3 – The Regional Housing Strategy ‘Plus’: Assumes all new development to meet standards as outlined within the Regional Spatial Strategy and achievement of minimum SAP 65 in all vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016

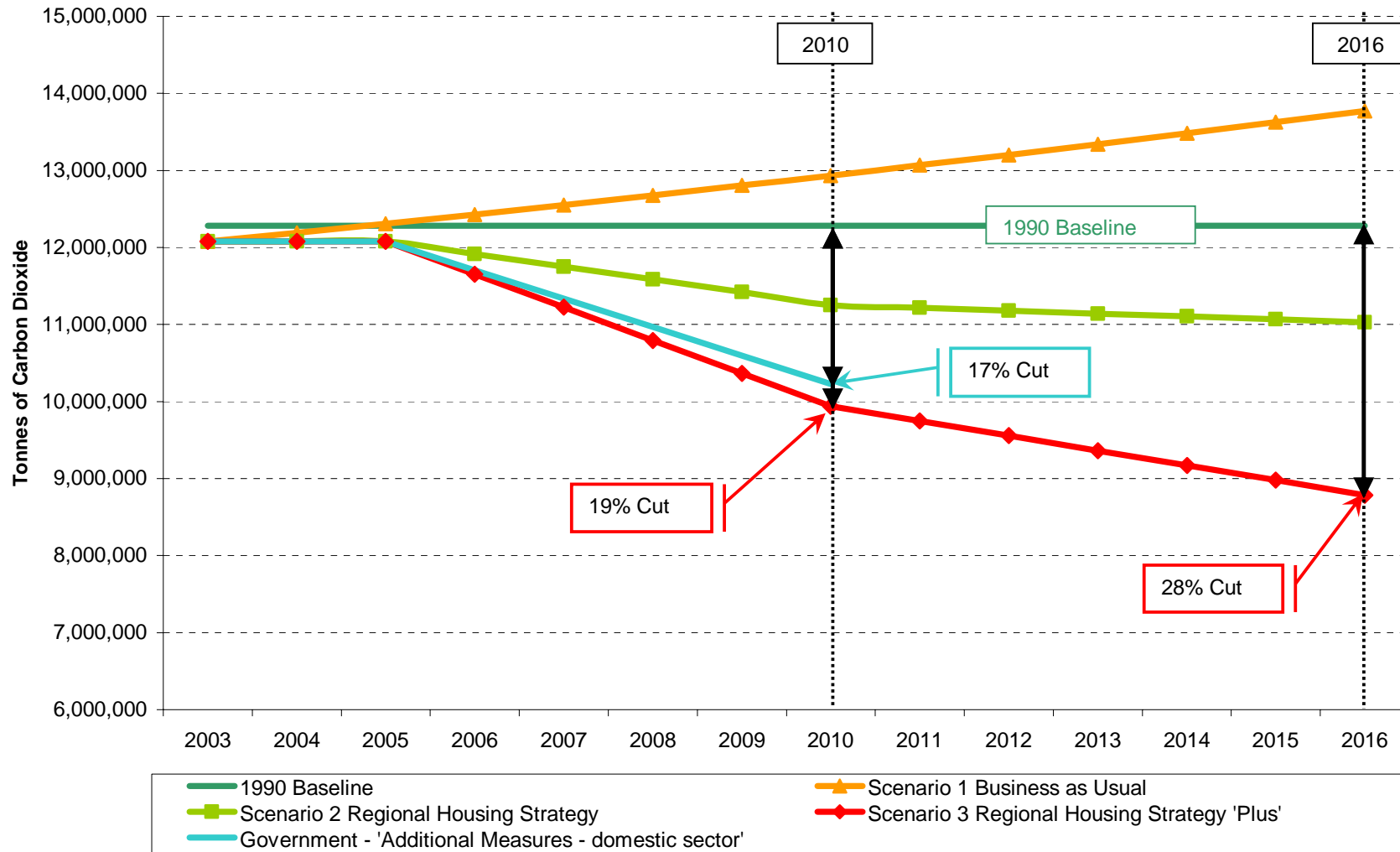
Current forecasts utilise data from the 40% House report in terms of energy demand from new build as analysis is waiting on government clarification of the energy standards to be associated with the Code for Sustainable Homes

Figure 1: Regional SAP profile - current and scenarios 2 and 3



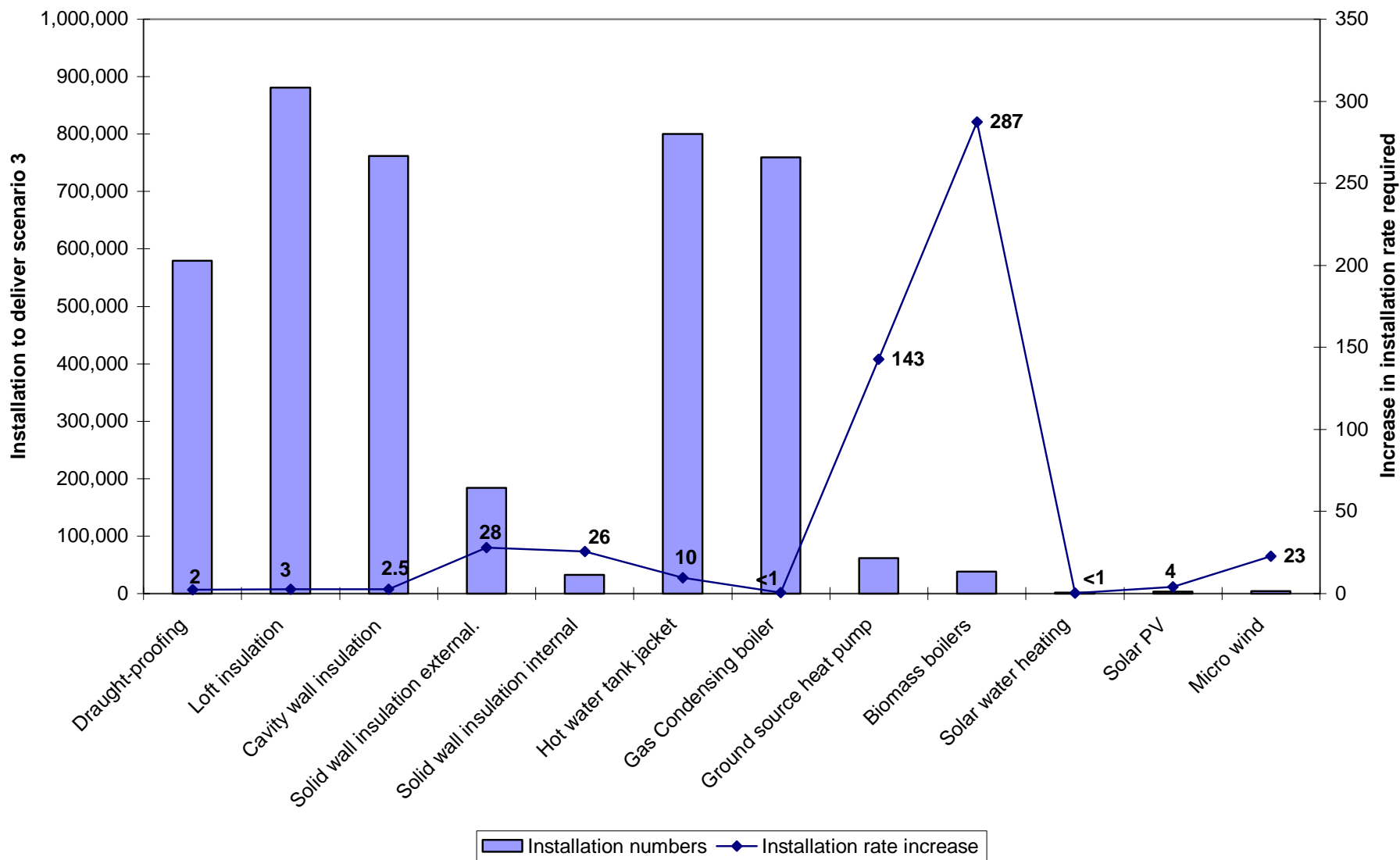
Source: Modelling based on the 2003 English House Condition Survey data set

Figure 2: Carbon impact of a range of scenarios with reference to the 1990 baseline



Source: Modelling based on the 2003 English House Condition Survey data set

Figure 3: Measures required to deliver scenario 3 – Regional Housing Strategy ‘Plus’

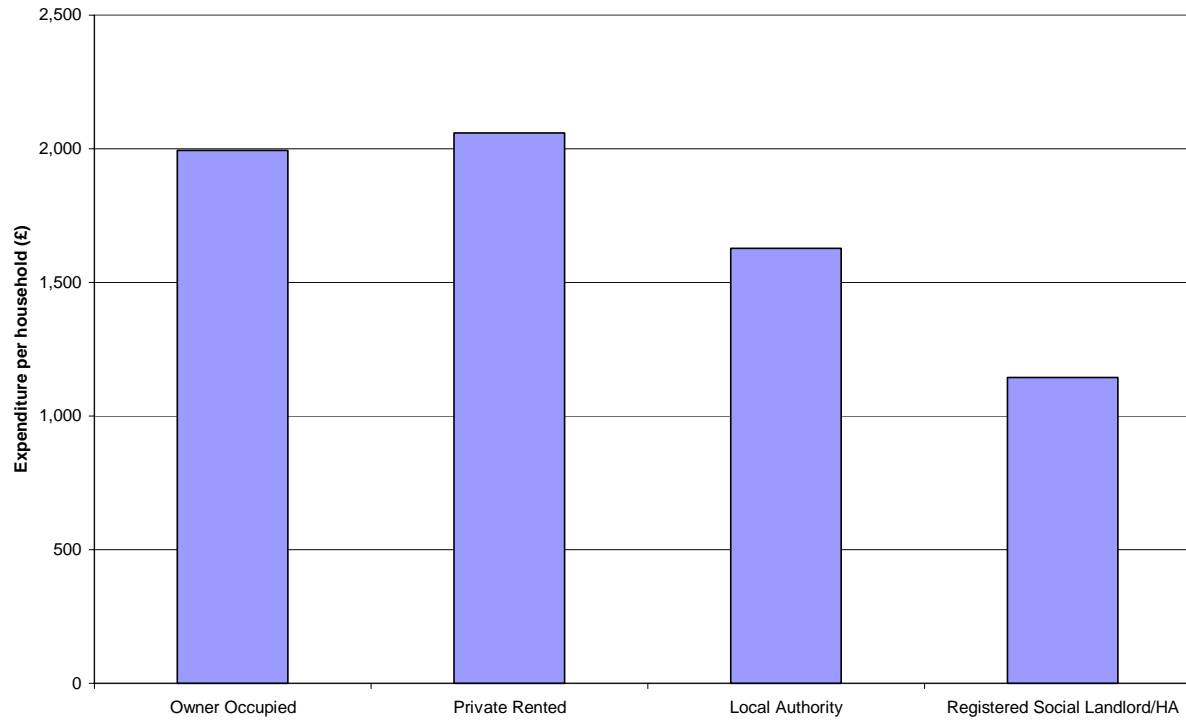


Source: Modelling based on the 2003 English House Condition Survey data set

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on behalf of Regional Partners

Figure 4: Expenditure to deliver scenario 3 in £/household⁷ in the South West by tenure



Source: Modelling based on the 2003 English House Condition Survey data set

⁷ This represents the total expenditure required in for each tenure split by number of households in each tenure

DELIVERING A PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL ACTION – EMERGING THEMES

Box 4: Delivering a programme of Regional Action – Key Messages

Regional action should add value by doing things that can't be done better at either national or local level

In this context regional action is assumed to cover:

- Action delivered by regional governmental and non governmental agencies and networks
- Action undertaken by sub regional agencies and networks involving collaboration at a regional level or delivering outcomes relevant to the whole region
- Action that involves the identification and regional dissemination of good practice in the delivery of local action

Regional action should build wherever possible on existing regional and sub regional networks and agencies. Where new regional infrastructure is considered necessary it should simplify rather than complicate existing regional provision

Regional action on low carbon housing and fuel poverty is designed to deliver against 6 key objectives as follows:

1. Ensure accountability
2. Enhance the regional policy framework
3. Improve regional communication and widen ownership of the energy agenda
4. Maximise and effectively utilise funding for local action on existing housing
5. Support the implementation of high standards for low/zero carbon development
6. Respond to rising demand for low carbon technologies

Some of the actions under these 6 objectives will need to be extracted and must be regarded as key enabling actions in order to establish the delivery of the strategy and action plan on a firm footing.

Regional action should:

- Clarify the scale of the task faced by the region
- Support political leadership
- Provide the tools and resources necessary to monitor and support progress
- Co-ordinate and enhance the activities of regional agencies in order to better understand and support local action and provide a more powerful voice to better communicate the region's needs to national government and its agencies

Table 9: Key Enabling Actions Extracted from the Wider Programme of Work

Actions	Purpose	Responsibility
<p>The review of existing regional structures, networks and bodies as part of assessing how best to provide clear accountability and ownership for the Low Carbon Housing and Fuel Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Implement whatever approach is considered appropriate</p>	<p>No regional body as currently formulated is in a position to take on the ownership of this strategy and action plan due to the cross cutting nature of the issues concerned.</p> <p>The review should therefore consider the options for establishing a South West Sustainable Energy Partnership or agency, including how any new agency would relate with existing regional infrastructure and future developments such as the Sustainable Energy Network, whilst still meeting the principles of simplicity and additionality outlined above</p>	<p>GOSW, the Housing Energy Steering Group⁸</p>
<p>Select a range of clear indicators based on available data sets that describe progress towards the targets outlined within this strategy and action plan</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for collecting, analysing and storing data such that it may be accessible to policy makers and practitioners within the region</p>	<p>Data is currently collected within the region in many formats that do not always match what will be needed to monitor and evaluate progress towards regional targets being proposed</p> <p>There may be opportunities being missed to make better use of regional data, including the use of GIS to aid data analysis and enhance local targeting. CSE's fuel poverty indicator being an example of the value of such an approach</p>	<p>GOSW, Regional Observatory, the Housing Energy Steering Group</p>
<p>The completion of support to the existing round of regional policy and strategy development</p>	<p>There are important elements of the regional policy framework currently in development, including the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Regional Housing Strategy delivery plan and the Integrated Regional Strategy delivery plan that will need continued input and support before the first enabling action can be delivered</p>	<p>The Housing Energy Steering Group</p>
<p>Determine the cost and benefits of different models for delivering the EST funded Sustainable Energy Network within the South West,</p>	<p>The EST recently ran a regional consultation event considering approaches to establishing a Sustainable Energy Network within the South West. Following the event ongoing dialogue between the EST and the region will need to be established in order to ensure that the model established for the South West meets the needs of the region and the EST</p>	<p>The Housing Energy Steering Group, the EST</p>

⁸ The Housing Energy Steering Group was set up to oversee the delivery of the strategy and has agreed to continue oversight until a longer term solution to ownership for the strategy and action plan has been established. The group members include, RDA, RA, GOSW, EA, Regen SW, Future Foundations, NEA (SW), the EEACs, the SW HECA Forum, the Housing Corporation (SW), the National landlords Association (SW) and the EST

Table 10: Regional Action Plan Emerging Themes - Extracted from a more comprehensive draft Action Plan⁹

Objective 1: Ensure accountability

An absence of regional action would leave the regional strategy and action plan with no accountability and no ability to monitor and evaluate progress and target resources in the best way to support local action. Neither will there be the mechanism in place to secure the advocacy required to support the region's response to some challenging issues.

Outcomes

- Clear and transparent accountability and co-ordination for action plan delivery
- Effective monitoring and reporting on progress of action plan and target delivery

Priority Actions

- Ensure that whatever mechanism is set up as part of the first enabling action, is supported and established with a clear mandate and terms of reference
 - Develop a South West database of measure installation by local authority based on existing data sets, including Warm Front and other managing agent data. Assess and utilise the EST's Home Energy Efficiency Database as and when it is ready.
 - Review local authority's approach to reporting via HECA reports and annual reviews with a view to establishing common systems and approaches.
-

Objective 2: Enhance the South West policy framework

An absence of regional action would severely reduce the priority placed on low carbon housing and fuel poverty issues within regional policy and encourage a less than level playing field for action across the region.

Outcomes

- Integrating low carbon housing and fuel poverty within a broader sustainable energy framework for the region
- Integrating low carbon housing and fuel poverty within key regional strategies and action plans

Priority Actions

- Build on the activity outlined under the third enabling action above, to enhance further the development of other aspects of the regional policy framework
 - Develop an overarching sustainable energy strategy that links this strategy with the existing regional renewable energy strategy and the developing business resource efficiency action plan and fills gaps, e.g. public sector carbon management, transport
 - Feed understanding of local delivery into the development of regional policy, e.g. drawing on the experience of the EEAC network, affordable warmth partnerships, other locally based NGOs and local authorities through the SW HECA Forum
-

Objective 3: Improve regional communication and widen ownership of the energy agenda

An absence of regional action will limit the ability of regional agencies to deliver clear and consistent messages to stakeholders reducing impact and increasing confusion. Enhancing the ability of existing regional networks to collate and share experience of practical delivery can only be done at a regional level.

Outcomes

- Delivering consistent messages to key

Priority Actions

- Enhance the consistency and quality of regional communication through the development and
-

⁹ Responsibilities and timescales for actions will be established following discussions with stakeholders

- stakeholders across the breadth of the sustainable energy agenda
 - Integrating low carbon housing and fuel poverty within local strategies and action plans
 - Enhancing buy in to the energy agenda amongst key non energy stakeholders within the community, health, and social sectors
 - Capturing and disseminating the learning from relevant experience from within the region
- implementation of a regional climate change and fuel poverty communication strategy
 - Enhance national guidance with specific local SW experience targeted at:
 - Local Strategic Partnerships wishing to integrate climate change and fuel poverty issues within their community planning process
 - Local stakeholders wishing to integrate energy issues within Local Area Agreements
 - Local Planning Authorities integrating energy issues within Local Development Frameworks and other local authority policy
 - Private and social housing providers integrating energy issues within policy and practice
 - Work with and through the regional dimension of partnerships with health, community and social sector agencies to enhance local targeting of fuel poor and vulnerable households and in order to ensure fuel poor households receive all help available

Objective 4: Maximise and effectively utilise funding for local action on existing housing

An absence of regional action will limit the region's ability to develop its understanding of how best to maximise its current share of nationally available resources. Regional/local collaboration on innovation around the institutional challenges facing enhanced delivery (e.g. development of local Energy Action Areas) will be able to develop new partnerships and funding opportunities that action at only local level may fail to secure.

Outcomes

- Maximising take up of capital funding for measures to address sustainable energy issues within housing
- Maximising levels of revenue funding secured within the region for programmes delivering local action
- Raising awareness and educating householders
- Effective communication with energy suppliers and EAGA with regards to scheme delivery

Priority Actions

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a number of Energy Action Areas that provide an opportunity to trial approaches to integrated delivery and dealing with hard to treat properties whilst demonstrating what is required to scale up activity to that required across the region
- Work with the SW HECA Forum, Local Government Association, Regional Assembly, Housing Corporation, Regional Housing Body, EEAC network within the region to promote effective approaches to increasing take up of funding through the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Warm Front and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme
- Develop and deliver, through regional bodies, clear and consistent messages regarding changes within housing provision and how they relate to energy issues, e.g. Decent Homes Standards, Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, Landlords Energy Saving Allowance, landlord accreditation schemes, Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, Home Information Packs, energy efficiency grant schemes etc
- Establish regional communication with providers of measure funding such as EAGA and the energy suppliers in order to:
 - Increase integration of energy efficiency funding at a local level
 - Increase transparency of availability of energy efficiency offers within the region

Objective 5: Support the implementation of high standards for low/zero carbon development

High standards for new build as outlined within the draft Regional Spatial Strategy will have a significant impact on local stakeholders within public and private sectors. As a result, regional agencies have a responsibility to consider how they can best support and facilitate the adoption of high standards within

mainstream practice, as required by regional policy, through demonstration, research and development, training, guidance and support

Outcomes

- Increasing demand for low carbon development
- Supporting the implementation of high standards for low carbon design within all public sector led new housing and major renovation programmes
- Integrating sustainable construction within mainstream industry practice

Priority Actions

- Review the level of resources provided to supporting change within both public and private sectors e.g. through Future Foundations and increase as required
- Public sector to show lead by providing clear justified requirements for sustainable construction procurement in all projects and prepare and promote example low/zero carbon developments i.e. within urban regeneration areas like Swindon and Camborne/Redruth.
- Ensure resources, guidance and training on turning standards into practice is available for all Local Authority officers to implement the policies of the Regional Spatial Strategy into Local Development Frameworks, Supplementary Planning Documents, checklists and approved planning applications
- Work with elected members through bodies like the Regional Assembly and Local Government Association to promote the importance and the opportunities for low carbon development at a local level
- Support or develop a high profile regional competition to encourage private sector proposals for new mainstream development (public sector land/funding offered as prize?)
- Use SW COPROP¹⁰, Constructing Excellence South West and creating:excellence to enhance dialogue between private and public sectors and support the use of Design South West and the Design Review Panel to encourage greater integration of sustainable construction practice
- Understand the pressures on the regulatory functions of building control and what needs to be done to ensure compliance

Objective 6: Respond to rising demand for low carbon technologies

An absence of regional action will remove the ability to provide a South West perspective to the national activity currently underway and limit a strategic response to delivering the South West specific skills, training and quality agenda formed by the implications of enhanced action

Outcomes

- Encouraging the technological and programme innovation required to deliver low carbon housing and alleviate fuel poverty
- Identifying and filling gaps in training provision within the region as appropriate
- Supporting the wide ranging adoption of relevant quality standards

Priority Actions

- Investigate the potential for establishing a Centre of Excellence for Building Integrated Renewables Technologies with regional and possibly national influence, capable of working with industry, HE/FE, government, the RDA(s) and the skills sector councils to provide a focussed approach to research and development, the development of industry standards and enhancing training provision
- Work through business links to promote and support the use of DTI innovation grants (including the new Enterprise Capital Funds) and encourage access by SW companies to the range of innovation services available within the South West as part of the RDA's regional innovation strategy
- Review national Sector Skills Council activity, assess regional skills shortages in light of target demands, review existing regional training provision, highlight critical gaps and how they might be addressed.

¹⁰ The Association of Chief Corporate Property Officers in Local Government