

Warm Homes Peterborough Year One Executive Summary

Warm Homes Peterborough is a community-based fuel-poverty project managed by Peterborough Environment City Trust and funded by ScottishPower Energy People Trust. Year one of this two-year initiative brought free energy-saving advice and products to the doorsteps of 251 social housing tenants in the most deprived and fuel-poverty prone areas of Peterborough. The tenants visited were from a range of cultures, age-groups and circumstances, united by a common interest in conserving energy. Project participants completed a survey with the Project Officer, during which they received energy-saving advice on subjects including heating, electrical appliances and insulation. Following the survey each tenant received an energy pack containing an energy-saving CFL bulb, a PowerDown plug for reducing stand-by energy consumption, a thermometer card, and the Warm Homes Peterborough project leaflet.

Saving Energy

- 87% of tenants who installed the CFL lightbulb provided to them by the project officer
- 47% of tenants reducing their washing machine temperature following visits
- 40% of tenants lowering their central heating thermostat levels after visits

Managing Energy Supply

- 30% of tenants contacted their energy suppliers to find out if they were eligible for social energy tariffs.
- 12% of tenants changed energy supplier.
- 92% of those tenants changing supplier believe that this act by itself has reduced their fuel bills.

Founded as it was to alleviate fuel poverty, one of the core aims of Warm Homes Peterborough was to witness a reduction in project participants' fuel bills. In this aim the project can claim a great degree of success. Follow-up surveys illustrate that:

- The percentage of tenants paying less than £19 per week for energy increased from a minority of 41% before visits to a majority of 52% after visits.
- Almost half (45%) of project participants were confident that their bills had already fallen as a result of their involvement with Warm Homes Peterborough.

The tenants' efforts in the period directly after the home visits provides a good picture of their commitment to energy-efficiency, which was carefully fostered by the project's work:

- A fifth of tenants felt compelled to purchase additional energy-saving CFL bulbs having received one in their free energy pack.
- The project motivated a quarter of tenants to contact their energy supplier to discuss options for more suitable payment plans.
- Around a fifth of tenants contacted their housing associations directly after visits with energy-relating enquiries ranging from requests for insulation check-ups to appeals for shower and double-glazing installation.

A further 500 social housing tenants benefitted from free energy saving advice and items distributed during the project's numerous Community Energy Events. As well working to educate communities from within, the project's programme of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Workshops has so-far trained 13 RSL staff in the subjects of insulation and renewable energy. Drawing on their experience from this first year, the project team have made numerous provisions to ensure that Year Two will go even further towards alleviating fuel poverty within Peterborough's social-housing communities.

The project assisted hundreds of social housing tenants in Peterborough against fuel poverty, providing the knowledge and tools to identify and eliminate energy wastage which would otherwise be costly to them and the wider environment.

***"I have noticed the difference with my bills"**
Winifred Nightingale, Cross Keys Homes tenant, Chestnut Avenue, Dogsthorpe*