



Energy Efficiency as a National Infrastructure Priority

12.45pm, Thursday 17 November 2016

Committee Room 2

The Scottish Parliament

Convenor: Mark Ruskell MSP

1. Attendees

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Elaine Waterson (elaine.watson@est.org.uk).

2. Introduction by Chair and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Mark Ruskell MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and checked that the group was happy with the minutes and that they represented an accurate record of the last meeting. No one suggested any corrections.

3. Presentation, Energy efficiency – a macroeconomic perspective, Professor Karen Turner, Strathclyde University. Karen Turner from Strathclyde University started by noting that, in collaboration with the Fraser of Allander Institute, the Centre for Energy Policy at the University of Strathclyde has been considering the wider economic case for supporting increased energy efficiency in the domestic, commercial and public sectors. She went on to consider why energy efficiency is important and discussed the rebound effect and the IEA's work on the multiple benefits of energy efficiency. She concluded by highlighting that energy efficiency can help the economy to grow in a more sustained and sustainable way and noted that this isn't limited to jobs in the industries involved in making buildings more efficient. Rather it puts more money in people's pockets, can make firms more competitive and ultimately delivers wider economic returns that will compensate for directing infrastructure spend in this way.

4. Presentation, Energy efficiency as a National Infrastructure Priority – what does this mean for the domestic sector? Lori McElroy, Existing Homes Alliance Scotland (ExHA). Lori McElroy, the ExHA's new chair detailed the ExHA's position on what energy efficiency as a National Infrastructure Priority should mean for Scotland's existing housing stock. She highlighted that the investment required to alleviate fuel poverty in Scotland would be around £10 billion with an average cost of £8,000 per property. She also highlighted the ExHA's call for all homes to be brought up to an EPC C where possible by 2025 and noted the ExHA's request for government investment of £190 million in the 2017/18 budget – gradually ramping up to £450 million and supplemented by other sources. She

concluded by welcoming members of SPREEE that had not done so already to sign up to the Existing Homes' Alliance's joint statement.

5. Presentation, Energy efficiency as a National Infrastructure Priority - what does this mean for the non-domestic sector? Warren McIntyre, Zero Waste Scotland. Warren McIntyre began his presentation by providing a brief introduction to the work of Zero Waste Scotland and to the Resource Efficient Scotland (RES) Programme. He considered the barriers that organisations need to overcome to become more energy efficient and outlined the support RES provides to overcome these. He went on to discuss the opportunities that Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme presents and noted the importance of tailoring support to suit local circumstances and local suppliers.

6. Question and Answer Session

A range of questions were directed at the panel; please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting. Questions posed to the panel included:

Jeff Justice a student at Edinburgh University asked about the implications of Brexit and the recent American election results in terms of environmental justice and social justice.

Joan Pisanek from **Sunamp** asked about sites with lots of electricity generation that is not used and asked for the panel's thoughts on how to deal with this.

John Birchmore from **SHREWS** noted that the end users of heat were the focus of all of the presentations and noted the importance of how that power is generated and the potential for energy recovery from power generation.

In response **Karen Turner** noted that energy recovery is something her team has recently started to look at. **Warren McIntyre** highlighted that local generation is key and that social justice is what the climate change argument is largely about. **Lori McElroy** noted the importance of storage and the importance of joining up agendas.

Patrick Harvie MSP asked about the role of the stick as opposed to the carrot.

Teresa Bray from **Changeworks** noted the importance of people and how they live in their homes and that engagement programmes will be key to achieving savings.

Ragne Low from **Climatexchange** asked about the scale of the economic multiplier effect for energy efficiency and asked how comparable it was to other economic stimulus options.

In response **Karen Turner** suggested she was keen to consult on how to best get the message about the multiplier effect out there. **Warren McIntyre** noted that regulation may have a role to play as could EPCs. **Lori McElroy** noted that incentivisation would be important and also about the need to look at how we can address the performance gap between the theory and how people actually live. She also noted that a number of years ago Scottish Building Standards created a manual on how to live in your home. She noted that this was embryonic work and suggested that consideration should be given to resurrecting some of it.

Bill Roger (individual) asked about area based approaches and the extent to which Local Authorities would have the capacity to do this going forwards.

Jan Webb from **Edinburgh University** asked about whether the EPC is fit for purpose for a programme like SEEP. She also asked about how trust in the supply chain could be improved to help make energy efficiency a more compelling thing for people to do.

Scott Restrict from **Energy Action Scotland** asked about what the economic impact would be if SEEP was delivered alongside a Living Wage commitment.

In response **Lori McElroy** noted that EPCs were designed to comply with the EPBD and that they were not a tool for design. She also suggested that there was a need to move away from thinking about EPCs in the way that they are currently thought about. **Warren McIntyre** noted that there were lots of benefits to area based approaches and that there were still lots of opportunities to feed into the design of SEEP. **Karen Turner** suggested that she would be very interested in looking at the economic impacts of SEEP being delivered alongside a living Wage Commitment.

7. Conclusion and Date(s) of Next Meeting(s)

Mark Ruskell MSP thanked the presenters and concluded the meeting.

The next meetings of the group will be as follows:

- Thursday 23rd February – The Scottish Government’s Energy Strategy.
- Thursday 18th May – Local Energy Solutions.

8. Attendees

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	
Alex	Anderson	Member
Alan	Beal	Member
John	Birchmore	Member
Teresa	Bray	Member
Stefan	Buettner	
Ruth	Bush	Member
Colin	Campbell	Member
Barnaby	Cowin	
Gordon	Cowtan	In place of Kayt Holt who is a member
Ian	Cuthbert	Member
Gavin	Donoghue	Member (secretary)
Gioele	Figus	Invited (colleague of Karen Turner – invited speaker)
Karen	Freel	
Anna	Graham	Invited (colleague of Warren MacIntyre – invited speaker)
Patrick	Harvey, MSP	Member
Agnes	Holmes	Member

Nigel	Holmes	Member
Jeff	Justice	Member
Anthony	Kyriakides	Member
Elizabeth	Leighton	Member
Fabrice	Leveque	Member
Ragne	Low	Member
John	Maclean	Member
Ben	Macpherson, MSP	Member (deputy convenor)
Tim	Maiden	
Liam	McArthur, MSP	Member (convenor)
Lori	McElroy	Invited to present
Warren	McIntyre	Invited to present
Sam	McMillan	Member
Gavin	Mowat	
Tariq	Muneer	Member
Joan	Pisaneck	Member
Andrew	Pope	Member
Scott	Restrick	In place of Barbara Atterson who is a member
Fiona	Riddoch	Member
Bill	Rodger	Member
Lorna	Ross	Member
Mark	Ruskell, MSP	Member (convenor)
Aurelie	Tartaud	Member
John	Taylor	Member
Karen	Turner	Invited to present
Elaine	Waterson	Member (secretary)
Jan	Webb	Member
Mark	Winkel	Member

For suggestions of corrections for this note please contact the secretariat, Elaine Waterson (elaine.waterson@est.org.uk)