

Report to All Area Boards
Date of Meeting August - October
Title of Report LPSA Funding Bid: Wiltshire is Saving Energy (WiSE)

What is the initiative?

Working with the Energy Saving Trust and sponsored by the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance this initiative aims to make available to all Wiltshire householders the equipment and advice to save energy in their home. By making an energy monitor and support pack available to hire free of charge from all libraries across Wiltshire we are providing the tools that will allow householders not only to save money but also reduce their carbon footprint.

Why do we need this initiative?

Saving money and ensuring householders can afford to heat their homes is always a priority. An energy efficient home will cost less to heat.

This initiative will also help achieve the LAW ambition of reducing Wiltshire's Carbon footprint. The initiative will offer a very practical solution to monitoring and reducing the householder's energy consumption resulting in them saving money.

Who will benefit?

The library service is available to all Wiltshire residents, currently the library service has 220,416 users. The information and advice from the Energy Saving Trust is free of charge and open to everyone.

The support pack includes information about grants and funding available to private housing residents in receipt of certain benefits. Current figures confirm there are 12,000 people within Wiltshire that these grants could potentially apply.

Is there a demand?

Following a very successful pilot we can prove there is a demand for energy monitors and the supporting information. 41 Energy monitors have been available to hire from 6 libraries. The monitors have been continuously on issue and there are 31 customers on the waiting list.

How will it work?

We will provide a full support package with each energy monitor that will include details on how the user can save energy through both changes in their daily life and investing in energy efficiency technologies. From the information they receive any changes the user makes to their lifestyle immediately following the use of the monitor will start saving carbon. As the users see their energy bills reducing they will have no reason to go back to old ways resulting in long term financial and carbon savings.

How will we measure success?

We can put multiple measures in place to monitor success. The library service can provide regular reports on the level of issues. The Energy Saving Trust and Private Sector Housing will provide information on the number of follow up calls and website surveys that are generated from the energy monitor support packs.

The full application can be viewed at: www.tinyurl.com/38zs2sf

To enable this initiative to proceed, the Area Board is asked to support this bid for PRG funding