

ASTE6

Promote community action to reduce energy consumption



Overview

This unit covers the provision of information and support to communities to help them reduce their energy consumption. This unit is relevant to Housing Energy Advisers (HEAs) wishing to train as Community Energy Advisers (CEAs).

The term 'community group' is used here in the broadest sense and covers any community of interest - co-located or not - with the potential to act collectively to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainability e.g. a resident's committees, tenant's group, housing association, church group, the local WI, or the residents of a street working together.

Element 6.1 requires that you: identify opportunities to support community action; provide a range of information, advice and support to community groups; help groups to access funding, training and other resources; and liaise with the providers of relevant goods and services on their behalf.

Element 6.1 also covers the preparation and issue of a comprehensive community advice report containing: an overview of the current energy consumption of the community group; the sustainability of energy sources; recommendations for reducing energy consumption with potential costs and carbon/cost savings; a prioritised action plan; and agreed follow-up action/support.

The recommendations provided to clients must be objective and impartial. However, it is possible that you will be 'tied' to a particular organisation/employer and that you will receive referral fees or other benefits from them should the client use their services. Although you may make suggestions to clients that they use particular products, services or suppliers (e.g. a certain make of boiler, or a local insulation installation service), it is vital that any interest is fully disclosed to the client.

ASTE A6

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 identify opportunities to promote community action to reduce energy consumption
 - P2 provide **information, advice and support** to community groups in a manner appropriate to them
 - P3 explore with community groups the potential for renewable energy generation, and refer them to other sources of information, advice and support where necessary
 - P4 help community groups to access training, funding and other resources required by them
 - P5 liaise with the providers of products and/or services on behalf of community groups
 - P6 produce complete, accurate and clear **advice reports** for community groups
 - P7 issue **advice reports** to community groups, and provide information on how to interpret its contents and implement advice
 - P8 fully disclose, within **advice reports**, any referral fees or other benefits that you may receive should the community group follow your suggestions for products, services or suppliers

ASTE A6

Promote community action to reduce energy consumption

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the purpose and role of Community Energy Advisers, and the extent and limitations of the information, advice and support that can be provided by them
- K2 the range of opportunities that might exist to promote community action to reduce energy consumption, and how to identify them
- K3 the reasons why different community groups may require different types of support; the factors that affect their motivation and capacity to act
- K4 the importance of acknowledging and balancing individual and community needs
- K5 the range of information, advice and support that may be required by community groups, and ways of providing this in a manner appropriate to the audience
- K6 the potential use of renewable energy generation within communities; sources of information, advice and support to which community groups can be referred
- K7 the range of training, funding and other resources that may be required by community groups, and ways of helping them to access such resources
- K8 the benefits that may be gained from liaising with the providers of products and/or services on behalf of community groups e.g. economies of scale
- K9 techniques for effective communication, facilitation and liaison, and how to adapt them to meet the needs of different community groups
- K10 how to produce complete, accurate and clear advice reports for community groups
- K11 the importance of providing information to community groups on how to interpret the advice reports and implement the recommendations contained therein
- K12 the importance of fully disclosing any referral fees or other benefits you may receive as a result of community groups following your suggestions for particular products, services or suppliers

ASTE A6

Promote community action to reduce energy consumption

Additional Information

Scope/range

1. **information, advice and support** may relate to:
 - 1.1. suppliers of goods and services
 - 1.2. local services and facilities
 - 1.3. lifestyle and behaviours
 - 1.4. local planning policies
 - 1.5. options for low and zero carbon energy technologies
 - 1.6. financial support (e.g. grants)
 - 1.7. referral to other professionals/experts
2. **advice reports** containing:
 - 2.1. an overview of current energy consumption of the community group
 - 2.2. the sustainability of energy sources
 - 2.3. recommendations for reducing energy consumption, including potential costs and carbon/cost savings
 - 2.4. a prioritised action plan
 - 2.5. agreed follow-up action/support

ASTEA6

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Suite Energy Advisers

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