

## Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

<b>Policy title and purpose (brief outline):</b>	Energy Efficiency Strategy for Wales
<b>Name of official:</b>	Lucy Thomas
<b>Department:</b>	Natural Resources
<b>Date:</b>	June 2015
<b>Signature:</b>	LThomas

## 1. Brief description of the policy

Action on energy efficiency:

- contributes strongly across our wellbeing goals,
- is a major factor in green growth, jobs and supply chains,
- is the most cost effective means of meeting our commitments to reduce carbon emissions,
- lowers the costs for businesses and the public sector,
- can directly address fuel poverty and reduce fuel bills.

The Welsh Government has had significant impact with its energy efficiency programme to date, and by setting out long-term direction in a first Wales Energy Efficiency Strategy, we have the opportunity to engage more widely in realising the opportunities and addressing barriers to uptake.

An energy efficiency call for evidence was held between 16 October 2014 and 8 January 2015 seeking the views of stakeholders on a potential vision for energy efficiency in Wales and options for a way forward. A collation of responses document sharing the results of the call for evidence will be published alongside the draft strategy consultation.

The knowledge, experience and evidence-based policy development approach underpinning this strategy has enabled officials to gather the best available objective evidence to help identify and understand the issues; and to shape an energy efficiency strategy that can drive the delivery of the desired outcomes.

Within the consultation documentation for the Strategy, the Welsh Government reaffirms its vision for energy efficiency in Wales, as follows:

We want to ensure that Wales is in the best possible position to realise its full energy efficiency potential and to be a major exporter of energy efficiency technology and know-how.

Five key areas of action to ensure delivery of the vision are as follow:

- People, communities, businesses and other organisations recognise the benefits of energy efficiency and take action.
- We have the supply chain that we need across Wales to deliver energy efficiency improvements to buildings, products and processes, and those businesses go on to grow and export their expertise and know how.
- We have effective education and skills in place to deliver on the energy efficiency challenge, through from raising awareness in schools to a qualified and skilled workforce and investment in higher level skills to support R&D and innovation.

- We support innovation in new energy efficiency products to deliver solutions in Wales, and to benefit from the wider opportunities presented by this global challenge.
- We have clear funding mechanisms, a sense of direction and a stable framework that is attractive to investors.

## **2. Steps taken to engage with stakeholders, both internally and externally**

### Internal engagement

As energy efficiency is a cross-cutting issue that can bring multiple benefits across the goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, officials have been working closely across government, and will continue to do so. The strategy development work has involved the following departments:

- Department for Education and Skills
- Department for Economy, Science and Transport
- Department for Natural Resources
- Department for Health and Social Services
- Department for Finance and Corporate Services
- Department for Local Government and Communities.

Cross government work has included several meetings, workshops and internal consultations.

### External engagement

The call for evidence was the first stage of external consultation.

A webinar was created consisting of a 10 minute video presentation and a link to a rapid response questionnaire. This allowed stakeholders to be engaged by only taking approximately 10 minutes out of their time.

103 responses were received from a wide range of individuals and organisations, including Age Cymru. The responses were positive, very supportive of the proposed vision, and particularly keen on the energy hierarchy aspect. All responses have been considered fully in establishing the evidence and developing the strategy further, and we believe that the draft strategy reflects the current evidence and the input from stakeholders.

Several existing groups have been engaged throughout the development process, such as the Climate Change Commission for Wales, the Construction Sector Panel, local authorities and housing associations.

There is a large email stakeholder list, which includes groups representing people with protected characteristics. This includes:

Equality and Human Rights Commission, Equality and Human Rights Network, Equality Diversity, South East Wales Race Equality Council, Swansea Bay Race Equality Council, Valleys Equality Council, Black Environment Network (UK), Black

Voluntary Sector Network in Wales, Stonewall Cymru, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Commission for racial Equality Wales Office, Disability Wales, Funky Dragon, Promo Cymru, Pupil Voice Wales, Children in Wales – Plant yng Nghymru, Age Cymru, Older Peoples Commission for Wales, One Voice Wales, Campaign For The Protection of Rural Wales, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Institute of Rural Studies, Mind Cymru, Citizens Advice Cymru, Asthma UK Cymru, ASH in Wales, Cyngor Gwynedd, The Church in Wales, Menter Mon, Disability Wales and Save the Children.

This process of engagement has not identified any significant negative impacts from this strategy on protected characteristic groups.

### **3. Evidence Base**

The call for evidence provided a good source of evidence. This, along with evidence from the UK Government Department for Energy and Climate Change and other evidence from across the world has been used in the development of the strategy.

A list of the evidence sources that informed development of the Strategy has been published within the Collation of responses document.

## 4. Impact

### 4.1 Do you think this policy / decision / practice will have a positive or negative impact on people because of their age?

Age	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Younger people <i>(Children and young people, up to 18)</i>	x			<p>This strategy specifically makes reference to the fact that energy efficiency should feature in the education of young people from an early age.</p> <p>Protecting young people from the potential impacts of climate change and fuel poverty are key aims of this policy.</p> <p>There is evidence that cold indoor temperatures can negatively affect children's health, well-being and educational attainment. The strategy makes reference to improving the energy efficiency of the homes of low income and vulnerable households, which includes children, to help them heat their homes at a more affordable cost.</p> <p>A Children's Rights Impact Assessment has also been completed.</p>
People 18-50			x	<p>This strategy applies equally to all age groups regardless of their age.</p>
Older people (50+)	x			<p>This strategy applies equally to all age groups regardless of their age.</p> <p>There is evidence that cold indoor temperatures can negatively affect the health and well-being of older people and</p>

				contribute to excess winter deaths. The strategy makes reference to improving the energy efficiency of the homes of low income and vulnerable households, which includes people over 50, to help them heat their homes at a more affordable cost.
--	--	--	--	---

## 4.2 Because they are disabled?

Impairment	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Visual impairment			x	This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.
Hearing impairment			x	This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.
Physically disabled	x			<p>This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.</p> <p>There is evidence that people who spend a larger part of their time at home due to chronic conditions or restricted mobility may be more vulnerable to the negative impacts of cold indoor temperatures. The strategy makes reference to improving the energy efficiency of the homes of low income and vulnerable households to help them heat their homes at a more affordable cost.</p>
Learning disability			x	This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.
Mental health problem			x	This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.

Other impairments issues			x	This strategy applies equally to all, whether or not they have a disability.
--------------------------	--	--	---	--

#### 4.3 Because of their gender (man or woman)?

Gender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Male			x	This policy applies equally irrespective of gender.
Female			x	This strategy applies equally irrespective of gender.

#### 4.4 Because they are transgender?

Transgender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
			x	This strategy applies equally irrespective of gender identity.

#### 4.5 Because of their marriage or civil partnership?

Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Marriage			x	This strategy applies equally to all people, irrespective of marital or civil partnership status.
Civil Partnership			x	This strategy applies equally to all people, irrespective of marital or civil partnership status.

#### 4.6 Because of their pregnancy or maternity?

Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Pregnancy	x			There is no evidence surrounding that protected group that we have been able to use in the assessment of the impact this policy might impose. However, there is evidence that

				people who spend a larger part of their time at home, which could include pregnant mothers as well as babies and young children, may be more vulnerable to the negative impacts of cold indoor temperatures. The strategy makes reference to improving the energy efficiency of the homes of low income and vulnerable households to help them heat their homes at a more affordable cost.
Maternity (the period after birth)			x	As above.

#### 4.7 Because of their race?

Race	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Ethnic minority people e.g. Asian, Black,			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of ethnic origin.
National Origin (e.g. Welsh, English)			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of ethnic origin.
Asylum Seeker and Refugees			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of ethnic origin.
Gypsies and Travellers			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of ethnic origin.
Migrants			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of ethnic origin.



#### 4.8 Because of their religion and belief or non-belief?

Religion and belief or non – belief	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Different religious groups including Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, Others (please specify)			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of religion, belief or non-belief.
Belief e.g. Humanists			x	As above.
Non-belief			x	As above.

#### 4.9 Because of their sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Gay men			x	The strategy is aimed at everyone regardless of sexual orientation.
Lesbians			x	As above.
Bi-sexual			x	As above.

#### 4.10 Do you think that this policy will have a positive or negative impact on people's human rights?

Human Rights	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Human Rights including Human Rights Act and UN Conventions	x			The importance of housing is recognised in the <u>United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</u> , which includes 'the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself

				and his family, including adequate ... housing'. Improving energy efficiency in homes through this strategy will have a positive impact on Human Rights.
--	--	--	--	--

**4. 11 Do you think this policy will have a socio-economic impact, especially when decisions are contributing to tackling poverty or could adversely impact on lower-socio economic groups?**

Socio-economic impacts	Positive	Negative	None	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
	X			The number of vulnerable households estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2012 is 328,000 and the number in social housing is 70,000. The strategy will improve the energy efficiency of the homes of low income households. This matters, not just because we want to reduce household energy use and energy bills, but because living in a cold home has a negative impact on people's health and well being.

**4.12 Do you think that this policy will have any positive or negative impact on Sustainable Development?**

Sustainable Development	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
	X			The strategy is aligned to the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and will support sustainable

				development principles.
--	--	--	--	-------------------------

#### 4.13 Do you think that this policy will have any positive or negative impact on the Welsh Language?

Welsh Language	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
			x	<p>There will be a negligible impact from the strategy on the Welsh Language or the Welsh Language standards, however the strategy will be available bilingually.</p> <p>A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has also been completed.</p>

### Equality Impact Assessment – Part 2

#### 1. Building on the evidence you gathered and considered in Part 1, please consider the following:

##### 1.1 How could, or does, the policy help advance / promote equality of opportunity?

The strategy aims to improve the energy efficiency across homes and non-domestic buildings right across Wales. The most vulnerable people will be offered the most support.

##### 1.2 How could / does the policy / decision help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation?

The strategy is likely to have minimal impact on eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

##### 1.3 How could/does the policy impact on advancing / promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?

Well managed energy efficiency schemes provide a wide range of community benefits, including support for jobs and green growth, and even the improvement of community buildings.

## 2. Strengthening the policy

**2.1 If the policy is likely to have a negative effect ('adverse impact') on any of the protected groups or good relations, what are the reasons for this? What practical changes/actions could help reduce or remove any negative impacts identified in Part 1?**

n/a – no adverse impacts were identified in Part 1

**2.2 If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative / adverse impact, please justify why.**

n/a – no adverse impacts were identified in Part 1

## 3. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

**How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy?**

List details of any follow-up work that will be undertaken in relation to the policy (e.g. consultations, specific monitoring etc).

This impact assessment will be subject to further updating to reflect any amendments to the strategy that are agreed following the consultation, and when relevant during the implementation of the strategy.

## Equality Impact Assessment – Part 3

### Action Plan

Where impacts are identified, how are you going to mitigate against the impact and how are the actions going to be monitored.

What is the action to mitigate the impact?	Action owner	Target date	Achievement	Comments
N/A				

#### 4. Declaration

The above represents a fair assessment of the potential impacts of this policy upon equality issues.

<b>Official completing the EIA</b>
<b>Name:</b>
Lucy Thomas
<b>Department:</b>
Natural Resources
<b>Date:</b>
Last reviewed June 2015
<b>Signature:</b>
LT
Review Date: June 2016. To be reviewed annually, if not sooner.