

The Newsletter of the Warmburgh Unit in Edinburgh

Warm Homes update

WARMBURGH

Making homes in Edinburgh warmer and more energy efficient

Tackling energy efficiency in historic homes

It is essential that heritage professionals and energy saving experts work together to find solutions that make historic homes more energy efficient without devaluing the integrity of historic property.



This is what makes Changeworks' Energy Heritage project so special. Its focus was to introduce sensitive energy saving measures in a B-listed Georgian building on Lauriston Place, owned by Lister Housing Co-operative. Amongst the measures installed were secondary glazing, insulation and energy efficient boilers.

Most of Edinburgh's listed buildings have high levels of embodied energy (the energy used in their construction and materials) and are free from toxic paints, plastics and modern cement. Their design is better and they last longer than most contemporary buildings. It is also likely that the materials used for their construction were sourced locally.

The downside is that historic homes have poor energy ratings

compared to brand new buildings. So the energy efficiency of historic homes – which are already highly sustainable from so many other perspectives – needs to be top of the agenda. And what better place on which to focus than the Edinburgh World Heritage Site, where around 75 per cent of the properties are listed and fuel poverty is common?

Pioneering Edinburgh environmentalist Sir Patrick Geddes (1854 - 1932) famously coined the phrase "Think Global, Act Local". So perhaps a targeted energy saving programme for listed buildings is required if Edinburgh is to meet its goal of being the most sustainable city region in Northern Europe by 2015?

**David McDonald, World Heritage Site Project Manager
Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH)**

Interesting energy fact

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Did you know that keeping an existing building functioning is often more environmentally sustainable than knocking it down and building a new one? This is because it contains high levels of "embodied energy", in other words, the energy used in its construction and materials. For a traditional Scottish tenement this has been estimated to be the equivalent of 1,000 years' worth of the energy needed to heat and power it.

Source: 'Edinburgh Standards for Sustainable Building', The City of Edinburgh Council, 2007.

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Tenements to benefit from solar water heating

Renewable Heritage is a brand new pilot project from the Warmburgh Unit at Changeworks. The Unit is working with Lister Housing Co-operative, which plans to install solar water heating systems in their Georgian tenements. Making older property sustainable for the future is a major challenge in a city where the housing stock is older than the Scottish average.

The results of the Energy Heritage project (featured on pages 1 and 3 of this issue) show that insulation can help to make historic homes more sustainable. However, energy efficiency measures can only take us part of the way.

This is where renewable energy measures come in. As part of Renewable Heritage, solar water systems will be installed in the roof spaces of Georgian tenements. The project will help the Council to develop guidelines for other residents in the city to make their historic homes more sustainable. It will also help to reduce Carbon emissions across the city.

The first phase of the project, covering planning and



Measuring the roof for the solar panels. © Changeworks.

building warrants, was funded by Edinburgh World Heritage and a grant from the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI). Funding for the second phase, including installations of the solar water systems, is still under negotiation.

For more information, contact Bob Barnham on 0131 468 8652 or rbarnham@changeworks.org.uk.

Bright ideas at Waverley Court

At a recent event held in the City of Edinburgh Council's new headquarters, 118 staff members pledged to cut their energy use by 20 per cent.

They received an energy saving lightbulb to get them off to a good start.

The Warmburgh Unit and the Energy Advice Team at Changeworks, in partnership with the Council's Energy & Water Management Team and the Sustainable Development Unit, were at Waverley Court to offer staff FREE, impartial and expert advice on how to reduce energy use and save money in the home.



To find out more about saving energy, such as installing insulation or getting a new boiler, call Changeworks' Energy Advice Team on 0800 512 012.

Low cost loans to improve your energy efficiency

Our homes are the most expensive things we own. While we do not seem to mind splashing out on a new TV, we are perhaps more reluctant to spend our hard-earned cash on energy efficiency improvements and repairs.

We use a lot of energy in our homes: to keep the whole home comfortably warm, to have hot water when we need it and to use our appliances when we want to.

Installing loft insulation or fitting new heating controls can help you to save money on your fuel bills, so there is more in your purse or pocket for the nicer things in life. There are grants, special offers and even low cost loans available to help.

Take energy action today and call Changeworks' Energy Advice Team on 0800 512 012 to find out more. Quote 'Affordable Warmth Loans'.



Book now for Energy Heritage conference

The Energy Heritage project was delivered by the Affordable Warmth Strategy Team at Changeworks and funded by the EAGA Partnership Charitable Trust. It has shown how energy efficiency in traditionally-built homes can be improved without compromising their historic character. The project team has produced a good practice guide, which will be launched at the 'Energy efficiency in historic homes' conference in Edinburgh on Friday 2 May 2008.

As part of Energy Heritage, the project team made a series of sensitive energy efficiency improvements in a stair of flats in a B-listed Georgian tenement building. These homes lie in Edinburgh's Old Town and form part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, so all improvement measures had to meet strict planning and conservation criteria.

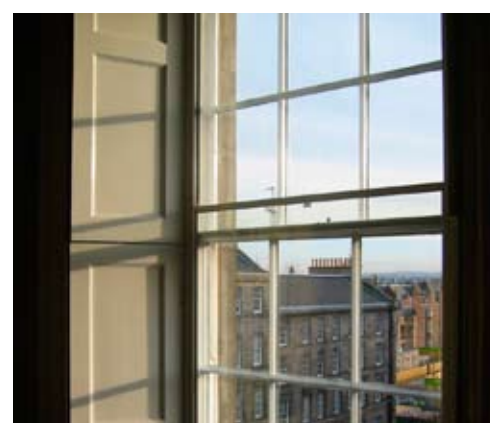
To make sure the pilot study was a success, the project team carried out extensive research

and negotiated with everyone involved, including Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Scotland, The Cockburn Association, the City of Edinburgh Council, Lister Housing Co-operative and the householders.

All householders are extremely happy with the improvements to their homes. The effectiveness of the improvements is being measured in a variety of ways including thermal testing, seasonal fuel bill comparison and thermal imaging.

Moira Tasker, Director of The Cockburn Association (the Edinburgh Civic Trust), said: "We welcome Energy Heritage as a practical tool for historic homeowners seeking to reduce their energy costs, lessen their impact on the environment and protect the special character of their homes."

Further details about the Energy Heritage project and the associated conference can be found at www.changeworks.org.uk/content.php?linkid=373.



Secondary glazing installed in the flats.
© Changeworks.

For more information, contact the Affordable Warmth Strategy Team on 0131 468 8660 or events@changeworks.org.uk.

Cosy Kids

Cosy Kids is a FREE advice service that helps families with young children to live in affordably warm, dry homes.

Delivered by Changeworks, Cosy Kids offers advice to parents about:

- * Using heating controls
- * Grants for insulation
- * Choosing and changing gas and electricity suppliers
- * Dealing with damp
- * Cutting and paying for fuel bills

Cosy Kids takes referrals from people who work with families, including health and social workers, support groups, playgroups and befrienders, as long as they have the family's consent to contact us.

The service provides one-to-one advice over the phone or in the home, or organises talks to parents in community centres, family centres, church halls etc. Each session takes about an hour, with advice about saving money and staying warm and time for questions afterwards.

Cosy Kids can tailor each session to fit the group, whether it is

three parents, who have debts to their fuel suppliers and no central heating, or twenty parents with high bills and who want to know how to use their heating without breaking the bank. Each parent who comes along to an information session is given two FREE energy saving lightbulbs, so they can start saving energy – and money – straight away.

To find out more, call Changeworks' Energy Advice Team on 0800 512 012 and ask for Cosy Kids or email cosykids@changeworks.org.uk.

Help with installing energy saving measures

To discuss any of the grants or offers with an impartial energy adviser, call Changeworks' Energy Advice Team on FREEphone 0800 512 012.

Energy saving lightbulbs – save up to £10 a year with each bulb

These days, most major retailers sell energy saving lightbulbs. Due to the Government's 'Carbon Emissions Reduction Target' (CERT), most energy suppliers sell energy saving lightbulbs too, often at heavily discounted prices. The CERT requires energy suppliers to improve energy efficiency of homes in the UK. So shop around and check with your fuel supplier to find the best offer for you! Here's a good website to start with: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/lighting



Energy efficient appliances – save up to 20 per cent on high street prices

Buy 'A' energy efficiency rated appliances, including washing machines, fridges and freezers, at reduced costs. Anyone can get a discount, but Scottish Hydro Electric customers are offered further reductions. For more information, visit the Scottish Hydro Electric Shop at www.thehydroshop.co.uk.

Looking for a contractor to install energy efficiency measures in your home?

Action for Warmth offers FREE impartial advice about insulation, central heating, energy efficiency offers and grants. Working with a panel of 'quality assessed' installers, Action for Warmth will not only organise a survey and quote, but also the installation of your energy efficiency measures - so you can improve the warmth, comfort and value of your home with peace of mind.

Considering renewable technologies? Why not contact Action for Warmth for a renewables review to help to determine the right renewables for you. For only £75 + VAT.

For more information, call 0845 002 8466, text Warmth to 81025 or email actionforwarmth@changeworks.org.uk.

All prices quoted are published in good faith and were correct at the time of publication. Whilst we try to ensure that information is accurate, prices may change at short notice. Please always contact the relevant company or organisation to confirm that the prices shown still apply. This item is published in good faith for information purposes only and constitutes neither an endorsement nor a recommendation.

About the newsletter

Warm Homes Update is the newsletter of the Warmburgh Unit, which is part of Changeworks. It is published quarterly and is available FREE on request or from our website.

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Photos by Stuart Pennykid unless otherwise stated.

Please note that the views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Warmburgh Unit or Changeworks. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information contained within this publication is accurate, no legal responsibility is accepted for any errors, omissions or misleading statements.

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欲查詢把本單張翻譯成中文，請與傳譯及翻譯服務部聯絡（電話 0131 242 8181）並說明參考編號 08225。

এই নিউজলেটারের অনুবাদ আপনার সম্প্রদায়ের ভাষায় কিভাবে পাওয়া যায় সে ব্যাপারে তথ্য পাওয়ার জন্য ইন্টারপ্রেটেশন এ্যান্ড ট্রান্সলেশন (আই.টি.এস.)-কে 0131 242 8181 নম্বরে ফোন করে রেসপন্স নম্বর 08225 উল্লেখ করুন।

اپنی کیونٹی میں بولی جانے والی زبان میں اس خبر نامہ کے ترجمے کے متعلق معلومات کیلئے برائے مہربانی انٹرنیشنل ایڈوائزرس سروس (ITS) کو 0131 242 8181 پر ٹیلیفون کریں اور ریفرنس نمبر 08225 کا حوالہ دیں۔

للمعلومات حول ترجمة هذه الرسالة الإخبارية إلى لغة جاليتك الرجاء الاتصال بمكتب خدمة الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية على رقم الهاتف 0131 242 8181 وذكر الإشارة رقم 08225.

Next issue

News and articles for consideration for the next issue of Warm Homes Update should be sent to the Warmburgh Unit by 2 May 2008.

If you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please get in touch.

The Warmburgh Unit
Changeworks
36 Newhaven Road
Edinburgh EH6 5PY

Tel: 0131 538 7946

Fax: 0131 555 2768

Email: warmburgh@changeworks.org.uk

Website: www.changeworks.org.uk



The Warmburgh Unit, which is part of the sustainable development charity Changeworks, implements the Warmburgh Plan. The Warmburgh Plan is the City of Edinburgh Council's strategy for improving the energy efficiency of Edinburgh homes. The Warmburgh Unit is supported by the City of Edinburgh Council.

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