

Homes Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP)

What is it?

The Homes Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP) is a pan-London homes retrofitting scheme aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from the residential sector. Through initial trials and demonstration projects practical energy efficiency activities will be delivered and these will inform the design of a model that will enable roll-out into a wider homes retrofit programme for London.

The model is an area based, whole house approach that encompasses all housing tenures and has something to offer every borough and every household. It includes a range of free-of-charge, easy-to-do measures, from changing to low energy light bulbs to installing stand-by switches and giving energy saving advice. The aim is that more substantial steps such as loft and cavity wall insulation will involve no upfront costs, be free for those on qualifying benefits and subsidised for those who are able to pay. Offering the package of easy measures enables the delivery of something into every home visited, therefore increasing the uptake of measures overall.

The programme is operated by London's Boroughs. The boroughs are supportive of the process, methodology and ambition of the scheme. There is also widespread support for the model, which ensures that all boroughs will get funding to roll out the scheme in their areas in 2010.

Why are we doing it?

Estimates are that in London we are currently retrofitting around 40,000 homes a year, achieving c. 80k lifetime tonnes of year on year carbon reduction. This has largely been achieved via loft and cavity wall insulation. There is now recognition that this is insufficient in terms of both scale and the nature of delivery model. Current efforts will not get us to the Mayor's climate change target levels of carbon savings for another c. 200 years; and given the nature of London's housing stock will eventually need to deliver measures other than loft and cavity wall insulation as part of normal practice. A new programme is needed for retrofitting that has the scale and a viable delivery model to work for London as a region.

Currently a range of organisations offer programmes to reduce home energy use, but the main aim of the Homes Energy Efficiency Programme (HEEP) is to pull all these programmes together to develop a single scheme that can be rolled out across the capital. This will provide consistency for residents, increase uptake and help the capital meet the Mayor's target to cut carbon by 60 per cent by 2025. It is hoped that a single programme will significantly boost the potential for the capital to attract millions of pounds of funding available, for example through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme.

This programme aims to cover all areas of London, visiting between 200,000 to 500,000 properties by 2012 and 1.2 million domestic properties by 2015 subject to the leverage of additional finances from government. By installing the easy measures, over 400,000 tonnes of carbon emissions could be saved by 2015. By installing further measures, such as loft or cavity wall insulation, reductions of over 1,344,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide could be made by 2015.

HEEP will also help alleviate fuel poverty through improving the energy efficiency of homes thereby reducing fuel bills, and assisting with income maximisation by carrying out benefits checks whilst assessing homes.

Who is involved?

The Programme is a partnership between the London Development Agency (LDA), Greater London Authority (GLA), London Councils, the Energy Saving Trust and the 33 London Boroughs. The genesis of the programme lies with London Futures and their desire to build a pan-London

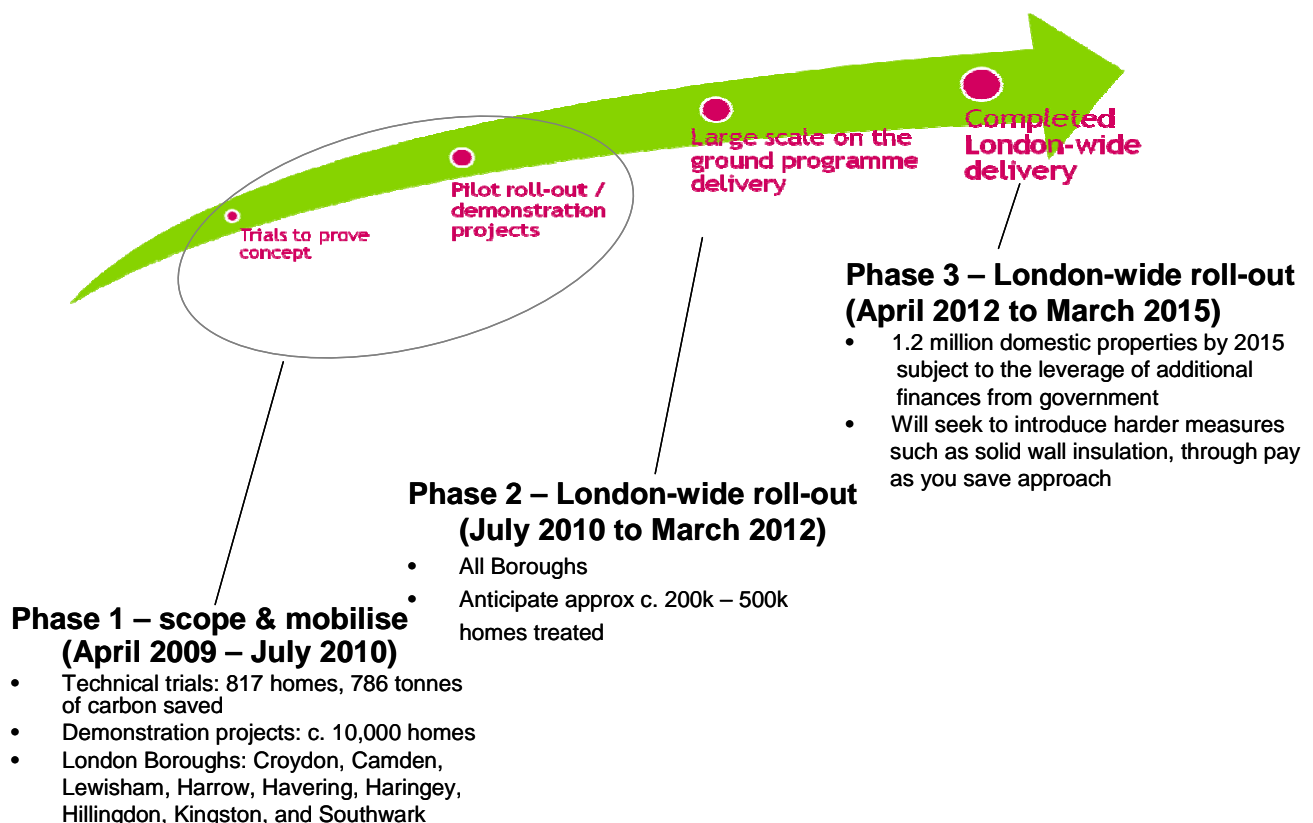
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programme. The GLA, LDA, London Councils and Energy Saving Trust are now providing the logical central coordination to the programme and also the initial funding. The main delivery route will come from the Boroughs.

Where is the funding coming from?

It is clear that a huge amount of delivery is already taking place in London through a range of existing programmes such as Warm Zones, the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme (SHESP), Low Carbon Zones and decentralised energy programmes. The LDA is providing funding of £9.5m for 2009 – 2012. The aim is to use the £9.5m to develop a delivery model, provide top-up funding and support to ensure holistic approach to delivery between projects, and unify the projects under a London-wide programme, leveraging additional existing funding where possible. The funding available is being used to kick start the programme. We are making a case to government that post 2012 a mechanism will be in place for this programme to make a direct regional bid for large pots of money by providing a clear robust delivery mechanism. The HEEP project partners intend to develop and launch in 2010 a viable plan to deliver a London-wide programme up to 2015.

How will it be delivered?



Londoners who are not in one of the demonstration project areas can contact their local Energy Saving Trust advice centre on 0800 512 012 to get advice on how to reduce energy use in the home.

The Mayor and the LDA are also working to ensure that out of work Londoners can access the job opportunities arising from HEEP through a pilot skills and employment scheme commencing in 2010.