

## New Indicator Measures Fuel Poverty Levels in Hertfordshire

Access to clean, secure and affordable energy to heat and power our homes and work places is essential for maintaining a good quality of life. Whether it is the combined effects of high energy prices and poorly insulated homes leading to fuel poverty and its associated health and economic issues, or the impacts on climate change, our consumption of energy has wide ranging consequences.

## Renewable Energy in Hertfordshire

Greater use of renewable sources to produce our energy is key to tackling climate change and ensuring a secure supply of heat and electricity. Using sources such as wind, solar and biomass; and waste products such as sewerage and landfill gases, reduces the use of fossil fuels and their consequent carbon dioxide emissions.

Latest figures (as of June 2009) from Renewables East confirm that the East of England remains the leading region for the generation of renewable energy. However, Hertfordshire's contribution to the region's success is limited as the figures presented below indicate.

East of England installed generating capacity (MW) from renewables by county

	Beds	Cam	Essx	Hert	Nfolk	Sfolk
Onshore wind	-	98.83	-	0.23	21.45	2.75
Biomass	0.79	36.85	12.77	2.88	41.50	20.72
Landfill gas	49.21	17.86	87.83	6.16	15.60	14.75
Sewerage gas	0.56	0.34	0.34	1.48	3.14	-
Micro-gen (<50kW)	0.02	0.09	0.11	0.06	0.15	0.13

Source: East of England Renewable Energy Statistics, Renewables East, June 2009

## Energy Consumption in the Residential Sector

For the second consecutive year residential gas use figures show reduced consumption in all districts in 2007, creating an overall decline in the county of around 1% compared to 2006. Eight districts saw a small fall in domestic electricity consumption whilst the remainder consumed slightly more than in 2006.

Table 1: 2007 Gas consumption and resulting carbon dioxide emissions from domestic sources

District	Gas Consumption GWh	CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes Produced
Broxbourne	589	108,073
Dacorum	1,020	187,341
East Hertfordshire	859	157,773
Hertsmere	759	139,421
North Hertfordshire	809	148,562
St Albans	1,067	195,805
Stevenage	520	95,451
Three Rivers	689	126,431
Watford	589	108,165
Welwyn Hatfield	743	136,434
County	7,645	1,403,455

Source: Consumption data: DECC March 2009  
CO<sub>2</sub> values: Defra September 2009. 1 GWh = 100,000 kWh

Table 2: 2007 Electricity consumption and resulting carbon dioxide emissions from domestic sources

District	Electricity Consumption GWh	CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes Produced
Broxbourne	185	94,984
Dacorum	282	145,080
East Hertfordshire	307	157,969
Hertsmere	202	104,001
North Hertfordshire	254	130,338
St Albans	271	139,056
Stevenage	142	72,803
Three Rivers	181	93,250
Watford	159	81,962
Welwyn Hatfield	202	104,079
County	2,186	1,123,521

Source: Consumption data: DECC March 2009  
CO<sub>2</sub> values: Defra September 2009. 1 GWh = 100,000 kWh

## Energy Consumption in the Commercial Sector

Commercial sector energy consumption figures include use from offices, shops and industrial buildings. Commercial sector gas consumption fell by 6% for the county. As with residential consumption,

commercial use of electricity in 2007 remained largely unchanged from 2006 figures.

## NI 187 - Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty - where a household cannot afford to keep warm - damages the health of those living in cold homes and affects their quality of life.

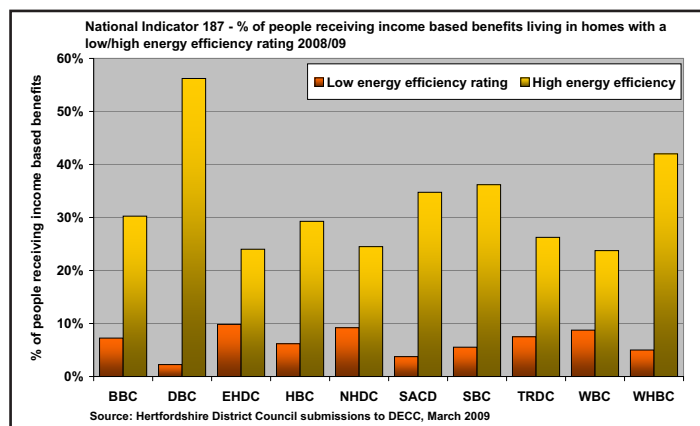
The Government has an aim to ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, people in England do not live in fuel poverty after 2016. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is one which needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate heating regime.

NI 187 measures progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income related benefits, with success demonstrated by a reduction in low energy efficient ratings and an increase in high energy efficient ratings.

**Table 3: 2007 Gas consumption and resulting carbon dioxide emissions from commercial and industrial sources**

District	Gas Consumption GWh	CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes Produced
Broxbourne	178	32,664
Dacorum	292	53,519
East Hertfordshire	329	60,401
Hertsmere	318	58,308
North Hertfordshire	353	64,808
St Albans	337	61,892
Stevenage	347	63,613
Three Rivers	171	31,424
Watford	190	34,837
Welwyn Hatfield	363	66,585
County	2,876	528,053

Source: Consumption data: DECC March 2009  
CO<sub>2</sub> values: Defra September 2009. 1 GWh = 100,000 kWh



**Table 4: 2007 Electricity consumption and resulting carbon dioxide emissions from commercial and industrial sources**

District	Electricity Consumption GWh	CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes Produced
Broxbourne	228	117,052
Dacorum	303	155,924
East Hertfordshire	338	173,573
Hertsmere	314	161,600
North Hertfordshire	307	157,959
St Albans	291	149,379
Stevenage	332	170,501
Three Rivers	177	90,939
Watford	308	158,407
Welwyn Hatfield	392	201,643
County	2,990	1,536,977

Source: Consumption data: DECC March 2009  
CO<sub>2</sub> values: Defra September 2009. 1 GWh = 100,000 kWh

The chart above shows the NI 187 results for Hertfordshire's ten districts for the first year of reporting. It is important to note that comparisons in the performance between authorities cannot be made due to large differences in the nature of the existing housing stock in each local authority area.

### Herts Essex Energy Partnership

Hertfordshire's 10 district councils, together with 5 partners from Essex secured over £6.5m worth of funding over two years to establish the Herts Essex Energy Partnership. Launched in July 2009, the scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty and reduce residential carbon dioxide emissions by offering subsidised and free loft and wall insulation, renewable energy installations and energy efficient boilers to qualifying residents. The scheme also offers higher cost measures for the 'able to pay' sector as 50% interest free loans secured on residents' property. See [www.heepgrant.org](http://www.heepgrant.org) for more information on the technologies available and the qualifying criteria.

Find out more about Hertfordshire's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

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