

Proofing Tool

This should enable you to consider the needs, desires of people, communities and businesses in rural Wales.

Policy/ Programme/Initiative to be rural proofed	Energy Efficiency Strategy
Division/Department	People and Environment Division, Natural Resources.
Contact Name	Lucy Thomas
Date of review (to be completed by Rural Proofing Team)	

Questions	Comments
<p>Q1. Stakeholders What contact have you had with rural stakeholders? Please briefly describe any events targeted at rural stakeholders.</p>	<p>A call for evidence was held as the first stage of stakeholder engagement. Rather than arrange a series of workshops for stakeholders to attend, a webinar was created. This consisted of a 10 minute power point presentation video, explaining the Welsh Government's thinking around the development of the strategy and explained what we were asking our stakeholders to do. This included a web link to the consultation and a 'rapid response questionnaire' for stakeholders to submit their responses quickly and easily. This method of engagement during the call for evidence period enabled stakeholders to be equally involved wherever they are based, without the need for travel time or expenses. We plan to continue with this approach as the response to the call for evidence proved it to be successful.</p>
<p>Q2. Access Will access be an issue for rural people? (Rural people may have to travel long distances to access services). Yes_____how will you overcome barriers?</p>	<p>No. The strategy itself will not raise access issues for rural communities. Actions taken forward due to this strategy will undergo all appropriate assessments during the planning stage. However, it is unlikely that rural</p>

<p>No _____ go to Q3</p>	<p>people will have to travel long distances to access services because energy efficiency measures usually take place at the specific building in question.</p>
<p>Q3. Needs of Rural People Has the policy taken account of rural needs, e.g. older population, lack of affordable housing, language requirements?</p> <p>Yes _____ please describe the needs and the mitigation action?</p> <p>No _____ What do you plan to do to take into account?</p>	<p>Yes. The needs of rural people are highlighted and taken in to account within this draft strategy. The strategy acknowledges that there are specific challenges in Wales with regards to the building stock and geography for both the domestic and non-domestic sectors. The fuel type used in buildings is also dependent on location. The buildings in Wales that are not connected to the gas grid use other fuels that can vary depending on whether it is in a rural or urban setting.</p> <p>Off-gas rural homes will typically be in areas not reached by the gas network, while off-gas urban homes will be in buildings that have, for a variety of reasons, not been connected to the available gas network. In rural settings, the fuels used for heating are mainly electricity and heating oil, with solid fuels and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) being used also, but to a lesser extent.</p> <p>The strategy also acknowledges the need to now look to newer technologies and smarter ways of living. We must continue to exploit low carbon renewable heat sources alongside energy efficiency, especially in rural areas.</p>
<p>Q4 (a) Impact on Services Will the policy lead to the creation of new services (positive impacts) or the closure of existing services (negative impacts)?</p> <p>Yes _____ please explain</p> <p>No _____ move to Q4(b)</p>	<p>List positive impacts:</p> <p>The strategy is designed to increase investment, and the confidence of the investor, in energy efficiency in Wales.</p> <p>List negative impacts:</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Q4 (b) How do you plan to overcome or mitigate any negative impacts?</p>	<p>NA.</p>

<p>Q5. Rural Places-Land Does your policy require the purchase or use of land? Have you considered rural dimensions such as land value, availability or restrictive designation?</p> <p>Yes _____ how will you overcome barriers?</p> <p>No _____ Go to Q6.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Q6. Terrain Will your policy work in areas of difficult terrain, e.g. narrow roads, steep mountains?</p> <p>Yes _____ please explain how?</p> <p>If no _____ how will you overcome barriers?</p>	<p>Actions taken forward from the strategy may involve working in areas of difficult terrain such as narrow roads. Mitigating actions will be developed as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>Q7. Rural Business Is your policy relevant to SMEs or Micro Businesses?</p> <p>Yes _____ how have you taken their situation into account?</p> <p>No _____ go to Q8.</p>	<p>In chapter 5.2 prioritising areas of action to develop the supply chain, the strategy highlights that <i>we have provided support to installers to become accredited and provide a wider range of technologies to customers; but there is more that needs to be done, particularly in rural and off-gas areas.</i></p> <p>The following two areas of action have been identified within the strategy to help overcome some of the challenges presented in rural areas.</p> <p><i>Area of action 2.1 - Continued support for installers to diversify, achieve the necessary accreditation and identify opportunities for collaboration. Future support needs to focus on supporting installers throughout Wales in order to overcome the limited availability of qualified installers in rural Wales, particularly given the potential for micro generation technologies to support off-gas households and businesses.</i></p>

	<p>Area of action 2.3 – Supporting supply chain development through delivery of our programmes. Where the Welsh Government is directly funding and supporting energy efficiency activity, we will continue to provide support to businesses in the supply chain as an integral part of delivery.</p> <p>Our area based and demand-led energy efficiency programmes have been effective in many parts of Wales in developing the installer base through well designed procurement and have help smaller companies to upskill and collaborate to compete with larger contractors. We will do more to support this, particularly in rural parts of Wales.</p>
<p>Q8. Access to Support Does your policy expect business to be able to access support? (This may be in the form of advice, training, finance etc.)</p> <p>Yes _____ What barriers will they face and how will they overcome them? No _____ go to Q9</p>	<p>Yes. Businesses are able to access information, advice and support through our Resource Efficient Wales service in collaboration with Business Wales; Rural Development Plan advice and support through Farming Connect and capital funding.</p> <p>There is a variety of support methods available ensuring that all businesses are able to fully access this support, for example, support via, telephone, internet, email and one to one site visits.</p> <p>The following areas of action have been identified within the strategy;</p> <p>Area of action 1.11 - Access to information, advice and support on energy efficiency. Through Resource Efficient Wales, Business Wales and Farming Connect, we will provide information, advice and support to businesses, promoting the value of energy efficiency through support available to business of all sizes.</p> <p>We need to more actively showcase case studies of businesses who have successfully benefited from energy efficiency. This should include those where businesses have secured the buy in of employees in reducing their energy use.</p> <p>Area of action 1.15 - Increased investment and support through Green Growth Wales. In addition to access to finance, Green Growth Wales will also provide practical support alongside Resource Efficient Wales and Business Wales for</p>

	<i>larger businesses to access skills and advice to bring projects to a stage where they are investment ready.</i>
<p>Q9. Infrastructure Does your policy depend on infrastructure such as good road/rail connections or fast broadband speeds?</p> <p>Yes _____ how have you made provision for businesses in more isolated rural areas?</p> <p>No _____ go to Q10</p>	No.
<p>Q10. Other Issues Did any other issues come up as a result of the engagement with stakeholders mentioned in Q1 or any other consultation?</p> <p>Yes _____ What were they and how have you modified your policy to take them into account?</p> <p>No _____ go to Objectives.</p>	No.

Objectives

The proofing tool aims to help you consider rural realities and needs as part of the policy-making process. Now that you have completed the questionnaire, what are your main objectives to make your policy relevant and practical in a rural setting?

Please list up to five objectives:

1	Ensure that rural issues, particularly those surrounding rural businesses are considered during the development of the energy efficiency strategy, and that appropriate support is developed.
2	Ensure communications are tailored to rural communities (including taking into account Welsh speaking businesses).
3	Ensure that the actions implemented in Wales, including rural communities, are monitored post introduction of the energy efficiency

	strategy, and that support is developed if appropriate.
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Thank you for completing this form. We will set a review date with you and ask you to fill in a short monitoring form. This will allow us to monitor the impact of rural proofing.

Official completing the Proofing Tool.
Name: Lucy Thomas
Department: Natural Resources
Date: June 2015
Signature: LThomas
Head of Branch (sign off):
Name: Kate Hearnden
Job title and department: Head of Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Branch.
Date: June 2015
Signature: KH
Review Date: June 2016 if not sooner.

- **Please include the draft /final policy document that will support this proofing tool.**

Please return to:

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