

## **Screening Tool**

This is the initial stage to identify whether you need to complete a Rural Proofing Checklist.

<b>Title of Policy/ Programme/Initiative</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency Strategy</b>
<b>Division/Department</b>	<b>People and Environment, Natural Resources.</b>
<b>Contact name:</b>	<b>Lucy Thomas</b>
<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency Policy Lead</b>
<b>Date of review (to be completed by Rural Proofing Team)</b>	

Rural Proofing is a part of good policymaking. Rural areas face particular challenges. Many of these characteristics such as geographic isolation, an ageing population and an economy based on micro enterprises and SMEs are found in other parts of Wales. In rural areas they may be more severe or combine to form a set of circumstances that may hinder the effective implementation of policy.

This screening tool has been developed to help you rural proof your policy. The purpose of rural proofing is to assess the impact your policy may have on rural areas, identify barriers to effective implementation in rural areas and help you to formulate rural appropriate solutions.

Impact assessments are required by Welsh Ministers for all policies. We need to ensure we are taking cross-cutting issues into account and by completing this rural proofing screening tool we are assessing the need for further investigation into completing an impact assessment.

This screening question helps to identify whether your policy is relevant to rural areas. If it has, we will ask you to complete a further, more detailed rural proofing set of questions.

Support is available from:

[Patricia.McQuinn@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.McQuinn@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## Rural Proofing Screening Tool

1. Does your policy apply to rural individuals, businesses or communities?  
**If no, please set out the reasons why:**

Yes. The energy efficiency strategy aims to improve energy efficiency right across Wales. This includes the domestic, public and private sectors, in both urban and rural areas.

**If yes:**

- a) Does the policy have the potential to have a negative impact on rural areas and communities? Please use the rural proofing checklist on the Intranet.
- b) Does the policy have the potential to have a positive impact on rural areas and communities? Please explain how:

- a) Delivering energy efficiency measures in rural areas can cost more than delivering measures in urban areas where costs can be kept down by economies of scale.
- b) The energy efficiency strategy should provide more business opportunities for rural businesses, particularly the self-employed and microbusinesses. The strategy should improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce energy costs in rural areas and communities.

Please can you return this screening tool to [Patricia.McQuinn@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.McQuinn@wales.gsi.gov.uk)