

Community Environmental Action

Community Case Studies



Kelsale Cum Carlton

CEAF Start Date: March 2012 **CEAF End Date:** March 2014

CEAF funding awarded: £1,000

Number in community group: Core Group of 7, whole village involved.

Type of support provided: Letter of support to help get LEAF funding, advice and linking to other communities.

Primary focus of group: The project combines a number of activities designed to promote practical steps towards improving the community's fuel poverty status, carbon emissions and household comfort and could include increased use of renewables.

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Key achievements to date

1. Awarded £62,469 from the Department for Energy and Climate Change Local Energy Assessment Fund with this fund, promised £5000 from Suffolk County Council, and received a contribution of £200 from the parish council (The only community in Suffolk to receive the Local Energy action Fund (LEAF)).
2. Have successfully commissioned and carried out:
 - A household survey identifying potential reductions in CO₂ emissions of 27 Tonnes per year.
 - Audits of energy efficiency in a third of the homes locally.
 - Three studies exploring the potential of developing our own renewable energy within Kelsale.
 - A project fitting two homes with solid wall insulation to demonstrate its value.
 - And have obtained oil and smart electricity monitors and a thermal camera for use within the Village (and potentially wider eventually).

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Key Lessons Learnt

1. Drawing on the auditor's reports and the household survey:
 - There are plenty of people in the village who are finding it difficult to heat their homes, partly because they are paying too much for their energy.
 - The schemes that are available to help, including many that the energy auditor was able to advise on, are not known about.
 - The LEAF grant was a one-off at an incredibly tight timescale (which will make it difficult for other communities to replicate) that enabled the group to provide some guidance but now there is the challenge of identifying how to fund suggested improvements.
2. Solid Wall insulation:
 - Is far from straightforward particularly for older properties.
 - There can be real problems with timber frame construction: you often need to remove the existing render and this can expose problems with the underlying wooden frame which need to be rectified so a thorough structural survey may be necessary.
 - It can be difficult to secure planning consent if your house is a listed building.
 - It's possible to apply solid wall insulation internally, but as the insulation material is 2-3 inches thick it may be unsuitable for small rooms, and not usually as effective. It is also more disruptive to the occupants of these properties.
 - It's expensive: a similar pilot project in Norfolk cost an average of £14,000 per property and there can be considerable knock-on effects such as roof extensions and gutters

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Next Steps

1) Printing progress reports and hosting events to inform the community of outcomes of the LEAF process.

2) Explore which energy options are best for the community. Energy buying and energy generation. Set up an Industrial and Provident Society

3) Explore ways to share the learning with within other communities

