



INVESTING IN
englandsnorthwest

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Using ERDF and ESF to benefit Affordable Housing in NW England: Success, Challenges and Recommendations

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ESF 'low carbon' skills + ERDF energy efficiency refurbishment and renewable energy =
Employment for housing tenants, warmer homes,
less CO2 and a stronger local economy



Cumbria – North West England



The Challenges

1

**Unemployment
+30% in some west
Cumbrian towns**

2

**Fuel poverty
65% and rising
in social housing**

4

**Poor economies of
scale in Cumbria**

2

**'Solid Walled' homes
expensive to heat &
'hard to treat'**

5

**CO2 emissions high
per capita**

6

**Limited
returns on
investment in
renewable energy
or energy
efficiency
measures**



The Opportunities

1

2009 EU agree
4% ERDF
resources to
energy efficiency &
renewables in
low income
housing

2

ESF
ITM programme
focussed on
'low carbon'
skills

3

A 'cohesion' of
housing
associations
in Cumbria

4

National &
regional
agenda to
promote
'green jobs'

5

Match funding
available:
Government led
energy efficiency
schemes

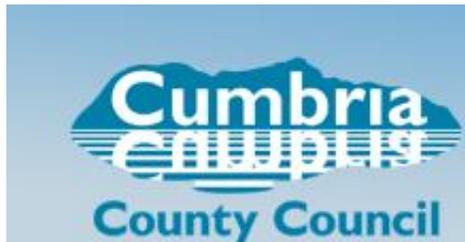




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'Cumbria Cohesion' 2011-2013 Energy Efficiency Refurbishment and Renewables Programme



Ambitions

1. **External Wall Insulation** on 870 hard to treat, low income properties.
2. **Renewable Energy:** Install 3 pv systems, 37 ground source heat pumps, 2 air source heat pumps, 18 solar thermal systems, 1 community biomass scheme
3. **Investment Euro 8million:** Euro 4 million ERDF; Euro 4 million Housing Association investment.
4. **Support 12 businesses minimum**
5. **Employment:** 20+ people to secure access to employment, training or education.
6. **Reduce CO2** by 1,845 tonnes per annum by 2013
7. **Establish a Learning Network** to share the work of the Programme through the Univ.of Cumbria



**Energy efficiency refurbishment
is labour intensive and requires
more than just construction**









- 1. Innovation, Transnational and Mainstreaming ITM Programme**
- 2. Focus on research, skills, training and employment in 'climate change' related job sector**
- 3. Partners in Poland and Sweden**
- 4. Euro 1.6million @ 50% Funding**
- 5. Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Recycling – 3 key areas**



Cumbria Woodlands

Energy Efficiency, Recycling and Renewable Energy

- Research
- Design courses
- Accreditation
- Delivery
- Experience



Lakes College West Cumbria



- External Wall Insulation
- Solar Thermal Hot Water system installation
- Solar Photovoltaic installation
- Domestic Heat Pump installation



+ Parex Plc

**LIFE CHANGING
LAKES COLLEGE**

UK's 1st accredited External Wall Insulation Training, Lakes College West Cumbria





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**200 people
receiving
renewable
energy
installation
training and
accreditation**



2009-2012 Successes

- Over 700 people receiving training and qualifications
- Over 1000 hours of energy efficiency advice to tenants
- Community Energy Champions trained
- 15 residents trained in external wall insulation so far
- Residents employed in ERDF Cumbria Cohesion Project

Successful Elements of the ERDF and ESF Programmes

1. ERDF kickstarted Euro25million of work.
2. Clear synergy of ERDF and ESF in the growth of the low carbon skills sector
3. ESF recognised the wider skills needed to deliver low carbon solutions
4. ERDF delivered economies of scale and brought new skills into the area
5. 'Cohesion' of housing associations – sharing best practice and resources.

Challenges in Delivery

- UK Government 'moved the goalposts' on State Aid and the 'Feed in Tariff'
- State Aid interpretations vary even within member states
- OJEU procurement means large companies still dominate and dictate
- Not for profit social housing associations are not EU funding experts!
- Projects take a long time to reach the start

Considerations for the future use of EU funding to address energy efficiency in social housing

- Support this thematically as a key mechanism for meeting multiple EU objectives.
- Low income households / landlords require some initial grant subsidy (underheating problem).
- ERDF / JESSICA / EIB could bridge the gap between the UK's 'Green Deal' and low returns on investment on energy projects.

Considerations.....

- Greater clarity / technical assistance is needed over Services of General Economic Interest and State Aid rules.
- Reinvestment of any income back into social housing should be permitted.
- Grants need to be long term and low cost.

**A ttttt ttt to the
EU from the
housing
associations and
tenants involved
in Cumbria
Cohesion and
Greenways to
Work**



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