



Community Based Organisations (CBOs) delivering a Service to the Fuel Poor

**Regional Conference on the Economic Benefits of
Energy Efficient Building**

Alma Gallagher

Date: 17th October 2013



Presentation Outline



- Development of CBOs
- Areas of coverage
- Services Provided
- Eligible homes
- Numbers delivered & Employment created
- Objectives of CBOs
- Benefits to Households
- Benefits of Community involvement
- Future for CBOs

Development of CBOs



- Service established in 2006
- Partnership of labour market schemes
 - Community Employment
 - TUS
 - RSS
- Projects have grown incrementally since then
 - 2000 – 1,500 homes 2012 – 20,000
- Network of 28 CBOs
- CBOs deliver SEAI Warmer Homes Scheme



Services Provided



- Attic Insulation
- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Draught Proofing of doors and windows
- Fitting tank jackets
- Lagging of pipes
- CFL light bulbs
- Energy Advice
- BER rating on completed homes
- Area Based Programmes

Eligible Homes



- Eligible homes are identified locally by CBO's via a network drawn from statutory, community and voluntary sectors.
 - Households in receipt of Fuel allowance from Dept Social Protection
 - Referrals from bona-fide Orgs. e.g. SvP, MABS, Health Professionals etc.

- These households cannot afford to invest in Energy Efficiency measures and thereby avail of HES grants.



Numbers delivered & Employment



- 57,000 homes insulated to date
- 450 staff currently employed
 - mixture of full-time and part-time

Objectives of CBOs



- To Improve the living conditions of low income households.
- To improve the housing stock in our disadvantaged communities.
- To increase the health and Well being of low income householders.
- To reduce the environmental impact for our communities of having high concentrations of poor quality housing.
- To provide training and development opportunities for the long term unemployed in our communities.
- To improve the economic and social infrastructure of our communities.
- To develop the enterprise skills within local communities.

Benefits to Households



- Reduction in energy bills
- Improves the thermal comfort of their home
- Improves the standard and the value of their homes
- Improvements in their quality of life and the standard of living of the household
- Improvements in the health and well being of the household including mental health (reduced stress over debt, bills, doctors bills etc.)
- Prevents space shrinkage due to inability to heat rooms

Benefits of Community involvement



- Groups are embedded in their local communities.
- Have a long history of delivering local community and social services.
- Well established networks within their communities which makes identifying those households most in need more achievable.
- Strong interagency relationships developed at local level to ensure that all available resources are secured to tackle causes and consequences of fuel poverty.
- Structure of Community Based Organisations lends itself to the delivery of services to the community.
- Value for money: “Not for profit” organisations so there is no profit motivation, focus on quality of delivery of service.
- Provide local employment opportunities.

Future of CBOs



Whole House Approach

- Community Based Organisations are well placed to further develop their range of services and provide an enhanced range of services to householders. Many groups have the required skills in house to deliver the following:
 - Installation of central heating systems
 - External wall insulation
 - Internal wall insulation.
 - Solar panels
 - Renewable energy heating systems
 - Rain Water Harvesting Systems



**End of Presentation
Thank You.**