

New energy efficiency programme will present big opportunities for contractors

By Ian Cuthbert, Sustainable Energy Supply Chain Programme Manager, Energy Saving Trust

Energy efficiency has been designated a national infrastructure priority by the Scottish Government since 2015 and through the new Energy Efficient Scotland Programme there will be a concerted effort to encourage people to improve the efficiency of their properties.

It is estimated that up to £12 billion could be invested over the programme's lifetime which is likely to result in an increase in demand and opportunities for contractors in Scotland providing energy efficiency and renewable products and services.

What is Energy Efficient Scotland?

Simply put, it's the Scottish Government's flagship programme for:

- reducing carbon emissions from buildings (which account for around 20% of all emissions in Scotland)
- eradicating fuel poverty, and
- growing the Scottish economy in an inclusive way.

The Scottish Government's vision is for all our homes and buildings to be warmer, greener and more efficient by 2040. They published a Routemap outlining how this will be achieved in May 2018.

The Routemap includes the setting of minimum energy efficiency standards for buildings based on Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). Whilst these standards for social housing have been in place for some time (EPC band D and in some circumstances band C), new standards will be phased in from 2020 covering all buildings; starting with the privately rented sector.

From 1 April 2020 all private rented properties will need to achieve an EPC band E when there is a change in tenancy. Then, by March 2022, all private rented properties will need to achieve band E, regardless of tenancy change.

The owner-occupier sector will also be phased in and, ultimately, all domestic properties will need to achieve EPC band C by 2040.

The Scottish Government wants to hear from you

In order to ensure there is high quality work done through the Programme, the need for consumers to be protected and to allow maximum participation from suppliers in Scotland, the Scottish Government are consulting on a number of areas, including a need for:

- The development of quality assurance criteria which will detail the key requirements for suppliers wishing to participate in the programme.

- Robust vetting and verification requirements that must not place undue administrative or financial burdens on SMEs (particularly micro-businesses).
- Independent inspections of installations, to ensure quality standards are consistently met.
- Energy Efficient Scotland installations to be based on robust skills and competencies.

The Scottish Government is seeking suppliers' views on how potential changes to the programme would impact them – for example if they changed the target date from 2040 to 2030.

You can read more about both consultations below

[Energy Efficient Scotland consultation](#)

How to have your say

This is an exciting time for energy efficiency and the Energy Saving Trust's Sustainable Energy Supply Chain team will be working closely with the Scottish Government to get contractors' views on the Energy Efficient Scotland programme. To assist with this, we're organising free consultation workshops in Inverness and Stirling on the following dates. To book a place just click on the link for each.

[Book the Inverness workshop 8 May](#)

[Book the Stirling workshop 9 May](#)

The Sustainable Energy Supply Chain Programme

We engage with contractors working in the energy efficiency and renewable sectors in Scotland to help them benefit from potential business opportunities and ensure they have the skills and certifications needed to take part in the energy efficiency and renewable markets.

You can find out more about the programme and subscribe to be kept up-to-date with more information at bit.ly/SupplyChainScotland