

Low Energy Apartment Futures (LEAF)

The project: in a nutshell

Low Energy Apartments Futures (LEAF) is a Changeworks¹-led project, looking to reduce the energy bills of residents living in flats and tenements. We are currently looking for blocks of flats in Edinburgh to be involved as case studies in our project.

Reducing energy bills in flats and tenements can be challenging: it can be difficult to identify the best practical ways to reduce energy bills, such as insulation, a new boiler or replacing windows. Reaching agreement between owners on communal measures can also be very difficult and time consuming. In Edinburgh's older tenements, there are also issues around gaining planning permission for some improvements.

This project aims to help participating tenants and owners overcome these problems by working with a number of case study tenements and flats. Experts will guide you every step of the way to find practical solutions that work for your tenement, and will give the support to make them happen.

The difficulty of reducing energy bills in flats and tenements is a problem for many other European countries so Changeworks is working with organisations from five other European countries – Austria, France, Germany, Hungary and Sweden – as part of the LEAF project. Each organisation involved brings different expertise to the project and will also pilot the project in their country. LEAF is funded by the EU's *Intelligent Energy Europe* programme and the City of Edinburgh Council. It started in April 2013 and will run for three years, until 2016.

What taking part will mean for you

By agreeing to take part as a project case study, you will benefit from:

- A free energy survey on your property which will identify appropriate solutions for your property;
- Tailored impartial advice and support for you and other owners in your block about these improvements;
- Practical ways to lower your energy bills, make your home warmer, increase the value of your home and reduce your impact on the environment.

Being involved in this innovative and ground-breaking project will also offer you the opportunity to shape and improve the guides we produce for use by homeowners and tenants in future in the UK.

¹ Changeworks is a leading environmental charity in Scotland, visit www.changeworks.org.uk

Working with you

We will work closely with you to:

- Carry out energy surveys (Energy Performance Certificates or EPCs) on all properties within your block (you will be able to keep your property's EPC, which will be valid for 10 years)
- Identify whole-building improvements and savings, as well as those for individual properties
- Work with all the owners and residents within your block to agree on any practical communal measures that can be made
- Help you apply for planning permission and building warrants if required
- Identify financial solutions to help fund energy improvements
- Guide you step-by-step guidance through key stages, up to the point where improvements can be installed.

At the end of the project, we hope that you will have made energy improvements to your property and/or stair, or will be at a stage where you can do so. While we will be on hand to provide advice and support to help you do so, whether or not you make these improvements is of course up to you.

We have no funding to cover the costs of improvements but we can help you find sources of funding which could help you cover the costs of improvements.

What will happen and when

An open evening will be organised for all participants at the start of the project to provide an opportunity to ask questions and get more information about the project.

Energy surveys will begin in late autumn of 2013 for those flats without a valid assessment, and whole building action plan work will begin once energy surveys have been done.

The whole project will run for three years (until 2016) and we will send a regular newsletter to participants to provide updates on progress.

For more general information about the project contact Changeworks:

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