

Energy Monitoring Information Sheet

Why energy monitoring?

Monitoring a household's energy consumption can be useful for a variety of reasons, from informing householders/tenants how much energy they are consuming and when, to letting them know whether or not their house is being kept at a healthy temperature. This can help to reduce bills through using less energy, or to keep houses at a more comfortable temperature. Monitoring can also be useful for renewable energy projects with a link between energy generation and local consumption, where it is useful to have information on the times and amounts of local energy use.

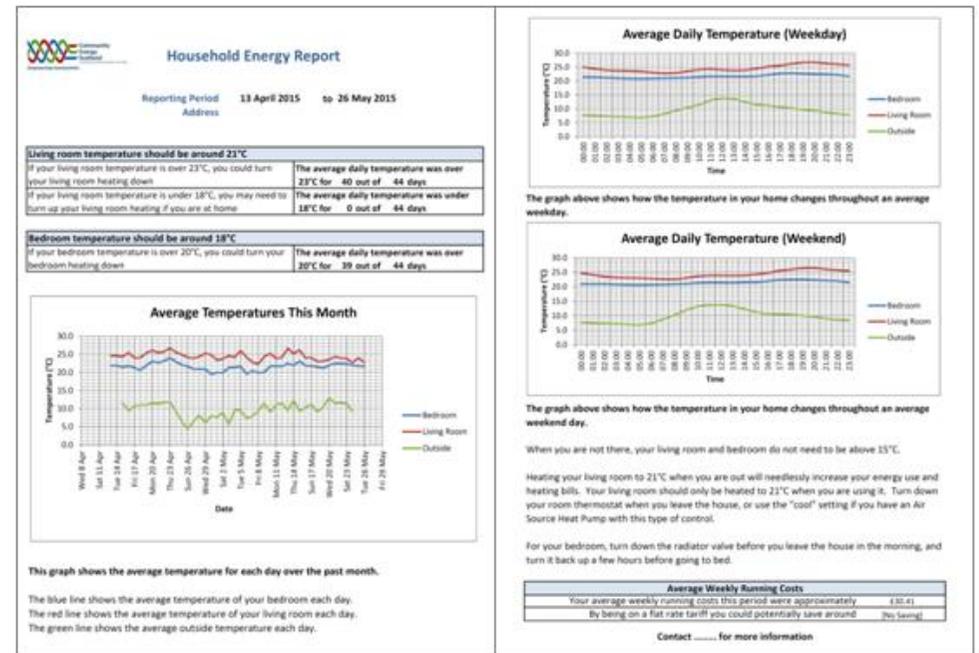


How does it work?

Depending on whether you want to measure electricity consumption, temperature, or both, different monitors can be fitted in each house. Monitors are usually small and unobtrusive. Readings are either taken manually or are sent automatically to an online portal. This data can then be analysed by the group or by Community Energy Scotland and reports are produced and sent to householders/tenants. Reports can be tailored to suit the needs of the project.

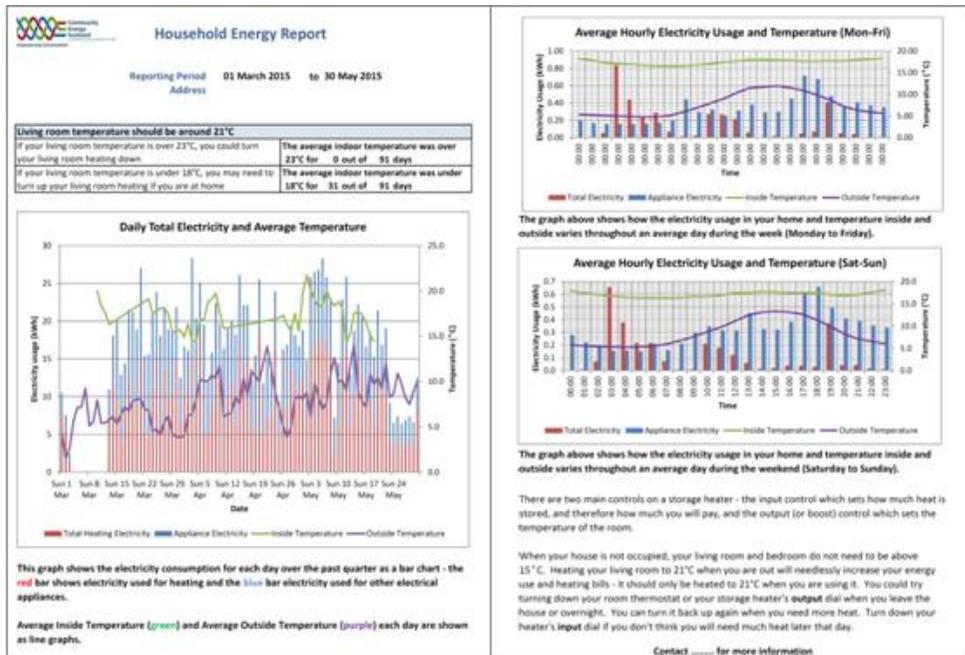
Case Study 1: Hebridean Housing Partnership

This project was funded by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations' Energy Ideas Fund. Logtags, which are about the size of a credit card, were fitted into the bedroom and living room of 80 homes in the Western Isles to measure temperature. The Logtags are collected each month when Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) are visiting the homes, and an electricity meter reading is taken. The Logtag temperature data is downloaded and sent to Community Energy Scotland (CES) along with the electricity meter readings. CES analyses the data and produces a report for each home, which is then presented to tenants by HHP. The report contains a graphical representation of the temperature, along with the approximate cost of energy over the period and some general energy-saving advice.



Case Study 2: Albyn Housing Society

This project was funded by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations' Energy Ideas Fund. Monitors designed and fitted by Hot Glue Technologies measure electricity consumption and temperature. Electricity is measured by clamping a small device onto the cable near your circuit box. Data is collected wirelessly through the internet router and is downloaded by Community Energy Scotland (CES) for analysis. Reports are produced by CES then sent by Albyn Housing to tenants. The report shows electricity consumed by the heating system and appliances, as well as temperature. General energy saving advice is also provided.



Summary

There are different types of monitor, different parameters which can be monitored and different ways of collecting and analysing readings, as well as the different costs associated with these. Energy monitoring can be tailored to the needs of the community and the project. Community Energy Scotland are happy to speak to you about your project and to provide advice and support to help set it up and to assist with the ongoing monitoring.

More Information:

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