

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

Letter from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar on the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009: Use of Energy Efficient Discount Schemes

Thank you very much for your recent letter enquiring about the use of energy efficiency discount schemes.

The Comhairle had introduced a scheme in partnership with Scottish Gas in April 2011. This scheme offered a £50 Council Tax discount if a private sector household had qualifying energy efficiency works installed by Scottish Gas during the year. The qualifying works related to cavity wall or roofspace insulation.

Despite being widely advertised there were no applications made to this scheme. Analysis suggested that this was due to the greater appeal of the wide range of free energy efficiency schemes available at that time. These included the Universal Home Insulation Scheme and the Energy Assistance Package, both of which were very popular on the islands. Scottish Gas subsequently decided not to continue their scheme.

The Comhairle had then looked at the possibility of linking a Discount Scheme to the newly emerging Green Deal. However, issues with the Green Deal, including its delayed roll out and eventual scrapping, meant that a workable model could not be developed.

Since then, the focus of the Comhairle's Outer Hebrides Fuel Poverty Action Plan has been on delivering the various elements of the Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland. This has seen over £12.5m invested in energy efficiency measures over the last 5 years.

The Comhairle is currently exploring options for linking a Discount Scheme to the newly emerging Energy Efficient Scotland programme.

I hope this information is of interest to you. I would be happy to provide you with further details if required.