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Campaigning for Warm Homes



SUPPORTED BY
 Birmingham City Council

Essential training and skills in energy efficiency and fuel poverty

Are you interested in helping us make communities in Birmingham Energy Fit?

Almost 120,000 households in Birmingham are unable to heat their homes affordably, forcing many to either live in cold, damp homes that are dangerous to their health or spend money on fuel and forgo other essentials. There is help available but many residents do not know how to access this.

The Community Energy Fit Project, delivered by E.ON, Birmingham City Council and NEA, will offer people who are currently unemployed the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills and work as part of a team to raise awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and how to access grants and services.



How to become a Community Energy Fit Champion

Participants will take part in an initial half-day energy efficiency awareness course and then be given the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and skills through additional training which could lead to a nationally recognised qualification. All participants will be able to become volunteer Community Energy Champions, able to pass on their knowledge to others and help local people reduce their fuel bills.

There are up to three steps to the Community Energy Fit programme:

Step 1

All participants attend an initial energy efficiency awareness course which will provide a practical understanding of the benefits of energy efficiency. The course will last for half a day, attendees will be given a certificate on completion (no examination involved) and offered the opportunity to progress further to a City & Guilds qualification.

Step 2

Participants will be given the option to attend additional courses. These will

include:

1. **Focus on Volunteering**, a two-hour interactive session for those people who want to put the knowledge they've learned so far into practice. Participants will learn more about the Community Energy Fit volunteering programme, consider the type of activities that they could carry out to raise awareness of energy efficiency and develop their own individual Community Energy Fit Activity Plan.
2. **NEA's Energy Awareness Course**, a more in-depth training course which will increase participants' knowledge of energy issues and will include assessments that, on successful completion, could lead to achieving a nationally-recognised Level 3, City & Guilds qualification.

Step 3

Volunteer Community Energy Champions will, with the support of their mentor, be able to deliver their Community Energy Fit Activity Plan.

Who is it for?

Birmingham residents who are currently unemployed and interested



in improving their skills/experience and increasing their employability.

What's in it for me?

- You could learn new skills, such as engaging with the public; local event organisation; project management and delivery; and enhanced communication skills, which will help to improve your CV and increase your employability.
- You could achieve a recognised, national qualification.
- You'll get the chance to make practical use of your training which could help develop other skills .
- The opportunity to try out new skills in a supported environment.
- You'll meet new people and network with other like-minded people.
- The chance to be part of a wider project to help your community.
- You will receive a reference from the project partners, to give to future employers, about the work you have done.

Interested? Then call 0191 269 2931 for further information.

Community Energy Fit Partners

National Energy Action

National Energy Action (NEA) is a national charity that campaigns for affordable warmth and improved energy efficiency in the homes of vulnerable people. NEA's work includes delivering practical projects and training to those who work with and advise fuel-poor householders.



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NEA's training courses are well respected in the field. Some comments from previous participants are included below:

"It's great now knowing where we can find information to help the families which we work with and support."

E.ON

E.ON is one of the UK's leading power and gas companies, supplying over 5 million customers across the country. E.ON is focused on helping customers become energy fit by encouraging them to insulate their homes, moderate their usage and even to generate their own energy through microgeneration systems. E.ON has been working closely with local communities to make sure that its Energy Fit programme benefits vulnerable customers, as well as local community groups, business and skills in the local area.



"Very enlightening. Poor housing is a serious problem in our area, so now I feel better equipped to support families."

"I felt I really benefited from the info given and will pass on this information to family, friends and colleagues as well as the families I support in my day-to-day role."

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Birmingham

City Council has developed a vision for the city that focuses firmly on the future and finding ways of delivering the priorities that Birmingham people say are most important to them. The City Council's Employment Team works actively with key partners in the private, public and third sectors, to create equal access to employment opportunities for Birmingham people.

"Some excellent tips with excellent advice on what to do and where to go for help. I will include this information when doing sessions with young people."

**For further information
please contact the Community Energy Fit Team to find out more.**

Email: CEF@nea.org.uk Tel: 0191 269 2931