



# Yorkshire Energy Doctor CIC: ENERGY SAVINGS ADVICE AND SUPPORT

## OVERVIEW

Fuel poverty and disadvantage are key issues in rural areas: nearly 40% of households in the Selby district are off the mains gas network which means that a large proportion of households rely on more expensive forms of heating. Yorkshire Energy Doctor CIC (YED) wanted to provide an independent and trusted energy advice service at a community level for vulnerable households in the area.

## SOLUTION

YED used the community buildings in the parishes of Cridling Stubbs and Barlby in the Selby District as hubs to reach out and engage with the local community. It carried out a range of energy saving initiatives including an energy audit of the community building, providing support in running an energy awareness campaign, delivering three community energy saving events, and home energy health checks to vulnerable households in the community.

It disseminated general energy awareness information in local newsletters, public events notice boards and social media, and provided information to organisations such as the local Children's Centre.

## OUTCOMES

The energy audits helped identify potential heating options and energy efficiency measures:

- The audit of the village hall at Cridling Stubbs which was poorly insulated, cold, and as a result, under-utilised, helped the management committee in a successful funding bid for double-glazing and heating improvements.
- In Barlby, the audit on the Library and Community Hub identified that by changing from a dual rate electricity tariff to a single rate would save around £160 per year. The report produced was used to develop a five year plan of building improvements to improve energy efficiency.
- 10 households received home energy visits which identified possible total savings of up to £3,226 from a range of recommendations including switching energy supplier and applying for the Warm Home Discount grant. Households with oil-fired central heating were sign posted to an oil cooperative based in a neighbouring village.

## OBJECTIVES

To assist local householders within the rural district of Selby in North Yorkshire to adequately heat their properties at an affordable cost, and to help community buildings in the settlements to become sustainable in the future through becoming more energy efficient.

## MORE DETAILS

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Project title:</b>   | Energy savings advice and support |
| <b>Group name:</b>      | Yorkshire Energy Doctor CIC       |
| <b>Theme:</b>           | Reducing and managing energy use  |
| <b>Area of benefit:</b> | Selby, North Yorkshire            |
| <b>Date:</b>            | Dec 2014-Dec 2015                 |
| <b>Contact info:</b>    | www.yorkshireenergydoctor.org.uk  |

## A PIECE OF ADVICE

The organisation had to spend much more time than expected on community engagement work. To help with this, YED engaged the support of key trusted community anchors/ volunteers, who helped to actively promote the scheme but this relied on them having sufficient time.

YED initially engaged with 23 householders through community events. However, one to one discussions were most effective, giving tailored and practical advice and support.

YED found that a lot of scepticism remained around switching energy supplier, and distrust of things that were 'free.' Community-wide household energy surveys received a low response rate and YED found that ideas and demand for future energy initiatives/ renewable technologies was low, even where there was no mains gas.

YED wishes to recommend as a success factor for future projects the recruitment of enough local volunteers, prepared to actively champion energy initiatives within their community and develop project ideas.