

NEA NEWS RELEASE

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Liverpool Councillors say 'bingo' to warm homes

Councillors Ann O'Byrne and Steve Radford made it a full house when they joined local Liverpool residents to play energy efficiency bingo – a game which incorporates energy saving tips - and learn more about staying warm in their homes.

The sessions were held in St John the Evangelist Church in Tuebrook, Hope Centre Community Meal in Walton, Liverpool Lighthouse in Anfield and King David's Church in Rocky Lane and were run as part of the wider Community Action Partnership, a £1.2 million community investment programme delivered across the UK by fuel poverty charity National Energy Action and British Gas, and locally in partnership with Liverpool City Council.

Jimmy Pugh, Project Development Officer, NEA said "we were keen to come up with a new fun and interactive way to provide residents with practical advice on energy saving in the home in the form of energy quizzes and energy efficiency bingo to see what methods work the best. Residents were also offered advice from Richie Quinn, Fuel Poverty Officer, Liverpool City Council about the Free Handyperson Scheme in Liverpool and Collective Switching schemes. The sessions were a great success and we hope to roll them out to other groups within Liverpool."

Councillor Ann O'Byrne said: "The message of energy saving is vitally important to the 14% of Liverpool households who are struggling to afford to keep their homes warm and healthy. Energy bingo is a fantastic way to get these messages across and I'm delighted to support these activities and the wider Community Action Partnership."

Councillor Steve Radford said "this is the second year we have been grateful for the support of NEA".

Victoria from Anfield attended the session at Liverpool Lighthouse, she said "I really enjoyed the Energy Awareness Session and learned some new tips on how to save energy in the home. I was able to find about the British Gas Free Insulation Scheme to arrange a top up as well as looking into getting my water meter removed, I'm also taking part in a Collective Switch to get a better deal on my fuel bills."

NEA and Liverpool City Council would like to thank the Walton Asda store for supporting the sessions with pensioners clubs St John the Evangelist and Tuebrook Hope Centre by providing refreshments.

The sessions are delivered to existing groups for up to 30 people at a time. If any groups are interested in holding a session please contact Richard Quinn, Liverpool Council on 233 0264.

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- 1) National Energy Action (NEA) is the national charity which aims to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor and vulnerable.
- 2) The Community Action Partnership will run from 2014-2016 in eight areas of England and Wales. The areas are: Cardiff; Enfield; Barking and Dagenham; Northampton; Walsall; Liverpool; North East England (Warm up North) and Manchester (AGMA). Further information on the Community Action Partnership and Community Action Award Scheme can be found at <http://www.nea.org.uk/see-us-in-action/community-action-partnership>
- 3) British Gas is the UK's leading energy supplier, and serves around 11 million homes in Britain – nearly half the country's homes – as well as providing energy to one million UK businesses. British Gas provides value for money, dedicated customer service, innovative energy solutions and the highest quality Home Services expertise in the country.