



Household Energy Efficiency headline release: Great Britain Data to Q1 2020

28 May 2020

National Statistics

This release presents the latest statistics on the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), the Green Deal (GD) and an update on the measurement of the one million homes improved target.

- **Around 2.8 million measures have been installed in around 2.2 million properties through ECO and under the GD framework to the end of March 2020.** Around 2.7 million of these installed measures (97 per cent) were delivered through ECO.

Chart: ECO measures installed, by quarter, Q2 2017 – Q1 2020



- Since the start of ECO3 in October 2018, 303,600 measures have been installed, including 24,400 measures installed in March 2020. In Q1 2020, 65,200 measures were installed; a 19 per cent decrease in measures relative to the previous quarter due to a low delivery rate in January following the introduction of new Trustmark reporting standards on 1 January 2020.
- The Government set a target to upgrade the energy efficiency of around one million more homes over the five years to April 2020. With one month of the target period remaining, **around 998,800 homes (99.9%) have had at least one improvement measure installed** under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) or Green Deal (GD).

What you need to know about these statistics:

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) was introduced in January 2013 to reduce energy consumption and support people at greater risk of living in fuel poverty. The larger energy companies are set obligations to install insulation and heating measures in order to achieve reductions in energy usage and heating costs.

The Green Deal (GD) is a government initiative that is designed to help home owners install energy efficiency measures into their properties, and the costs of these measures are paid back through their energy bill over a period of time; this is in the form of a Green Deal Finance Plan (GD Plan).

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Introduction

This release presents the latest quarterly statistics on the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and the Green Deal (GD). It also includes an update on the measurement against the one million homes target. More detailed analysis of ECO and GD Plans, together with home insulation levels, are available in the [detailed statistical report](#). Both schemes cover Great Britain.

The main headline statistics presented in this release for measures installed are up to March 2020, with selected non-measure based statistics for April 2020. The quarterly reports are now published earlier but the ECO costs data for the latest quarter are not yet available. Costs data is included in this release up to December 2019.

Energy Efficiency Measures, Households and Carbon Savings

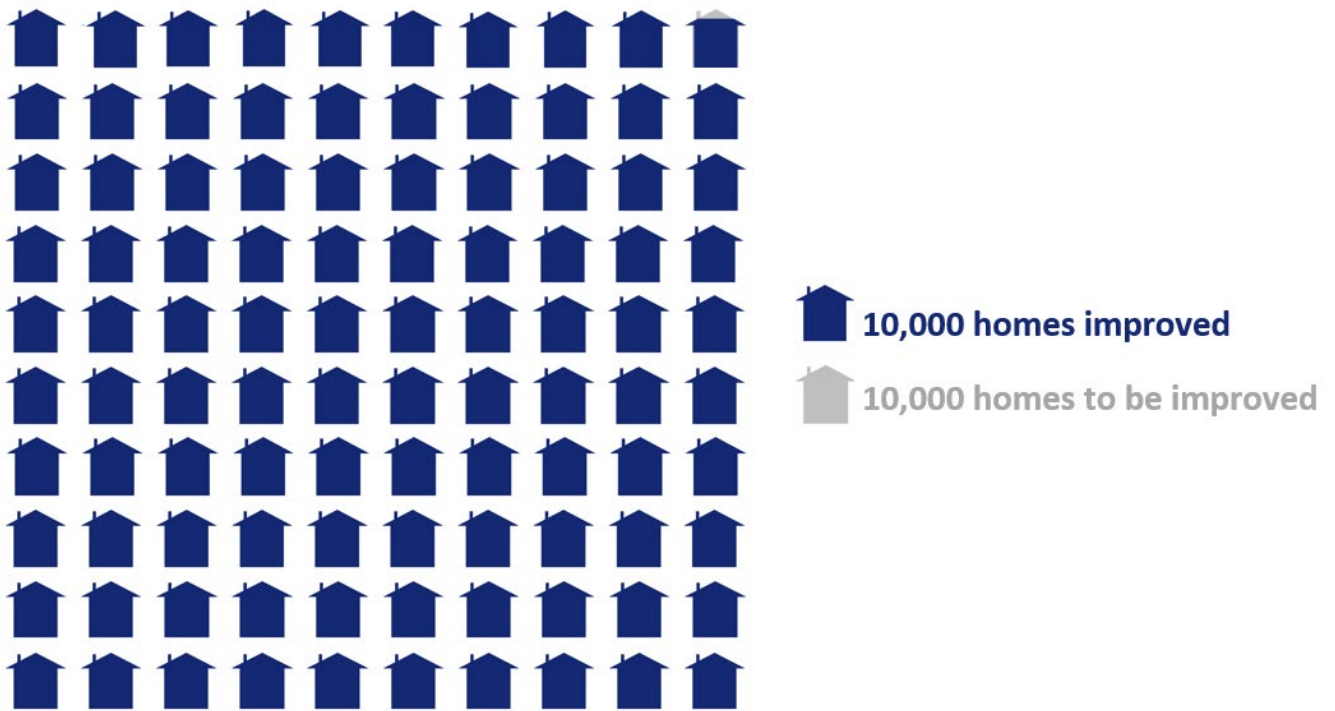
In the [data tables](#) accompanying this publication, tables 1.1 - 1.4 show the combined number of measures across the schemes including 1m homes target and estimated carbon and energy savings.

Since 2013, around 2.8 million measures have been installed in around 2.2 million properties through ECO and under the Green Deal Framework to the end of March 2020. Around 2.7 million of these installed measures (97 per cent) were delivered through ECO (Tables 1.1 and 1.2).

In Q1 2020, around 65,200 measures were installed through ECO in around an additional 32,000 households (Tables 3.3 and 4.1).

The Government has a target to upgrade around one million homes through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and other Government domestic energy efficiency schemes, including insulation and other energy efficiency measures. The period covered is over five years from the start of May 2015 through until the end of April 2020. With one month of the target period remaining, around 998,800 homes (99.9%) have had at least one improvement measure installed under ECO or the Green Deal (Infographic 1, Table 1.3).

Infographic 1: Proportion of the 1 million homes target achieved, up to end March 2020



The provisional estimated lifetime carbon savings of measures installed by the end of March 2020 under ECO (including Affordable Warmth), Cashback, GDHIF and GD Plans was up to 51.3 MtCO₂, with provisional estimated lifetime energy savings up to 198,200 GWh (Table 1.4).

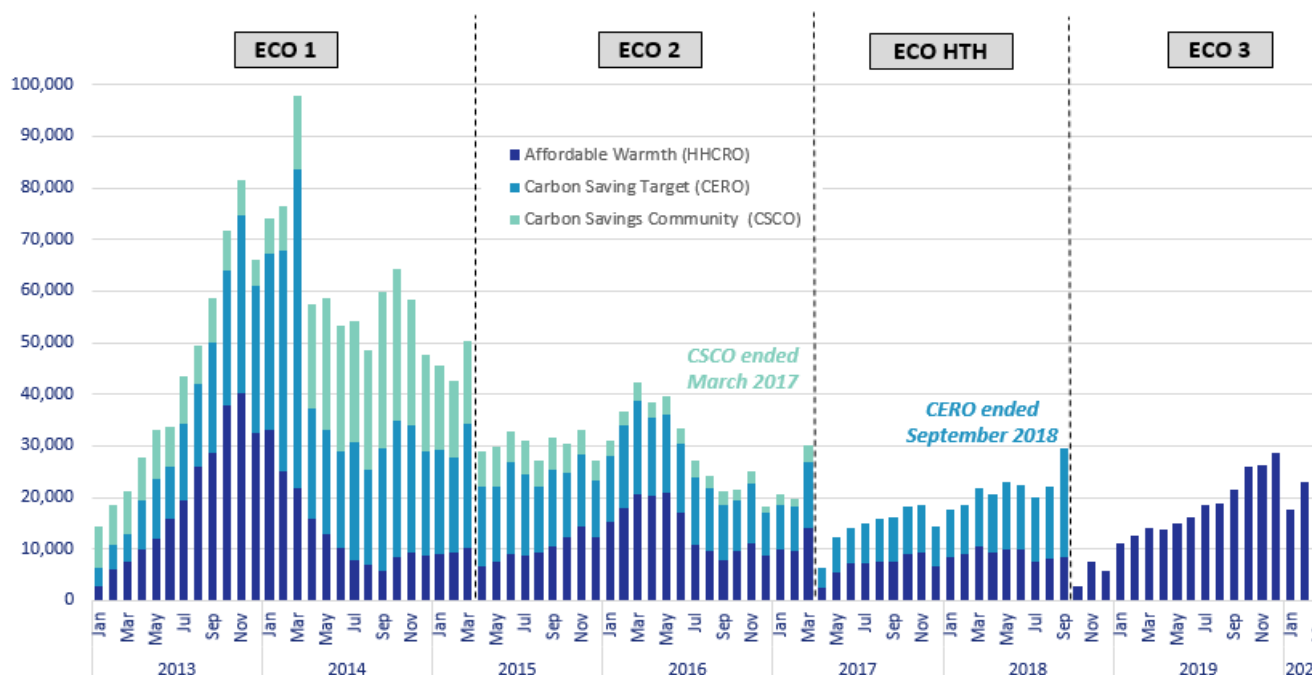
ECO Measures Installed and Households

In the [data tables](#) accompanying this publication, tables 2.1 - 2.8 show the detailed tables for each phase of ECO, tables 3.1 - 3.6 present all ECO measures including geographic analysis and tables 4.1 - 4.5 present the number of households receiving ECO measures.

Provisional figures show there were around 2,740,500 measures installed in 2,096,900 households under ECO up to the end of March 2020 (Tables 1.1 and 1.2).

Since the start of ECO3 in October 2018, 303,600 measures have been installed, including 24,400 measures installed in March 2020, which represents a provisional increase of 5 per cent relative to the number of measures delivered in February 2020 (Table 2.5). This increase occurred despite seeing a significant reduction in measures completed during the final week of March due to the impact of COVID-19.¹ Suppliers have until March 2022 to deliver their ECO3 obligations (Chart 1).

Chart 1: ECO measures installed, by obligation, by month, up to end March 2020

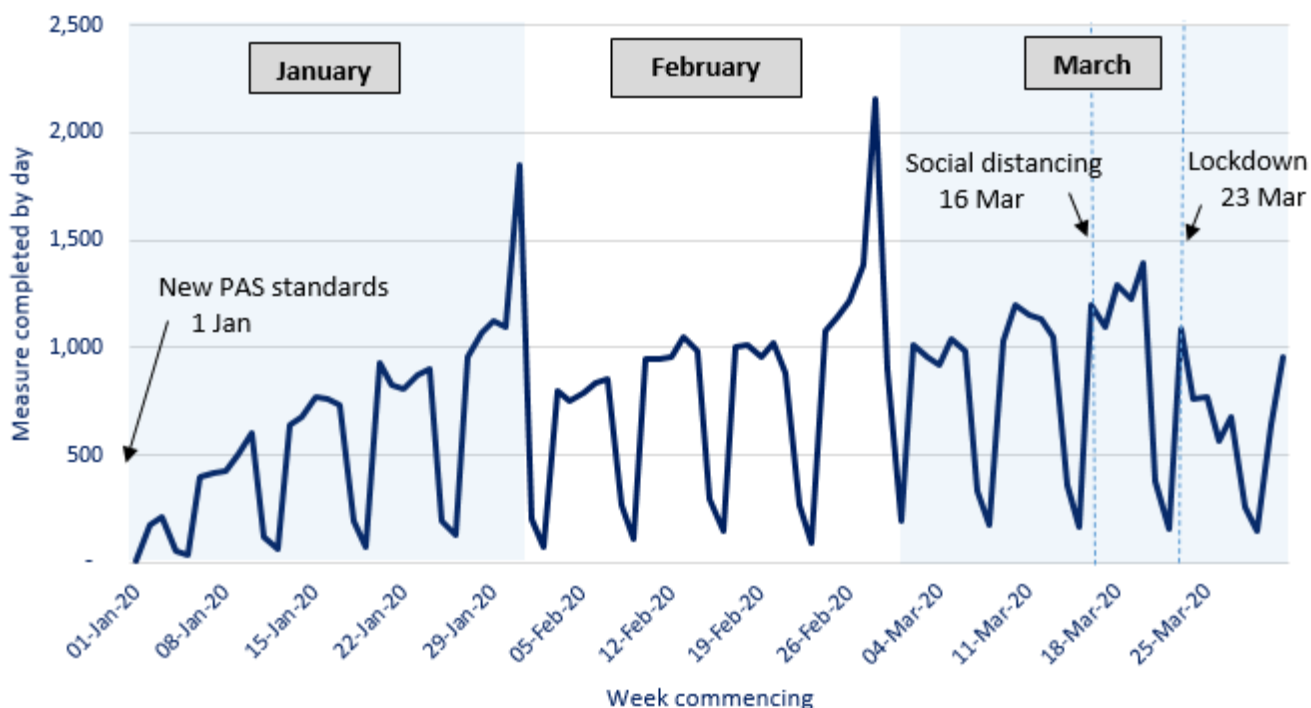


¹ The UK introduced social distancing measures in the second half of March, which included household isolation from March 16th, a ban on non-essential travel from March 17th, and stay at home guidance (lockdown) from 23rd March when non-essential services were closed. However, the delivery of ECO measures was not banned during this time period because some measures would be considered emergency work, such as fixing a broken heating system, whereas others would not require internal access to install. Users should also note that the date recorded in our data is based on the date that the installer filed their paperwork rather than the actual date of installation, so there can be a short lag of up to four weeks between when on-site work is completed and when new measures are recorded.

During Q1 2020, a number of effects have been observed in ECO delivery:

- In January 2020, around 17,700 measures were completed, a decrease of 39 per cent relative to December 2019. This reduction appears to be linked both to higher than normal reporting rate in December 2019, followed by a large decline in the number of measures reported in the first half of January. Both effects are likely to be due to the new Trustmark requirements which came into force from the 1 January 2020. Installers need to be Trustmark registered to deliver ECO measures from January 2020 and can also receive a 20% uplift for measures which are installed in accordance with the new PAS2035 standard during the transition period (Jan 2020 - Jun 2021).
- In February 2020, 23,100 measures were completed, an increase of 31 per cent compared with January. This is less than one per cent below the average monthly delivery between July-December 2019.
- In March 2020, 24,400 measures were completed. While this represents a 5 per cent increase compared with February, the number of measures completed fell sharply in the final week of the month following the announcement of stay at home guidance (lockdown). As can be seen in Chart 1a below, it is typical to see a peak of measures completed at the very end of a month, reflecting the date on which the paperwork is completed. However, there is a much smaller peak in March, presumably due to the impact of COVID-19.

Chart 1a: ECO measures installed, by day (2020 only)



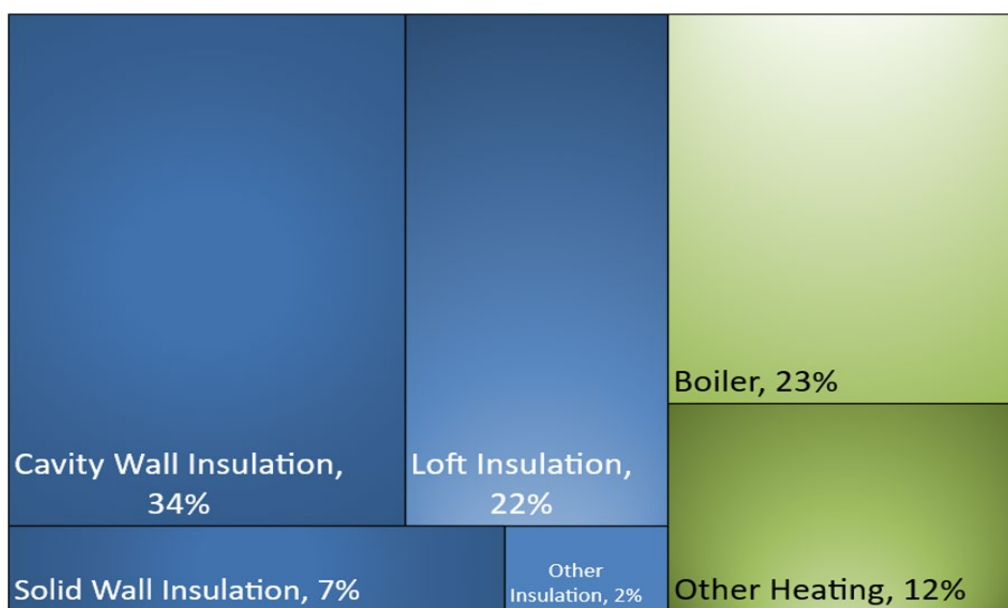
Through ECO, the combination of Affordable Warmth and the Carbon Savings Community Obligation have delivered around 1.66 million measures in around 1.18 million low income and vulnerable households, or households in specified areas of low income, by the end of March 2020 (Tables 2.6, 2.7 & 2.8). Since the start of April 2017, around 447,600 Affordable Warmth

measures have been installed in around 291,700 low income and vulnerable households (Tables 2.7 and 2.8).

Under ECO3, the whole obligation is delivered through Affordable Warmth, with 65,200 measures installed in an additional 32,000 households in Q1 2020 (Tables 3.1 and 4.1).

Of all notified ECO measures installed to end of March 2020, 66 per cent of measures have been insulation measures, including cavity wall insulation (34 per cent), loft insulation (22 per cent), solid wall insulation (seven per cent) and ‘other insulation’ (two per cent). The remainder are mostly heating measures, with 23 per cent boiler measures and a further 12 per cent for ‘other heating’ measures (Tables 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 and Infographic 2).

Infographic 2: ECO measures by measure type, up to end March 2020



2.74 million ECO measures installed in Great Britain
 Insulation 65% Heating 35%

Chart 2a shows that the share of heating measures has increased in ECO3 compared to previous ECO phases. Half of ECO3 measures have been for heating measures, with boilers representing 29 per cent of measures and a further 21 per cent from ‘other heating’ measures up to March 2020. This is due to the Affordable Warmth obligation, the only sub-obligation to include boilers, making up the whole of ECO3 (Table 2.8).

Chart 2b compares the share of measures within the Affordable Warmth obligation only. Of all notified ECO3 measures installed up to the end of March 2020, 19 per cent were for cavity wall insulation, 13 per cent were for loft insulation and five per cent were for solid wall insulation. These are significantly higher than the share of insulation measures through Affordable Warmth across all ECO phases, where nine per cent were for cavity wall insulation, nine per cent were for loft insulation and two per cent were for solid wall insulation. In ECO3 the share of other insulation has increased to 13 per cent. This is due to under floor insulation being the most popular associated insulation measure with a broken boiler. To date, the scheme has delivered

42,500 broken boiler replacements with an associated insulation measure, which has been under floor insulation in 82 per cent of cases (Tables 2.6, 2.7 & 2.8).

Since the start of ECO, an average of 1.31 measures have been installed per household receiving measures. Prior to the start of ECO3, the Affordable Warmth ratio was 1.41 measures per household reflecting that when a heating measure is installed it is often accompanied with heating controls as a secondary measure. When looking at all households receiving an ECO3 measure, the average number of measures per household has increased to 1.86 during Q4 2019 but over the last three months has fallen to 1.78 measures per household. ECO3 has also seen an increased likelihood of measures being installed in homes that also received ECO measures in earlier phases of the scheme. Over the last 3 months, 65,200 measures were installed in 36,600 households of which 4,500 households (12 per cent) had previously received an ECO measure.

Chart 2a: Share of all ECO measures installed, by measure type, by ECO phase, up to end March 2020

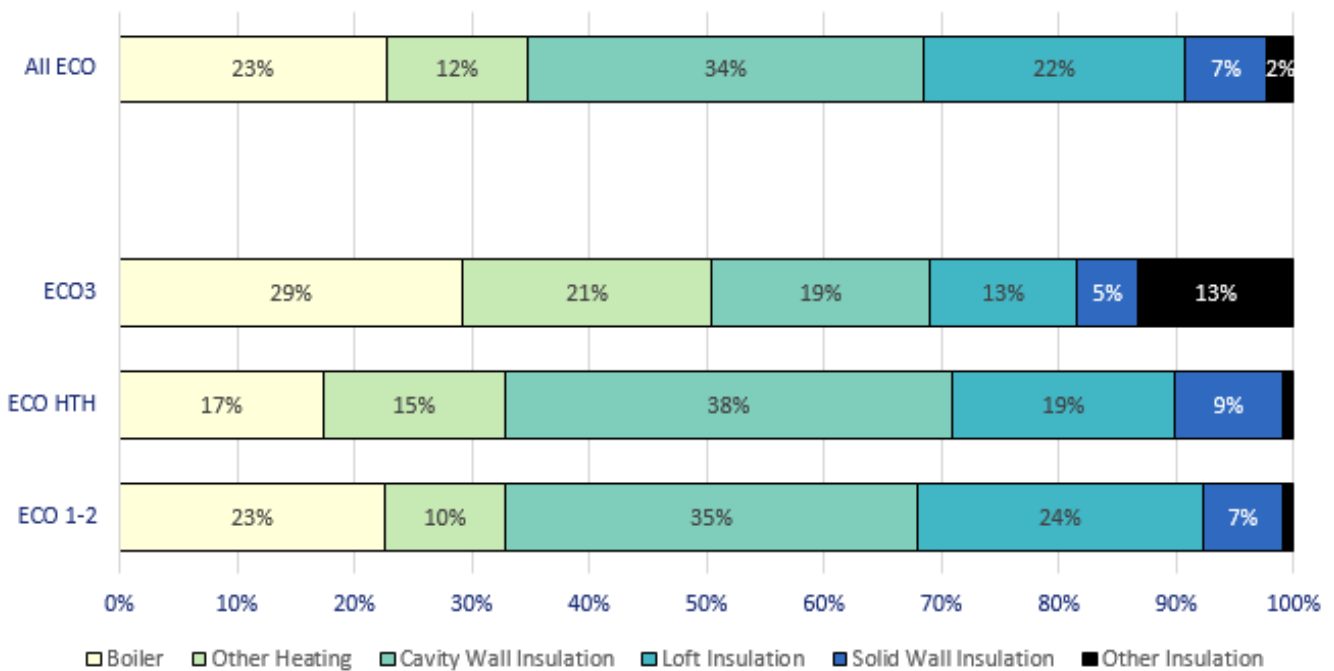
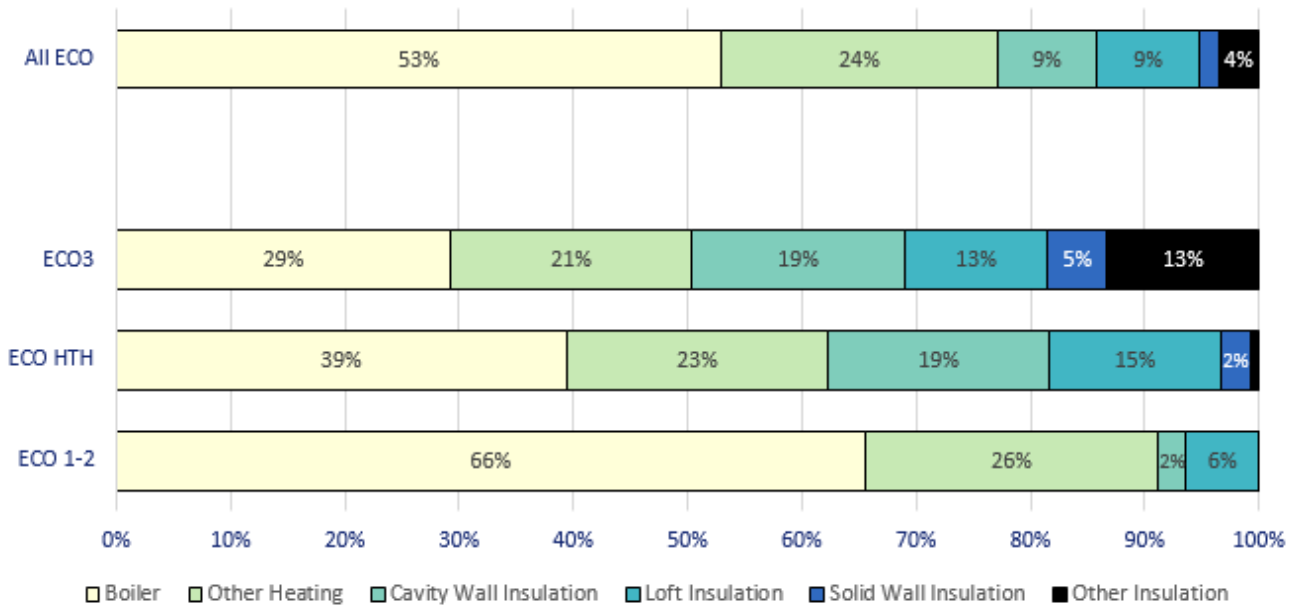
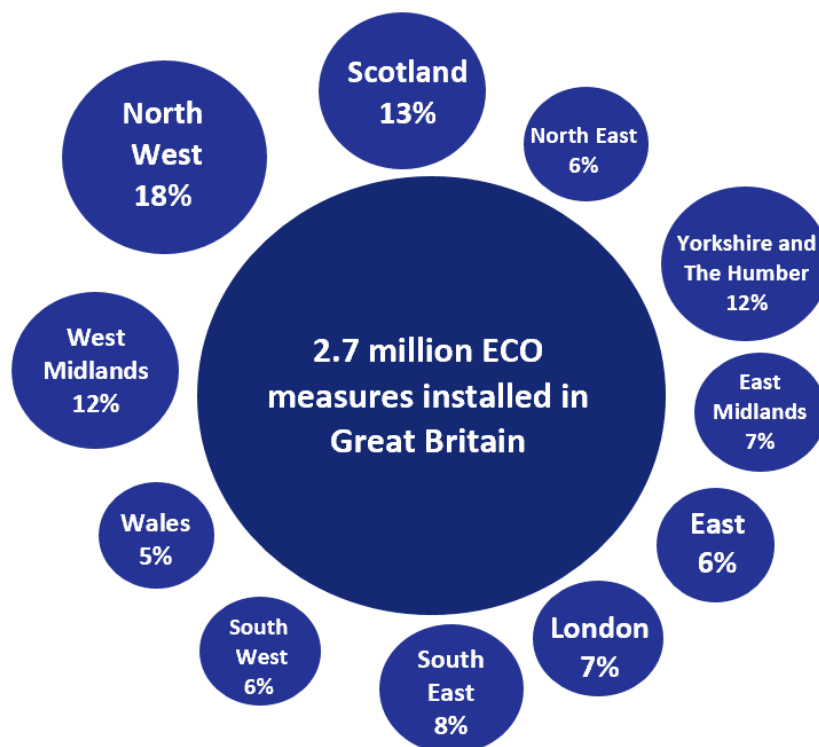


Chart 2b: Share of all Affordable Warmth measures installed, by measure type, by ECO phase, up to end March 2020



Up to the end of March 2020, around one fifth (18 per cent) of ECO measures were in the North West (498,200), the highest in any region. Thirteen per cent of ECO measures were installed in Scotland (345,400) and five per cent were in Wales (150,300). In Q1 2020 around 17 per cent of ECO measures were in the North West (11,000), the highest in any region. Thirteen per cent of ECO measures were installed in Scotland (8,500) and around six per cent were in Wales (4,000) (Infographic 3, Table 3.3).

Infographic 3: ECO measures by region, up to end March 2020

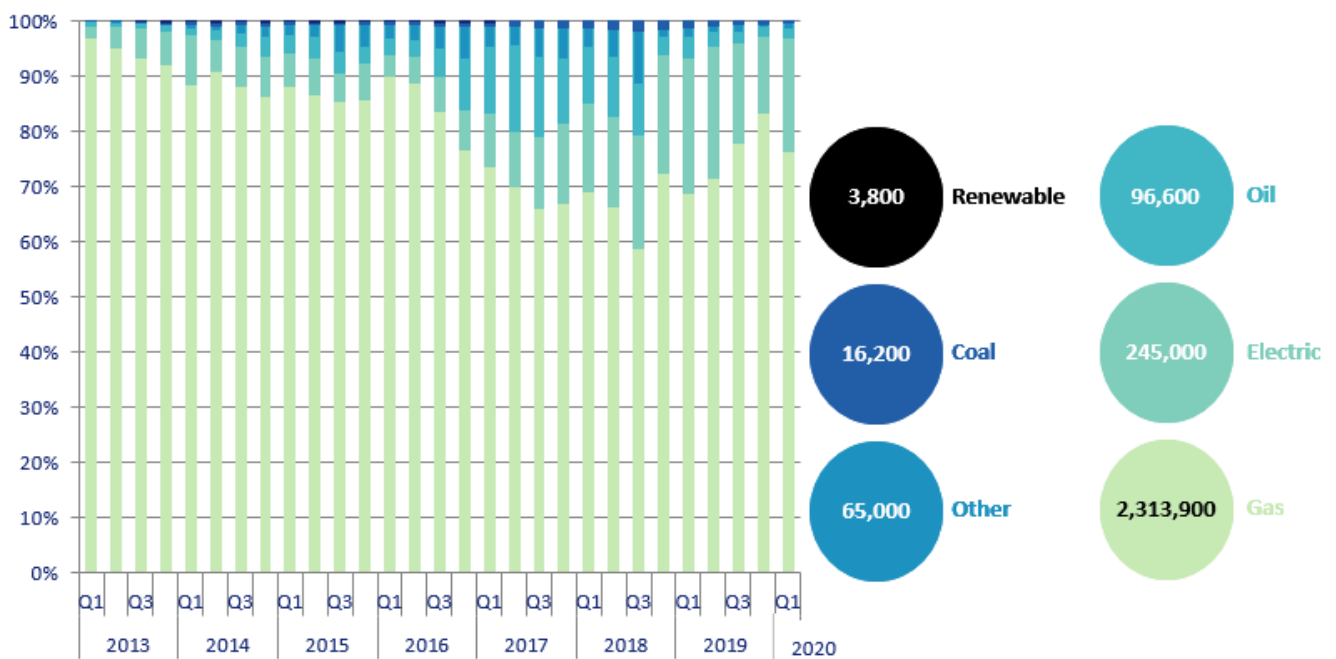


Around eight per cent of all households in Great Britain had a measure installed under ECO (i.e. around 79 per 1,000 households), up to the end of March 2020. The North West and North East regions had the highest amounts in England, with 118 and 104 households with ECO measures per 1,000 households respectively. There were also around 116 per 1,000 households in Scotland and 81 per 1,000 households in Wales (Map 1, Table 4.1 and Table 4.4).

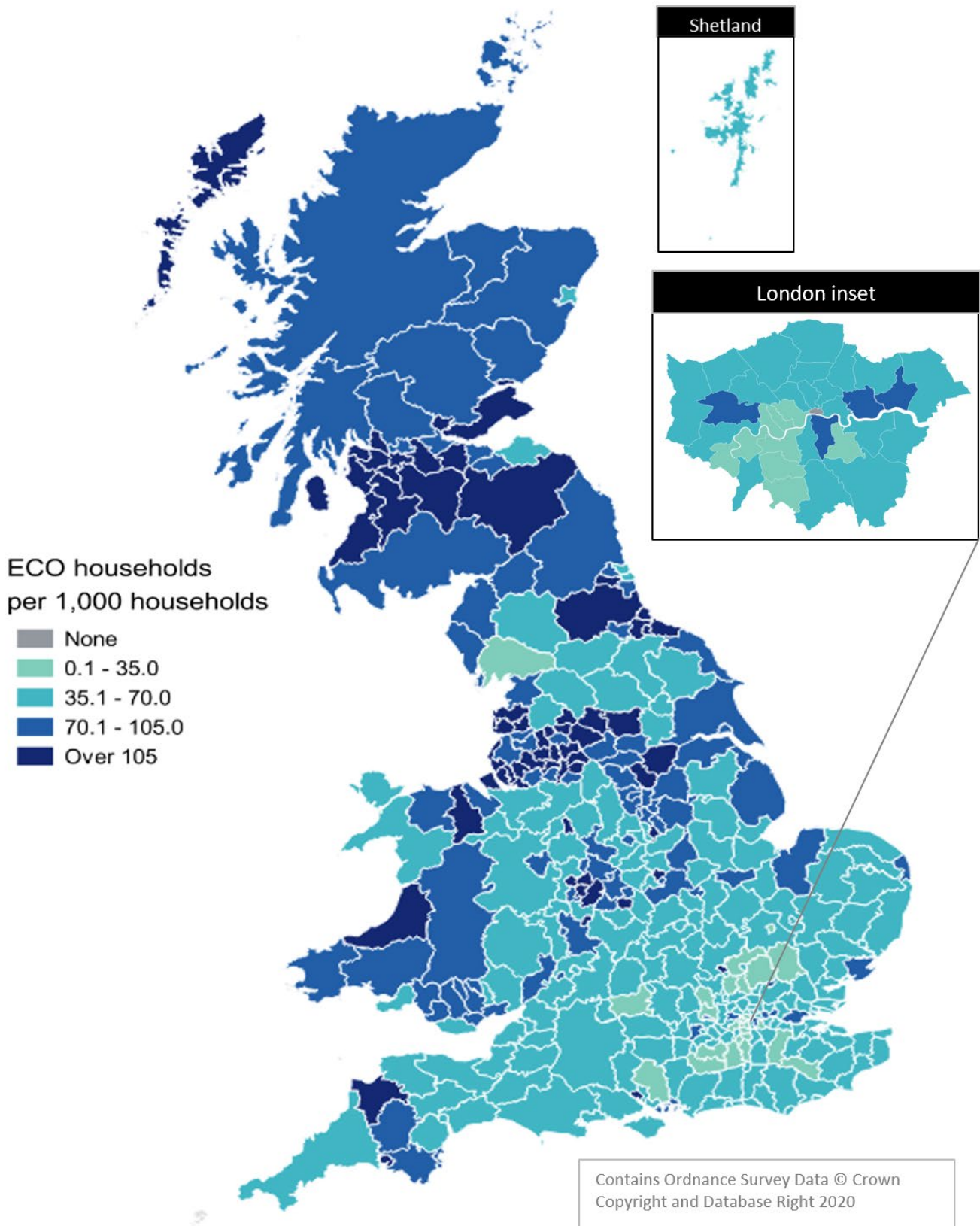
The interactive map for indicators of domestic energy efficiency includes the percentage of households receiving ECO measures down to Lower Layer Super Output Area up to December 2019. The map also shows the number of loft and wall insulation measures installed. www.domesticenergymap.uk

In total, to end March 2020, around 84 per cent of ECO measures were installed in properties that used gas as their main fuel type (around 2,313,900 measures). This figure has decreased from 97 per cent in the first quarter of ECO to 59 per cent in the last quarter of ECO Help-to-Heat (Q3 2018) before rising to 76 per cent in Q1 2020 (Chart 3, Table 3.2).

Chart 3: ECO measures by main fuel type of property, by quarter, up to end March 2020

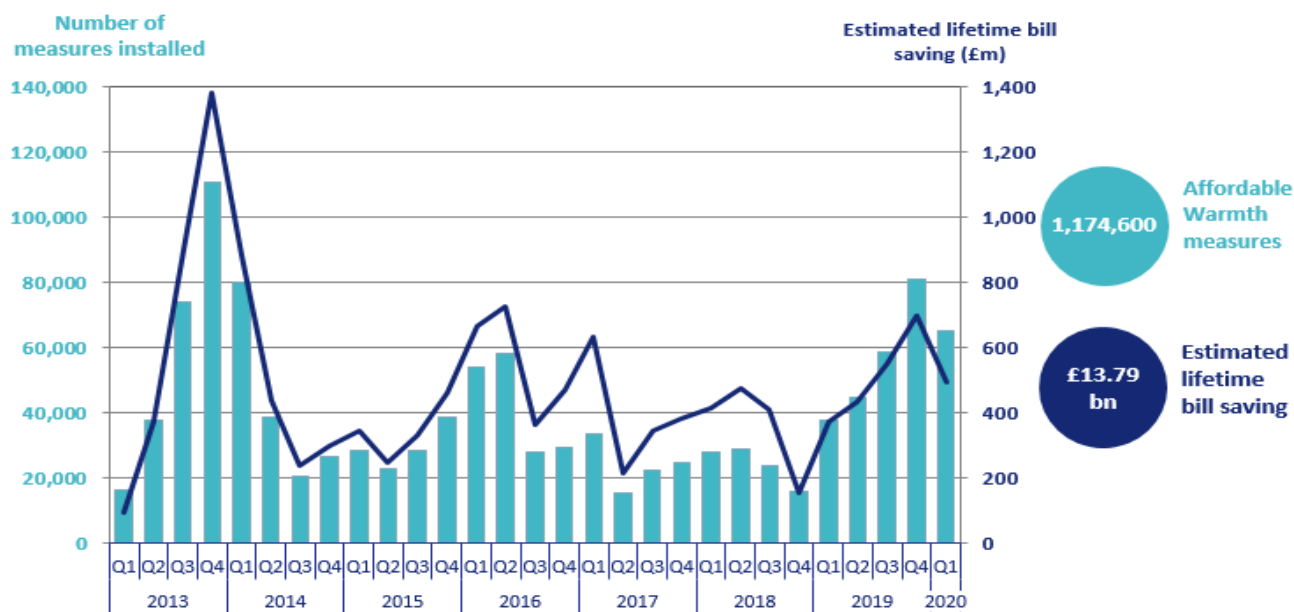


Map 1: Households in receipt of ECO measures by Local Authority per 1,000 households, up to end March 2020



Around 1,174,600 Affordable Warmth ECO measures installed up to the end of March 2020 are estimated to deliver £13.79bn worth of notional lifetime bill savings. In Q1 2020, Affordable Warmth delivered around 65,200 measures delivering around £492m of lifetime bill savings (Chart 4, Table 2.1).

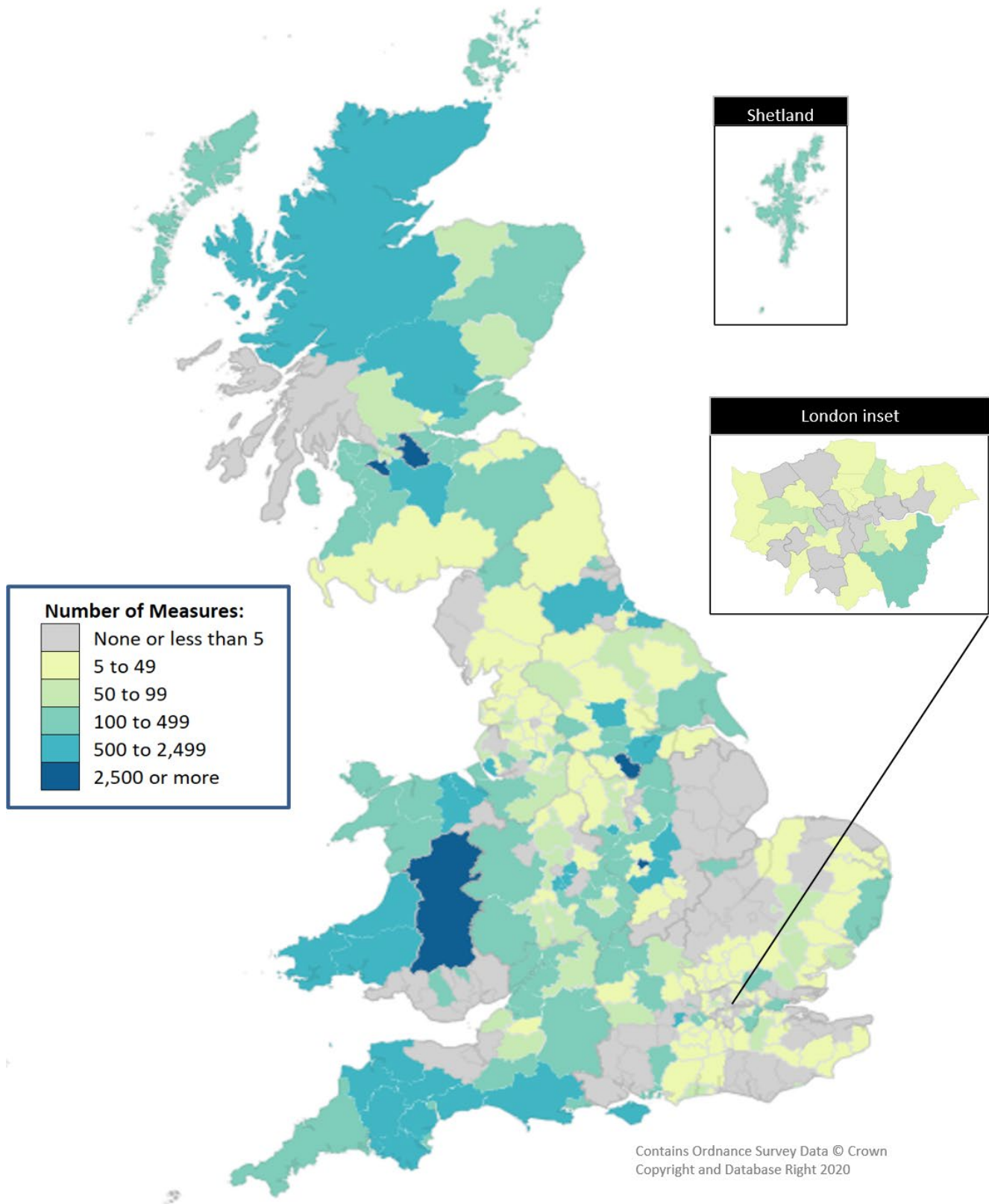
Chart 4: Estimated lifetime bill savings for Affordable Warmth measures, by installation quarter, up to end March 2020



Local Authorities can determine whether a home is eligible for an Affordable Warmth measure under the ‘Flexible Eligibility’ mechanism, which is permitted to deliver up to 25 per cent of the ECO3 obligation. Up to March 2020, 157 local authorities had seen 50 or more measures installed through Flexible Eligibility, 38 of which had over 500 measures installed. Scotland had the highest number of flex measures installed of any region, with 19 per cent of the flex measures in Great Britain, whereas Wales had 15 per cent. The South West region had the highest share of any region in England, with around 17 per cent of all flex measures installed in Great Britain (Table 3.5).

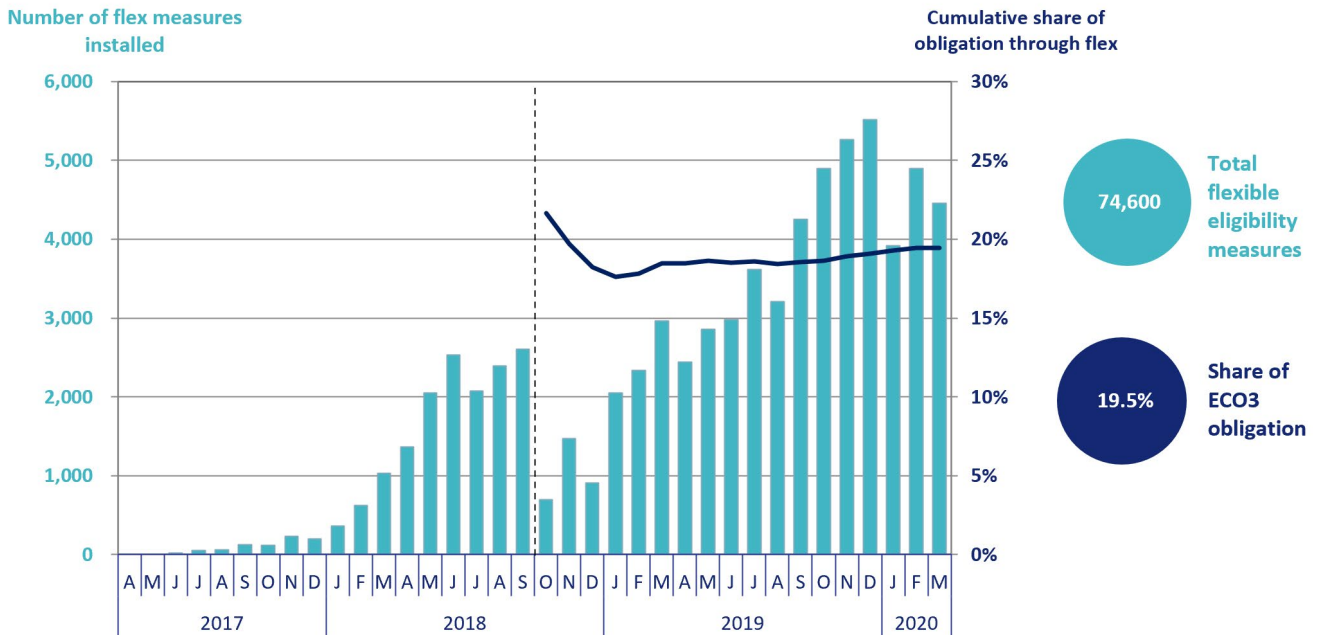
Since the introduction of Flexible Eligibility, 74,600 measures have been delivered through this aspect of the scheme up to the end of March 2020 (Tables 2.7 & 2.8). Under ECO3 (since October 2018), up to 25 per cent of the obligation can be delivered through Flex, with around 19 per cent of this obligation delivered through Flex up to the end of March 2020 (Chart 5).

Map 2: ECO measures installed through Flexible Eligibility, by Local Authority (April 2017 – March 2020)



Local Authorities are shown only if they have at least 5 flexible eligibility measures. In total, 303 Local Authorities had at least 1 flex measure up to March 2020.

Chart 5: Number of ECO3 Flexible Eligibility Measures by installation month and share of Affordable Warmth obligation delivered through flex, up to end March 2020²



² The share of obligation delivered through Flexible Eligibility only covers ECO3 because a different cap of 25 per cent is allowed under this phase. Approximately 14 per cent of the ECO HTH Affordable Warmth Obligation was delivered through Flexible Eligibility, which exceeded the 10 per cent cap for that phase but the excess is expected to be re-elected into ECO3 later this year.

ECO Costs

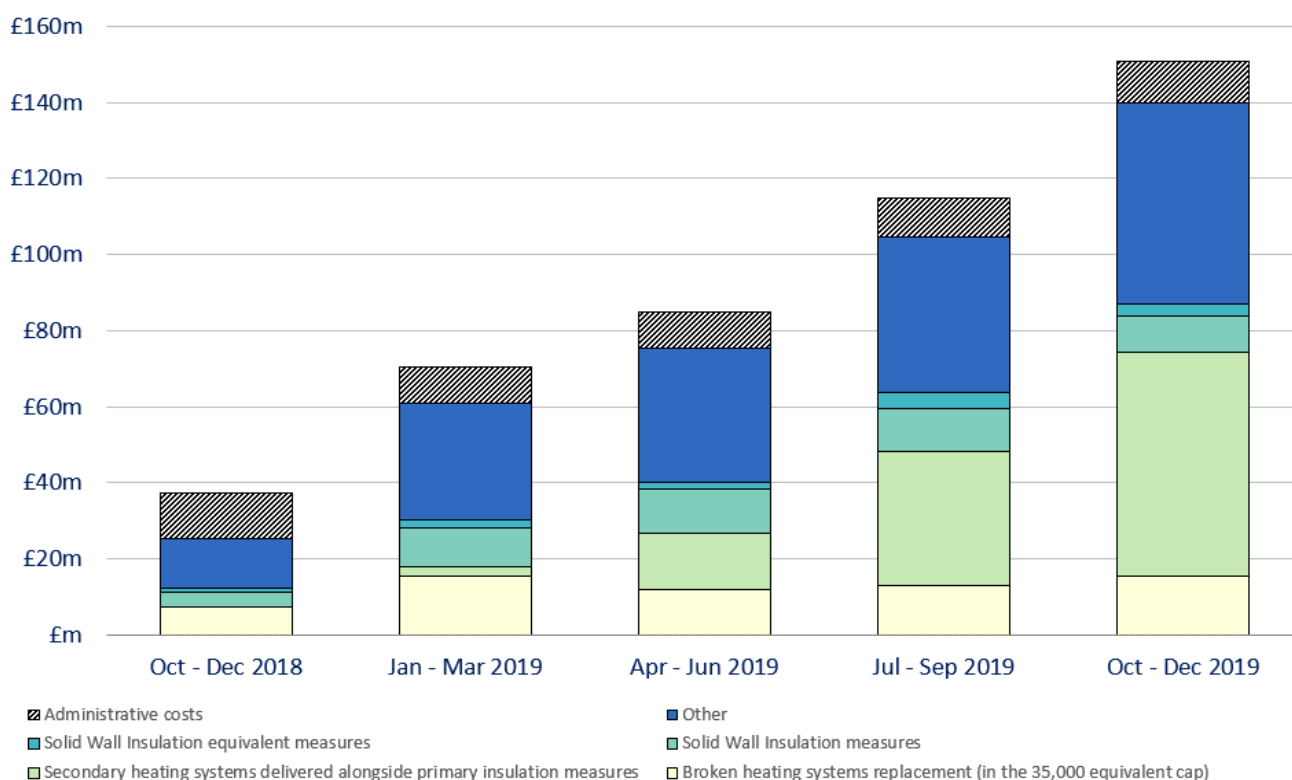
In the [data tables](#) accompanying this publication, tables 6.1-6.6 show amount of money suppliers have spent delivering and administering the ECO scheme.

ECO costs are now updated in the monthly headline release following a quarterly publication. The figures below are from the March headline release and will be updated in the June headline release.

The total delivery costs of ECO from January 2013 to December 2019 were around £4.19bn, with an additional £450m in administrative costs. This means that the total cost of ECO over this period has been £4.64 billion (Table 6.1).

The delivery costs for ECO3 up to the end of December 2019 were £406m with 43 per cent of these to fund boiler and other heating systems. (Table 6.6, Chart 6)

Chart 6: ECO3 costs, by cost type, by quarter, up to end December 2019



Up to the end of December 2019, the cost of delivering the ECO3 Affordable Warmth obligation was cost 18 pence per £ lifetime bill savings, up from 15 pence per £ in ECO Help-to-heat. (Tables 6.3 & 6.4)

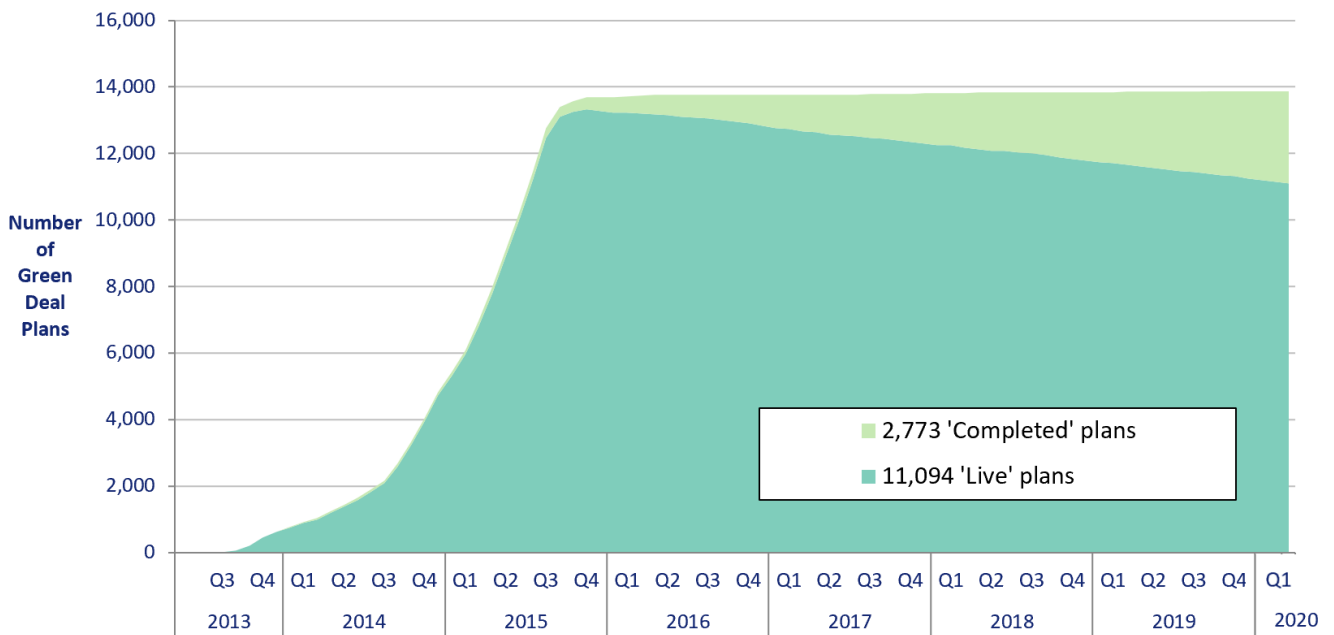
The Green Deal

In the [data tables](#) accompanying this publication, tables 7.1 - 7.3 show the number of Green Deal plans and measures.

Green Deal (GD) Plans – there were 13,867 'live' or 'completed' GD Plans in unique homes at the end of April 2020. Of these, 11,048 were 'live' (all measures installed) and 2,819 were 'completed' (all measures installed and paid off). At the end of April 2020, 80 per cent of all plans were 'live'. Over the last three months (February - April 2020) 142 plans were 'completed', compared to 164 completions in the previous three months (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1 contains monthly data up to April 2020, but in Chart 7 below only complete quarters are shown.

Chart 7: Domestic Green Deal Plans, by 'Live' or 'Completed' status, by quarter, up to end March 2020



Technical information

Further information regarding the methodology and quality assurance process used to produce estimates for this statistical series can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-energy-efficiency-statistics-methodology-note>

Definitions

The Energy Company Obligation required the larger energy suppliers to achieve savings in homes. (CERO & CSCO are measured in terms of lifetime carbon savings, Affordable Warmth is measured in terms of lifetime bill savings).

Energy Suppliers are set targets for each phase of the scheme based on two criteria: the number of customers that they have and the amount of energy that they supply to domestic properties in Great Britain. This threshold remained the same for ECO1, 2 & Help-to-Heat but it is tightening through ECO3. Suppliers are obligated to participate in the scheme if they exceeded both the customer number threshold and the electricity or gas supply threshold as of 31 December of the previous year.

- Phase 1 of ECO3 placed obligations on 14 energy suppliers meeting the threshold at 31 December 2017.
- At the start of phase 2, there were 18 obligated suppliers based on the threshold at 31 December 2018.
- At the start of phase 3, there were 26 obligated suppliers based on the threshold at 31 December 2019.

ECO3 Supplier Obligation Thresholds: 2013-2022

	Phase 1		Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
	Up to 3 Dec 2018	3 Dec 2018 – 31 Mar 2019	1 Apr 2019 – 31 Mar 2020	1 Apr 2020 – 31 Mar 2021	1 Apr 2021 – 31 Mar 2022
Number of domestic customers	250,000	250,000	200,000	150,000	150,000
Electricity supply to domestic customers	400 GWh	500 GWh	400 GWh	300 GWh	300 GWh
Gas supply to domestic customers	2,000 GWh	1,400 GWh	1,100 GWh	700 GWh	700 GWh

Within the Energy Company Obligation there are sub-obligations

Carbon Saving Target (CERO)	This covered the installation of measures like solid wall and hard-to-treat cavity wall insulation, which ordinarily can't be financed solely through Green Deal Plans. From April 2017 this included a rural sub-obligation where at least 15 per cent of a supplier's CERO for Help-to-Heat must be achieved in rural areas. (Closed end September 2018)
Carbon Saving Communities (CSCO)	This provides insulation measures to households in specified areas of low income. It also makes sure that 15 per cent of each supplier's obligation is used to upgrade more hard-to-reach low-income households in rural areas. (Closed end March 2017)
Affordable Warmth³ (HHCRO)	This provides heating and insulation measures to consumers who receive particular means-tested benefits. Since April 2017 it enables those in social housing living in E, F and G rated properties to receive insulation measures, and some heating measures. This obligation supports low-income consumers who are vulnerable to the impact of living in cold homes, including the elderly, disabled and families. From October 2018 this included a rural sub-obligation where at least 15 per cent of a supplier's ECO3 must be achieved in rural areas.
Flexible Eligibility	Local Authorities can determine eligible homes under the new 'Flexible Eligibility' mechanism, introduced in 2017. Up to 25% of the Obligation can be delivered through Flexible Eligibility under ECO3, up from 10% under ECO Help-To-Heat. Households can be assessed by local authorities to be 'living in fuel poverty'; or assessed to be 'living on a low income and vulnerable to cold'.
Innovation Measures	Under ECO3, suppliers are able to meet up to 10% of their obligation to deliver innovation measures to eligible households. A further 10% can be used to monitor the actual energy performance of measures in homes.

³ Also known as The Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation

Accompanying tables

The underlying tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics#headline-releases>

Further information

Future updates to these statistics

The next headline release on the gov.uk website is planned for publication at 9.30am on **18 June 2020** and will contain the latest available information on headline ECO measures and an update of Section 6 ECO costs to March 2020. As the 1 million homes target runs until 30 April 2020, table 1.3 and associated graphics will be updated as an extraordinary update to give timely analysis of the progress towards this target.

The next quarterly release is planned for publication at 9.30am on **27 August 2020**

Revisions policy

The [BEIS statistical revisions policy](#) sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

Uses of these statistics

These statistics are used by Government to monitor the delivery and effectiveness of the ECO and GD schemes. They are used to monitor the delivery of the ECO obligation and the share of the obligation delivered through key aspects of the scheme, including Flexibility Eligibility and innovation measures. The data are used within the [National Energy Efficiency Data-framework](#) to assess the impact of these measures in different types of homes.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to: EnergyEfficiency.Stats@beis.gov.uk

The BEIS statement on [statistical public engagement and data standards](#) sets out the department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics designation

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The statistics last underwent a [full assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) on 12 June 2014

Pre-release access to statistics

Some ministers and officials receive access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release. Details of the arrangements for doing this and a list of the ministers and officials that receive pre-release access to these statistics can be found in the [BEIS statement of compliance](#) with the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

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