



**March 2011**

**EBICO TEAMS UP WITH SANCTUARY HOUSING TO COMBAT FUEL POVERTY IN THE MIDLANDS**

- New partnership offers customers fairer gas and electricity prices
- Calls for more to be done to protect vulnerable members of society throughout the winter months

Ebico, the UK's only not-for-profit energy supplier, has partnered with Sanctuary Housing in the Midlands to offer customers fairer gas and electricity prices to heat and light their homes.

The agreement will see residents in Stoke, West Bromwich, Telford and Leicester being able to take advantage of cheaper energy prices. Unlike many energy providers, Ebico's specially designed tariff has no standing charge and just one flat rate per unit of energy used, enabling customers to take greater control of their energy bills. It is the 28<sup>th</sup> agreement which Ebico has signed with UK housing associations and the 9<sup>th</sup> in the Midlands.

Energy prices, affordability and cold weather have dominated the news agenda this winter, including reports that nine pensioners died from the cold every hour during the cold snap.

Jason MacGilp, Sanctuary's Regional Director, said: "We are always looking for ways to help our residents save money on their fuel bills and are pleased to be teaming up with Ebico on this scheme. We believe this partnership will make a huge difference for our residents and by only charging for the actual amount of energy used, residents should see a noticeable decrease in their energy bills."

Phil Levermore, Managing Director of Ebico, said: "People on pre-payment meters generally get a raw deal from energy suppliers. We have made the system fairer by charging all customers the same rate regardless of their payment method and eliminating the standing charge. We hope, in time, that all suppliers will follow our lead in doing this.

"The knock-on effects of colder weather and government cutbacks could put many UK households in a significantly worse position in the coming months. Consequently, it is important that people feel able to heat their homes properly and keep warm during the cold weather without having to question if they can

afford it. Our partnership with Sanctuary will allow us to offer more help to those on lower incomes and in many cases, those suffering from fuel poverty.”

Ebico was established as a social enterprise in 1998 with surplus revenue donated in the pursuit of reducing fuel poverty and tackling climate change by helping households reduce their energy demands and carbon footprints.

- ENDS -

**For further media information please contact:**

**Adam Stones / Laura Mitchell**

**Cohn & Wolfe**

**020 7331 5370 / 020 7331 5389**

[ebico@cohnwolfe.com](mailto:ebico@cohnwolfe.com)

#### ***Notes to Editors***

\* Office for National Statistics: ‘Excess winter mortality in England and Wales, 2009/10 (provisional) and 2008/09 (final)’ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/deaths1110.pdf>

#### **About Ebico**

Ebico is the UK’s only not-for-profit energy supply company and is committed to the reduction and elimination of fuel poverty. The company’s flat rate tariff with no standing charge rewards low users of energy. For more information visit [www.ebico.co.uk](http://www.ebico.co.uk)

#### **About Sanctuary**

Established in 1969, Sanctuary Group is a successful leading-edge housing provider, managing over 78,000 homes throughout England and Scotland including general rented, sheltered and supported accommodation, student and key worker accommodation. [www.sanctuary-group.co.uk](http://www.sanctuary-group.co.uk)