



24th August 2011

EBICO TEAMS UP WITH LHA-ASRA HOUSING GROUP TO COMBAT FUEL POVERTY

- New partnership offers customers fairer gas and electricity prices
- Hundreds of households in London and the East Midlands to benefit from partnership

Ebico, the UK's only not-for-profit energy supplier, has partnered with LHA-ASRA housing group to offer customers from the London and East Midlands fairer gas and electricity prices to heat and power their homes.

The agreement will see residents in the London and East Midlands area 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 30th agreement which Ebico has signed with UK housing associations.

Energy prices and affordability have dominated the news agenda with many people already starting to consider how they will financially manage another cold winter. It is estimated that around 13% of people in the London region and 21% in the East Midlands now live in fuel poverty, meaning they spend at least ten per cent of their household income on energy bills.

Matt Cooney, Chief Executive of LHA-ASRA, 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.

"It is important that people feel able to heat and power their homes properly without having to question if they can afford it. Our partnership with LHA-ASRA will allow us to offer more help to those on lower incomes and in many cases, those suffering from fuel poverty."

Ebico was set up as a social enterprise in 1998 with the core aim of helping to end fuel poverty in the UK. It does this through fair pricing and energy saving advice and by diverting any surplus company revenue – through the Ebico Trust for Sustainable Development – to community programmes that help people affected by fuel poverty.

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For further media information please contact:

Ebico

Laura Mitchell

Cohn & Wolfe

020 7331 5389

ebico@cohnwolfe.com

LHA-ASRA

Lizzie Murrie

Quicksilver PR

01386 443300

e.murrie@quicksilverpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

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

About LHA-ASRA

The LHA-ASRA Group is a pioneering housing association working across Greater London and the East Midlands.

It provides a range of housing solutions from affordable rent to sheltered housing for those in need. For the professional market, it provides opportunities for intermediate rent, shared ownership and private sale through its subsidiary Newlife Living.

The Group is a significant cross-regional operator with over 12,000 homes in management and is also a leading developer benefiting from preferred 'Investment Partner' status with the Homes and Communities Agency.

LHA-ASRA develops around 500 new homes each year and is committed to these properties being built to excellent design and sustainability standards.

The Group is customer focused, providing a range of tailored services to include support for its more vulnerable residents with a niche emphasis on serving Asian communities.

Financially robust with an asset base in excess of £500 million, LHA-ASRA is committed to generating surpluses to reinvest in its homes as well as a range of broader regeneration enterprises.

LHA-ASRA continues to build better homes, better communities and better lives.

www.lha-asra.org.uk