

Nottinghamshire County Council

This document details the efforts to improve energy efficiency within a local authority since the start of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC). This case study will be reviewing Nottinghamshire County Council, a large local authority who participated in Local Energy's Carbon Trading Public Sector network and more recently the Carbon Saving Public Sector network. They have a small team whose efforts have focussed on collecting data for the CRC and ensuring that they avoid fines and further understand their emissions in order to reduce their costs and improve their energy efficiency.

Nottinghamshire CC has strived to keep the reporting as simple as possible by having all gas meters in contract and supplied by one supplier, and all electricity meters supplied by one supplier. Altogether the meter portfolio is around 1,500 supply points. In addition the Council monitor solid (Coal and Biomass) and liquid fuels around the County. The Council operate procurement frameworks for electricity and gas, through the Government Procurement Service and promote this to all 344 schools. In addition they maintain a framework for biomass fuel for over 60 sites now utilising biomass as their main heating fuel. Frameworks for Coal, Oil and LPG are offered by ESPO, and the Council promote these to schools. Nottingham seek to expand the current Woodheat programme, subject to navigating the RHI and its issues with Academies.

Over the last year they have brought over a dozen separate sites back into contract. This centralised procurement approach not only reduces the sites energy costs through aggregation, but also reduces the administration burden of data collection as large data sets are supplied by a few suppliers. This is particularly important when it comes to requesting annual statements, a step that is essential for auditing purposes and verifying the validity of data, and as well as settling discrepancies and highlighting errors. Monitoring data will help them review their findings and understand where there are opportunities to reduce energy consumption. In the first annual year, 8% of their emissions were estimated, which they aim to reduce this coming year in order to avoid the additional 10% uplift on allowances.

Nottinghamshire CC has collated all data in to an easy-to-read document that is available to all relevant personnel. This will become standard practice in future years and allow for in-depth analysis of their energy usage. This will also help in business cases for future projects.

Within the Council CRC matters are dealt with by the CRC Officer Working Group (OWG), which has been meeting for some two years now. Reports are reviewed at Director level, which comprises of officers from Energy, Finance, Legal, Property, Education and Highways. This has ensured that CRC has been integrated into Council policy. The energy management team is kept aware of any changes to the property portfolio and the pension investment

portfolio, and similarly the finance officers and members are kept aware of the potential costs of the scheme to the Council. Legal officers have provided support with regard to PFI schemes and leasehold arrangements. All in all, this group ensures that the Council is communicating and cooperating internally with regard to CRC and that it is seen as a corporate responsibility.

Energy and CRC matters are communicated to schools through the Energy Teams bi-annual "Carbon Copy" newsletter. This has been instrumental in receiving billing data from them, and a majority of sites were able to provide information on the deliverable fuels. The newsletter also discusses energy prices, any changes to contracts or supplies and gives examples of projects undertaken by other schools that reduce energy use and therefore cost.

Nottinghamshire have also started a solar photovoltaic project, initially across 10 civic buildings in the County, set to produce 400,000 kWh p.a which will not only ensure security but also provide a revenue stream of £3.8 million over the 25 year FIT period which will pay off the initial investment in less than 10 years, as well as saving around 180 tCO₂ each year. In addition the Council will work to enable at least 30 schools to install PV on their buildings.

Over the next 3 years, Nottinghamshire CC hopes to have installed AMR across many council sites, covering 80% of its emissions portfolio. This will allow more accurate data to be reported for the CRC, reducing a 10% uplift on estimations, as well as allowing for real-time analysis to help monitor and manage the energy usage more efficiently.