

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ENERGY AND WATER STRATEGY**

**DECEMBER 2006**

**Introduction**

1. This is a strategy for Leicestershire County Council rather than Leicestershire. The Strategy seeks to minimise expenditure and reduce the environmental impact of the Council's activities by a reduction in energy and water consumption in buildings and street lighting.
2. The more efficient use of owned and hired transport will be addressed by separate projects within the County Council's Change Management Programme.

**Context**

3. This strategy is set within the context of:
  - a) The Kyoto target of a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 12.5% between 1990 and 2010, and the longer term target of 60% reduction by 2050;
  - b) The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change;
  - c) The Integrated Regional Strategy of the East Midlands Regional Assembly and, in particular, the East Midlands Sustainable Energy Strategy;
  - d) Commitments outlined in the following strategies previously agreed by the Council:-
    - The Community Plan and Local Area Agreement;
    - The Climate Change Strategy prepared by Enable (Environment for a Better Leicestershire);
    - The Medium Term Corporate and Financial Strategies; and
    - The Environment Strategy and Action Plan.

**Policy Statement/Objectives**

4. The County Council is committed to responsible energy and water management as part of an overall environment strategy. By efficient management of energy and water the Council aims to:-
  - Reduce the need for energy and water;
  - Use energy and water more efficiently;
  - Use energy from renewable sources;
  - Make clean and efficient use of fossil fuels;
  - Deliver efficiency savings as required by the Gershon agenda;

- Demonstrate community leadership through encouragement of sustainable use of resources;
  - Increase motivation and awareness amongst County Council employees with regard to energy and water usage thereby reducing the environmental impact of the Council's activities.
5. The objective is to move Leicestershire County Council's water and energy management performance matrix from that characterised in the Annexe in 2006 to that targeted in 2010.
  6. The Council is committed to achieving best practice benchmarks for energy and water usage.
  7. The County Council recognises that, to achieve this, a commitment is required at the highest level in the organisation and as such this Strategy should be agreed and monitored by the Cabinet.

### **Strategic Objectives**

8. To achieve the delivery of the policy and objectives outlined above the Council will seek to:-

#### **Energy Purchase**

- a) ensure that all energy purchases are co-ordinated through the Corporate Procurement Unit to ensure the Council is purchasing energy at the most competitive rates;
- b) continue the current preference to purchase renewable energy, recognising the benefits this would have on carbon reduction, subject to the premium not being excessive with a premium level being set annually;

#### **Monitoring and Targeting**

- c) develop existing monitoring systems and management reporting arrangements;
- d) set annual targets for each building which reflect published benchmarks but recognise local factors influencing consumption, and monitor performance against targets;

#### **Building Design**

- e) ensure appropriate national building design standards for energy and water efficiency (e.g. BRE's Environmental Assessment Methods) are used by County Council staff and external consultants, architects and designers;

#### **Investment**

- f) establish an investment fund of £0.5 million for undertaking investment in energy efficiency and water management schemes with clear payback criteria;

- g) work with the Schools Funding Forum to establish a separate "schools invest to save fund" to undertake improvements aimed at reducing energy and water consumption;
- h) seek external funding to assist with the financing of installations of energy efficiency projects;

**NOTE:- Management of the Investment Fund**

The proposed corporate fund of £1/2 million will enable the Energy Management Team to invest in energy and water savings schemes focusing initially on those sites which offer the greatest potential for savings. The Team will be expected to maximise the use of external grants to supplement this fund. Agreed investments from the fund will be repaid by the sponsoring Department over a 6 year, or shorter, period. This does not mean, nor require that such schemes themselves will have a 6-year or better payback period. However, it is expected that the Energy Team will, generally, choose to invest in schemes with the best payback period first in order to revolve the fund as quickly as possible.

**Raising Awareness**

- i) allocate appropriate resources to increase awareness of staff and others by regular campaigns and promoting good housekeeping measures in order to save at least 5% (on 2006/07 consumption figures) by the end of 2010;
- j) use existing departmental representatives on the County Green Team to champion energy and water reduction initiatives within departments;
- k) support the Eco-School Programme and seek to achieve a target of at least 35 schools obtaining Green Flag status or equivalent by the end of 2008;

**Emissions and Conservation**

- l) to develop a programme of action, setting annual targets with the aim of achieving at least a 60% reduction in carbon emissions from County Council direct energy use between 2001 and 2050;

**Management and Operating Framework**

- m) develop the Energy Management Team within the Resources Department to provide a full energy management service for the County Council;
- n) ensure that energy and water management strategies are integrated into the Corporate Asset Management and Organisational Efficiency streams of the Change Management Programme and reflected in procurement policy;

### **Leadership Role**

- o) exercise its leadership role to work with statutory and non statutory partners and the local community in:-
  - securing reductions in carbon emissions;
  - stimulating the market for low carbon technologies;
  - highlighting the scarcity of water resources and promoting conservation of this resource.

### **Implementation**

- p) develop any energy efficiency improvements in conjunction with the asset management review of the property portfolio of the County Council as part of an invest to save programme.

## Annexe

### MANAGEMENT MATRIX SHOWING LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CORPORATE CURRENT ASSESSED POSITION WITH REGARD TO ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Performance assessment in 2006



Target for performance by 2010



Level	Policy	Organisation	Motivation	Information Systems	Marketing	Investment
4	Active commitment of top management	Fully integrated into general management	All staff accept responsibility for saving energy & water	Comprehensive system with effective management reporting	Extensive marketing within and outside organisation	Positive discrimination in favour of 'green' or long term saving schemes
3	Formal policy but no commitment from top	Clear delegation and accountability	Most major users motivated to save energy & water	Monthly monitoring and targeting for individual premises	Regular publicity campaigns	Same appraisal criteria used as for all other investment
2	Unadopted policy	Delegation but line management and authority unclear	Motivation patchy or sporadic	Monthly monitoring and targeting by fuel type	Some <i>ad hoc</i> staff awareness training	Investment with short term payback only
1	Unwritten set of guideline	Informal part-time responsibility	Some staff awareness of importance of energy & water saving	Invoice checking	Informal contacts to promote efficiency	Only low cost measures taken
0	No explicit policy	No delegation of energy or water management	No awareness of the need to save energy or water	No information system or accounting for consumption	No marketing or promotion	No investment in energy efficiency