

# Carbon Copy

July 2011

Issue No 4



# Powering On!

Welcome to Carbon Copy number 4. This now comes to you from the Energy and Carbon Management Team, part of the newly formed Waste and Energy Group, within Nottinghamshire County Council's Environment and Resources Department. So we are now working alongside colleagues who are helping to reduce waste and increase recycling by households across the county, and part of that service includes the popular Schools Waste Action Club, which we mention later.

In this edition we focus on how our energy efficiency invest-to-save fund is helping improve schools, cut costs and reduce carbon emissions. It is gratifying to hear your positive comments about our service and we are always happy to hear from you about things we could do to make it even better.

We would like to thank you for helping us to achieve so much last year. With your help we invested over £400,000 in energy saving measures, installed our 50th wood fuelled boiler, produced a wood heat schools resource pack, and smoothly transferred over 340 schools to new electricity and gas contracts and direct billing.

We are looking forward to another successful year.



### Fundtastic!

In 2010-11 our invest-to-save fund was used to fund 21 energy saving projects. These included 9 lighting upgrades (T12 to T5 tubes), 4 Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), 2 Voltage Optimisers, 1 IT project (thin client), 1 automatic dishwasher and 4 other heating/insulation measures. Overall these schemes have an average payback of 3.5 years. Last year, with your help, we invested more than £400,000, bringing our total investment to over £700,000, saving well over 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide and over £185,000 in energy costs per year.

Below is an extract from a recent article on the Scheme for the Nottinghamshire school governors' newsletter.

Save your school £000's each year – Make the most of our energy efficiency investment fund

Through the LAEF Scheme we can provide your school with the **technical expertise**, **support and capital funding** necessary to reduce energy use and save money. Typical LAEF Scheme projects have a capital cost of £10,000 to £100,000 and usually have a payback period of between 2-4 years.

### How can we help you save money?

We can offer a free detailed energy survey of your school to pinpoint the areas that can be improved and present a Business Case report recommending investment to Business Managers, Head Teachers and Governors. We remain available to assist throughout the process, ensuring projects are completed smoothly.

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Typical energy saving measures we can fund include:

• Energy efficient ICT equipment (can save anything up to 50% of ICT running costs, as well as giving a well-needed update to ageing hardware).



"Through the LAEF Scheme, the Energy Team at Nottinghamshire County Council helped South Wolds to install modern Thin Client hardware. Not only did this give us powerful new IT

capabilities, but helped to save a great deal on our energy bills too."

Phil Dack, Business Manager at South Wolds Community College

 Building Energy Management Systems (typically saves at least 10% of a school's heating bill each year)



"We worked with Luke Jackson (Energy Management Officer) who used his technical and project management expertise to fund the installation of a state-of-the-

art Building Energy Management System, which will reduce our annual heating bill by a substantial £20,115. The Energy Team at Nottinghamshire County Council were very helpful throughout the process"

Sandra White, Business and Finance Manager of the White Hills Park Federation

• Low-energy lighting (typically saves 50-60% of a school's electricity bill for lighting each year)



"The Energy Team at NCC enabled Prospect Hill Junior to fund the replacement of our existing inefficient and poor-quality lighting with new energy efficient and high-output models. Using the LAEF Scheme, the Energy

Team were with us every step of the way to make sure the project ran smoothly. We look forward to working with them again"

Jacky Nunn, Office Manager at Prospect Hill Junior School

• **Voltage optimisation** (10% electricity savings guaranteed by the manufacturer)



"We installed voltage optimisation hardware at The National School using the LAEF Scheme fund, which will enable us to save 10% of our annual electricity bill, which equates to £9,142. In addition to the

financial savings, reducing our impact on the environment helps to support our ethos as a Christian school.

We were delighted with the way the project was handled by the Energy Team and would recommend them to other schools with no reservation"

John Edwards, Head Teacher at the National School in Hucknall









# How does the LAEF Scheme work?

The Scheme operates as a revolving fund, in which interest free repayments are made available for reinvestment in future projects.

#### The key characteristics include:

- The fund can invest only in energy efficiency measures with a payback of 5 years and less.
- The school benefits from risk-free investment, as the energy savings pay for the energy efficiency measure.
- The first year after installation of the energy efficiency measure is repayment free, ensuring that the school makes a full year's savings before the first repayment in year two.
- The energy cost savings are always higher than the yearly repayments.
- Such energy saving measures are an excellent investment, as reducing grid energy consumption is the best way to future proof against increasing fuel costs.

#### Are there any additional costs?

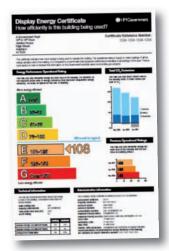
The Energy and Carbon Management Team provides professional services to those who request an Energy Survey. A small project management fee is added to the interest-free loan, depending on the total project value, to cover project management costs incurred. A full explanation of the project management fee will be given by the Energy Management Officer that visits your site.

Please contact Luke Jackson or Tom McHale tel: 0115 9774851





### Energy on Display



We are just about to start the fourth year of Display Energy Certification and once again EPS Group of Mansfield has been commissioned to provide our service, which ensures that schools are easily able to comply with the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive. The price this year will be the same as last year, i.e. £125 per DEC. The

majority of schools have signed up to our Participation Agreement - thank you for that - and hopefully this will give you peace of mind that your site will always be compliant.

If you have not already signed up and still not completed your DECs, please get in touch if you would like our assistance.

Don't forget failure to carry out and display the DECs could result in a fine!

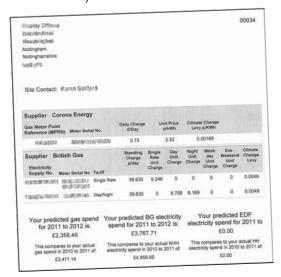
Background information to the DECs can be found on our website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/greenissues

Tom McHale, Energy Management Officer, thomas.mchale@nottscc.gov.uk
Tel 0115 9774891.





All schools should now have received the details about their supply costs under the new contracts (example below). Thank you for your patience as it took longer than we hoped to get this information to you.



Included in the letter were details of your supply and meter serial numbers, along with the unit rates and other charges for each of your energy supplies. You should take reads from your gas and electricity meters around the 28th of each month and send them to the suppliers for use in their billing. These reads, along with the supply numbers and charges should be used to check the invoices are correct before payment is made.



If you did not initially set up Direct Debits to pay your energy invoices, and you are

now thinking that it would be more convenient to do so, it is not too late. You can change the payment method to Direct Debit at any time in the year but you will not get the cost reduction that was originally offered for Direct Debit.

If you would like the convenience of paying by Direct Debit, and want to ensure you avoid late payment charges, please contact us for the necessary forms.

Emma Piggins, Contracts Management Officer Tel 0115 9774935 email energy.en@nottscc.gov.uk



### **Carbon Counting**

We would like to say a big thank you to all sites that have provided us with evidence for their out of contract or deliverable energy supplies, for our carbon reporting. Most sites have been very conscientious about this.





## Searching for the county's environmental heroes...

Individuals, schools and community groups are all elligible for £1000 prize money available through Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Green Guardians Awards. So if your school is active on energy saving or some other environmental topic, why not have a go?

The simple application process only takes a few minutes.

For more information see www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/greenguardians/

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Monday 3rd October 2011.







# Learning the 3 Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle

Nottinghamshire County Council's Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) is a waste education programme provided free of charge to primary, secondary and special needs schools throughout Nottinghamshire.

The project is delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council and its principal aims are to:

- Increase awareness of waste and its management among school staff and pupils
- Encourage and support schools to reduce, reuse and recycle waste

 Transfer the knowledge gained by pupils and staff from working on waste at school to achieve increasingly sustainable waste management in the home.



SWAC activities are linked to the National Curriculum, the Healthy Schools programme and can support an application towards an Eco-Schools award.

For more information e-mail us at swac@nottscc.gov.uk or tel: 0115 9774936



#### **Contacting us**

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