



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Beacon Council Scheme: Sustainable Energy

Case Study: PSA Partnership and Delivery Plan

This unique CO₂ reduction Public Service Agreement (PSA) was made with Government by a Partnership of bodies from within Nottinghamshire namely; Nottinghamshire County Council, all the 7 District / Borough Councils (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield and Rushcliffe Borough Councils and Newark & Sherwood District Council) and Nottinghamshire Police.

In return for reducing their annual CO₂ emissions arising from energy use in buildings, a performance reward grant will be shared between the Partners. To receive the reward grant the Partnership must achieve an annual reduction of 5,000 tonnes through the installation of more energy efficient technology, switching to lower carbon fuels or investing in renewable technology.

The Local Authorities Energy Partnership (LAEP) was already operating very successfully when the PSA initiative was launched. A workshop was held to consider targets for the PSA, and Nottinghamshire Police were keen to join in the project. A series of Projects to reduce CO₂ emissions was proposed and the Partners were invited to submit suitable plans along with budget costs. The final proposal to Government consisted of around 70 projects which will reduce annual the emission of some 5,067 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

A CO₂ reduction target within a PSA had never been done before but recently several other Local Authorities across the UK are exploring the possibility and we have shared our approach with them.

The County Council's share of the PSA target is a saving of 3,450 tonnes of CO₂ from its annual emissions arising from energy use in its buildings and we have £950,000

of unsupported credit approval to achieve this target. The PSA funding for the County Council's bid was based on the replacement of old inefficient coal fired boilers at major energy sites (mainly schools). The original plan was to replace the coal fired boilers with gas boilers; however, following discussions with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), we received approval such that the programme could be revised to include wood fired systems.

With this approval the Wood heat Programme and the PSA target dovetailed perfectly to enable us to go ahead with the largest wood heat installation of its type in the UK at Garibaldi Comprehensive School in Mansfield. The installation contributed more than 10% of our target, another major contribution being the replacement of the coal boilers at County Hall with a highly efficient gas system. Other smaller sites are benefitting from the drive to reduce carbon emissions by having their old, inefficient coal boilers replaced with much cleaner gas boilers. Several more sites have followed, including the conversion rather than replacement of coal boilers to run on wood pellets.

A challenging aspect to the PSA is proving that the savings have been made. We propose to report the CO₂ savings on a site-specific basis using historical data for the site, and/or for the specific 'technology' deployed. For example, a project to switch from coal to gas boilers can not be expected to impact CO₂ arising from electricity use on the site, likewise, a lighting improvement programme will not impact on CO₂ arising from heating fuel consumption. An independent auditor has been appointed to validate the achievement of the target.



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Sustainable Energy

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