



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Beacon Council Scheme: Sustainable Energy

## Case Study: Sustainable Developer Guide for Nottinghamshire

The Sustainable Developer Guide (SDG) for Nottinghamshire is a project that has been managed by Nottinghamshire County Council's Sustainability Team on behalf of a partnership of District Councils, the City Council, the Environment Agency (Lower-Trent Area) and the Newark & Sherwood Energy Agency. Its main role is to inform and inspire developers and their agents in order to raise standards of development coming forward for planning approval. The aim is to signpost the best available advice about exploring and delivering more sustainable solutions for most types of schemes.

Whilst the Guide's focus is on planning and design issues, the advice also embraces the construction and maintenance of buildings and considers how their wider impacts, especially their emissions and discharges can be prevented or managed. As such it has no formal planning status, since it goes beyond the planning control regime, but it has been endorsed by the County Council's Cabinet and is intended as a key source document for those commissioning and designing in-house projects. Furthermore it may lend itself to conversion into supplementary planning guidance by partner authorities when preparing the new generation of local plan documents.

The Guide offers:-

- A reliable set of recommendations on a range of key topics including, energy use, renewable energy, building design/specification, waste minimisation, transport, and maintenance/management.
- Directions to the most relevant sources of practical information – via publications and websites.
- A range of case studies that have successfully incorporated several sustainable elements.

The wider programme will continue to provide a series of tours/workshops/ presentations which focus on sustainable schemes/buildings in the county and wider region. Already partner authorities and other invited organisations have benefited from 'tapping into' the experience gained at Hockerton Housing Project, the Autonomous House (Southwell) and the Jubilee Campus (University of Nottingham) whilst other tours have been organised to Sherwood Energy Village. All of these 'exemplars' are included as case studies and feature the judicious use and generation of energy, of which they are amongst the leading sustainable proponents in the UK.

So far feedback has been favourable, although the project co-ordinator is exploring ways of interacting with more of the local developers and architects to whom approximately 450 copies of the document have been delivered. Indeed contact has been made with Leicester City Council, who are finalising a web-based version of a Sustainable Buildings Standard, with the intention of working together (using national or regional funding) to 'roll out' the messages of the documents to a wider audience in local planning authorities and through construction industry channels.

It is hoped that the project partners will feel able to commit to regular updating of the text via the website, so that over time, the Guide can be instrumental in raising the profile of sustainable building in line with increasing government expectations of both the private and public sectors.



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