



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

# Beacon Council Scheme: Sustainable Energy

## Summary Sheet: Transport, waste, procurement, awareness raising and dissemination

### Energy procurement

For many years Nottinghamshire County Council has promoted the use of renewable generated electricity to both internal sites and other external organisations that join with our portfolio for utility contract and tendering purposes. Since 2001, the number of sites joining our utility contract scheme has risen by 15% increasing consumption levels by almost 40% to over 27million kWh. The take up of renewable sourced electricity since 2001 has also risen by over 75% reducing emissions by 62% - displacing over 17,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### Transport policy / LTP outcomes

Our transport policy has contributed to stabilised traffic growth in Greater Nottingham and increased bus patronage, while the economy has continued to prosper. In support of our transport strategy, we are very active in promoting travel plans in schools, businesses and other organisations. Our own travel plan STEPS has the overall aim of minimising the environmental impact of work-related staff travel.

### Public Transport

Nottingham's tram system, NET Line One, was launched in March 2004 and is already carrying around 23,000 passengers every weekday - and a thousand more on Saturdays - and this figure is rising. NET achieved over eight million journeys in its first year of operation. Trams are powered by electricity from overhead wires and are therefore a sustainable method of travel which does not cause local pollution. The trams use far less fuel per passenger than cars - and when they brake electricity is channelled back into the system which further improves their energy efficiency. By providing fast,

reliable and attractive public transport with priority over traffic at junctions, NET encourages people to leave their cars at home or at its five large park and ride sites. Two more lines are proposed, If approved, these lines would run south and west of the city, doubling the length of the system, as well as adding two more Park & Rides just off the M1 and creating a state-of-the-art interchange above Nottingham Station.

The £28 million Robin Hood Line developed by the County Council as lead authority is nationally renowned for encouraging local passenger rail use. The Line has been highly successful and patronage levels have continued to grow. Problems with over-crowding led to the introduction of additional morning peak and shoppers services from summer 2000. The line has achieved a modal shift in transport, provided decongestion and environmental benefits and assisted community regeneration. It also has good access for people with disabilities, including portable ramps on trains.

### Energy efficient / alternative fuel vehicles

Launched in September 1999, the Nottinghamshire Millennium Electric Vehicle Project brought 38 electric vehicles (the largest number ever in a single UK project) onto the streets of Nottinghamshire. A total of 19 diverse public and private organisations took part. The aim of the project was to promote green transport and reduce traffic-related air and noise pollution. PowerGen, in association with the Powershift programme, formulated a project designed to attract high profile exposure and maximise effect. In most cases, PowerGen and

Powershift funded 100% of the price difference between an electric and a conventional vehicle, which meant that organisations could purchase an electric vehicle with no added cost.

### Procurement policy / COPE / local foods

The Council's corporate procurement strategy contains, as one of its key objectives, a commitment to promote procurement policies and practice that contribute to the council's priorities on sustainability, equality and regeneration. The strategy is now being revised, with attention to sustainability matters to be enhanced. Opportunities to improve the environmental performance of our procurement are being actively pursued through our newly formed corporate procurement unit.

In terms of energy, our main area of procurement activity has been in the purchasing of green tariff electricity and electricity from combined heat and power (see separate case study). Food procurement is now the subject of some attention. Our school catering service currently has a pilot scheme in place where a company that sources from local producers is undertaking the supply of fruit and vegetables to 40 schools. Energy efficiency has also been a factor in our consideration of suppliers for our corporate IT contracts. In addition to the Millennium Electric Vehicles Project, we also have experience of the procurement and use of dual fuel vehicles (LPG and petrol) for our vehicle fleet.

### Energy from waste

Nottinghamshire County Council is top quartile in BV082c, which measures the percentage of the total tonnage of household waste which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources. The Authority achieves 14% energy recovery from waste, which places it 3rd amongst the English Shire Counties. This is achieved by contracts with the Eastcroft incinerator in Nottingham which recovers heat and uses it both for power generation and district heating.

### Awareness raising

Audiences for our awareness raising work include our staff, schools, businesses, professionals, householders and the general public. We are currently developing an environmental awareness raising and behavioural change strategy framework, which covers energy and climate change issues.

The Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) provides a comprehensive one-stop shop service for all residents in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It also has a more strategic role in supporting the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities Energy Partnership consisting of all 19 local authorities in the region. Established in 2000 with 2 members of staff it was initially totally reliant on EST funding. Now operational with 8 staff and other external funding secured, it is now only dependent upon 50% funding from the EST. The centre has steadily grown to now become one of the most active EEAC's in the UK. The Centre provides discounted high efficiency boilers, showers and internal insulation, supports local authorities in delivering energy efficiency, and conducts energy efficiency training and home visits on behalf of local authorities.

The Energy Learning Centre offers primary school children in years 5 and 6 from across Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands the chance to learn about energy, conservation and pollution. The activities, models and displays are designed to promote investigative skills whilst increasing knowledge and awareness of energy and its environmental effects. Groups of up to 50 can be accommodated and the structured activities help teachers meet the National Curriculum programmes of study.



### Contacting us

email [beaconenergy.en@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:beaconenergy.en@nottsc.gov.uk)

phone **0115 977 4351**

post **Environment Department, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road  
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ**

internet [www.nottinghamshire/greenissues.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire/greenissues.gov.uk)

published **June 2005**



**2005-2006**  
*Sustainable Energy*