

# Public Sector Sustainability Awards 2012

## Most Sustainable Public Sector Organisation in Local Authority

With only three full time members of staff, two of which responsible for energy, carbon and transport, waste and planning, the council has achieved much in the past 2 years.

### **Communication:**

Recognising the fact that our people through our 'Energiser' champions are key to changing the organisations' working culture, we have established (since 2007) a group of 35 trained voluntary officers that meet quarterly to recommend/deliver actions, feedback on actions taken, recommend improvements and share information around their peers.

We have run several internal "Intranet" webcasts to encourage staff to consider energy savings in the areas in which they work and to think about adaptations that may be required to their services with increasing climate change. 50+ questions have been acted upon resulting from webcasts.

We run events for the public and in partnership with Bucks councils producing a pledge to reduce personal carbon footprints across the County which is promoted at [www.buckclimatechange.com](http://www.buckclimatechange.com)

Installation of bike shelters chosen for design and functionality by the major cyclists workers that will use them took place in May 2012 with 44 covered (38 locked) bays.

In May 2012, following move to new offices, we produced a webcast using 10 staff including the deputy CEO and set in place a 3 day Energiser event on energy, water and waste culminating on 1<sup>st</sup> June with over 100 staff, running a 3 hour event to provide details of available services and actions. This included partners Bucks CC and Bucks Transport.

We delivered further officer refresher training to 10 Energisers in Dec 2011, have just launched an in-office composting scheme and are about to launch (Sept) a cycle training course for interested staff. The goal is to encourage staff back to their bikes for work based and commuting journeys and to improve health, reduce car miles, congestion and local pollution.

### **Cost Effectiveness:**

In the two years since our last successful application, we have installed a variety of technologies across our estate.

These are delivered in strict compliance with auditable Salix finance requirements. These are listed with annual savings now being achieved in parenthesis. Appliance timer switches (£1,000), lighting and controls (£552), (£470), (£1,762), (£2,973), (£234), (£594), LED lighting (£3,030), (£586), (£1,325), (£6,074), BEMS upgrade and improved control (£6,372), Air blade hand dryers (£2,135), Thin Client (£21,124), Tri-generation CHP units (£21,957) [based on funding 1/7<sup>th</sup> of a £350,000 installation], Insulation (£6,500).

We installed a 10kWp Solar PV array on our new office building in July 2012. This accompanies renewable and low carbon technologies on this building including ASHPs, a Solar Thermal Array, Bris-Soleil, Chilled Beam heating/cooling, Cloud Computing and a very thermally efficient envelope (significantly higher specification than building regulations). Our Energiser initiative is saving the Council on average £4,050/annum. An office tour of plant and renewables will take place in September following demand from May events.

We have installed 35 sub meters across major buildings to effectively monitor and manage of energy issues.

We have addressed metering at a number of our buildings including reduction on kVa required (£2,640) and changes in meter type (£1,650). We have installed weather compensation devices at one of our offices (£554) and as part of this review located and changed a faulty 3 port valve in our new offices saving £9,750/annum.

**Partnership:**

We have been working with a local partner on a 3MWp solar PV field to be built in partnership, All energy to be utilised on their site via existing sub meters. The 17,400 panel array will provide sufficient energy to power a local prison!

In partnership with Carbon Trust, we delivered a business breakfast to SME businesses in May 2012 following the success of our Carbon Management Conference on March 2009. We have also hosted national and regional Green Deal and HECA conferences.

We are working closely within the community (Ambassador Theatre Group) to help the make energy savings in a local Theatre. This includes energy assessments and delivering bespoke assistance through BMS specialists.

A partnership with a national Cycle-Scheme has now been set up to provide assistance to those wishing to purchase a bicycle. This has been supplemented through agreement with HR to include an increased bike loan (£300 to £500) and a public transport season ticket loan.

An early adopter on the UK *Green Deal* scheme, we are a founding Council Member on the USEA Community Interest Company, awaiting Cabinet decision to commit £35,000 capital on 18 September 2012. This is built on the back of success within the local community, promoting the *Cocoon* Home Insulation scheme

We were successful in securing funding and installing in May 2012, Electric Vehicle Charging points in our car park using *Plugged in Places* funding.

The Council is also working in partnership with a Local University to install a small hydro electric turbine in a local river. This will be the first of its kind in the district.

A Council partnership with a local manufacturer is also looking at potential for Anaerobic Digestion.

**Innovation:**

We are working with an Australian company to install a state of the art Wind Pod on the roof of our new office building. This is technology, as yet unique to the UK has been shared with colleagues at Bucks County Council to similarly trial

Conversations have now taken place with all the car users driving over 5,000 business miles/annum to discuss options for company/pool cars. This sets the way for an established business private car use project to reduce and better manage grey fleet use. It will deliver financial savings in terms of mileage rates and lump sums as well as reducing the 'need to travel'. We have linked this with 4 electric charge points in our car park to allow electric vehicles to play a part in this project. A recent trial of a Nissan Leaf (all electric Vehicle) was well received by over 20 staff, including CEO.

The team have been P/T seconded in 2012 to assist the Council towards "monitisation" ambitions and have put forward several suggestions now being taken forward to 'sweat' the Council's assets.

We are looking at options for bulk energy auctions to offer to residents who remain loyal to utility companies or are unhappy about using internet switching engines. This will bring income into the area to support local business and encourage green energy purchase where appropriate.

We are the first District Council to produce a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) on adaptation to climate change, we are now updating this piece of work 4 years on using and managing a contracted officer of the CEO's team.

The SD team have been active in the design of the new Council refuse depot and have ensured the installation of rainwater capture for vehicle wash, BEMs control of chillers and improved lighting.

The third and final member of my team operates a home service security scheme for over 60s and the disabled. This is an innovative crime preventative scheme offering professional skills/advice (trained carpenter with Thames Valley Police training in crime prevention with lock-smithing skills) and as appropriate free security ironmongery and installation. On the back of this we have been working with TV Police for the past 5 years running a Hard Target service for all victims of dwelling burglary for which we offer a 48hr turnaround. This has resulted in the five years it has been running in this format, only 9 repeat burglaries from over 1,200 installations. Home Office stated in 2003 that cost to the UK of a single burglary was £2,300. By tackling these issues pre crime and immediately after crime, we are able to address this for a fraction of the cost (typically c. £25/house).

### **Carbon Reduction Commitment**

We have taken the time to get our house in order, our Carbon Management Plan which launched formally on 25 March 2009 after a 10 month piece of work with the Carbon Trust, has now delivered its 22% carbon reduction target baseline year 2007/08 (7,753 tonnes) a full one year early (March 2012).

This, despite the addition to the estate of a bespoke 1,800 capacity Theatre, a new office block, a rebuild and conference centre and council chamber whilst maintaining existing offices. We entered the 10:10 campaign and delivered a 6.3% saving in the year to March 2011.

Falling outside of the CRC\_EES phase 1, with emissions below the 6GWh threshold for HH meters, we signed up to the LGiU's Carbon Trading Programme in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

We have delivered by bringing senior officers and members with us. Ensuring Salix funding delivers constant carbon savings through careful forecasting of energy spend based on asset list and energy audits. We have lead from the front locally (first Council to work with Sefaira to assess energy spend and deliver a presentation workshop with them at Greening Government Conference at Brewery, London on 29 Nov 2011).

In the two years 2009/10 to 2011/12, the Council has moved from 7,753t to 6,045t of carbon. A saving of 1,708 tonnes. This amounts to an 11% saving over this period.