

Leicester City Council, UK



The City of Leicester has long held a key role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Leicester Energy Strategy was produced in 1994, which addressed both energy supply and demand. In 2003, Leicester Partnership and Leicester Environment Partnership, in conjunction with Leicester City Council, produced a Climate Change Strategy for the City. This includes a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by



2025 based on 1990 levels. It is designed to complement Leicester's Environment Strategy, which sets out 7 key areas for action: raising awareness, pollution, transport, resource efficiency, waste, biological diversity and green space.

Leicester City Council is one of a select group of local authorities in the UK to subscribe to EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). The Council also has an ambitious target to increase its use of renewable energy from 0% to 20% by 2020. Community initiatives that promote sustainability within the City include "bikes-

for-all", home energy efficiency grant schemes, park-and-ride, recycling facilities, energy advice for homes and businesses, and promotion of Fair Trade produce. In 2005, Leicester City Council was awarded Beacon Status for Sustainable Energy, giving the city national recognition for the excellent progress we have made. However, Leicester also recognised the need for a coherent Climate Change Action Plan, and in 2007, the Plan was accepted by the Cabinet of Leicester City Council. 2008 has seen the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, making Leicester City Council a leading local authority in the UK.

Leicester Energy Agency (LEA)

LEA, as part of Leicester City Council, was formed in February 1996 and employs 5 full time staff. The Agency runs numerous European and UK projects, sharing our skills and disseminating information across Europe and worldwide. LEA has established an exceptional reputation amongst its partners and is often sought after to provide its experience and knowledge. Our ability to inspire and empower environmental best practice sustains the viability of our Agency and Britain's first Environment City, Leicester, as a world leader in energy efficiency.

Some of our current projects are:

1. UK HECA Secretariat - UK HECA is an affiliation of local Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Officers. The organisation is currently on the verge of announcing its transformation into the Carbon Action Network (CAN), to coincide with Defra's expected repeal of the Act. See www.ukheca.org.uk for more information.
2. Eco n'Home: Aims to reduce energy consumption in the domestic sector. Partners from France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Italy and the UK. Further information about the project can be found on their website: www.econhome.eu.

3. "aIM 4 SMEs" (automatic intelligent metering for small and medium sized enterprises). This project builds on the existing, well established and successful intelligent metering network in Leicester, which monitors over 300, mainly public sector, buildings. Leicester is the lead partner on this project.

Home Energy Office

Leicester City Council's Home Energy Office tackles issues around fuel poverty and affordable warmth. They provide advice and assistance for private sector households through various grant funded schemes to install energy efficiency measures in the home. These schemes include Energy Sense, Health Through Warmth and Warm Front, which include home energy assessments, measures to assist those suffering from cold and damp related illnesses and help for those on low incomes to heat their homes.

The work of the Home Energy Office

Health Through Warmth – a scheme for local residents suffering from ill health and at risk from cold or damp housing conditions. A range of services is available to help these households achieve affordable warmth and reduce energy costs.

Energy Sense - provides a range of home energy services tailored to the needs of households in Leicester. These include information packs, discount cards, energy surveys, and schedules of rates for installation work.

Insulation schemes and grants - grant aid for energy efficient goods and services is available for qualifying households from nationally and locally run schemes.

Project Partners and Contact Details

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