

KIRKLEES COUNCIL DELIVERS ITS GREEN AMBITION THROUGH INNOVATIVE ENERGY MANAGEMENT

KIRKLEES
(United Kingdom)

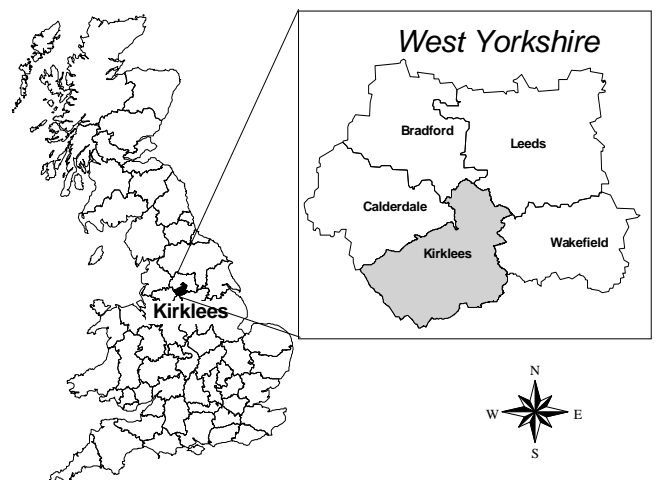
Summary

Kirklees Council has spent several years understanding its energy consumption and managing usage. While energy costs have risen, the council has controlled costs by monitoring or reducing uses and has reduced CO₂ by purchasing renewable electricity. It has led an active energy policy and delivered a number of large scale renewable energy projects across the district. Moreover, it has developed performing financing process.

Short presentation of Kirklees

Kirklees is situated in the county of West Yorkshire to the east of the Pennine hills. It is the third biggest district in the United Kingdom in area, covering 409 square kilometres and seventh district in population, with 390 000 inhabitants.

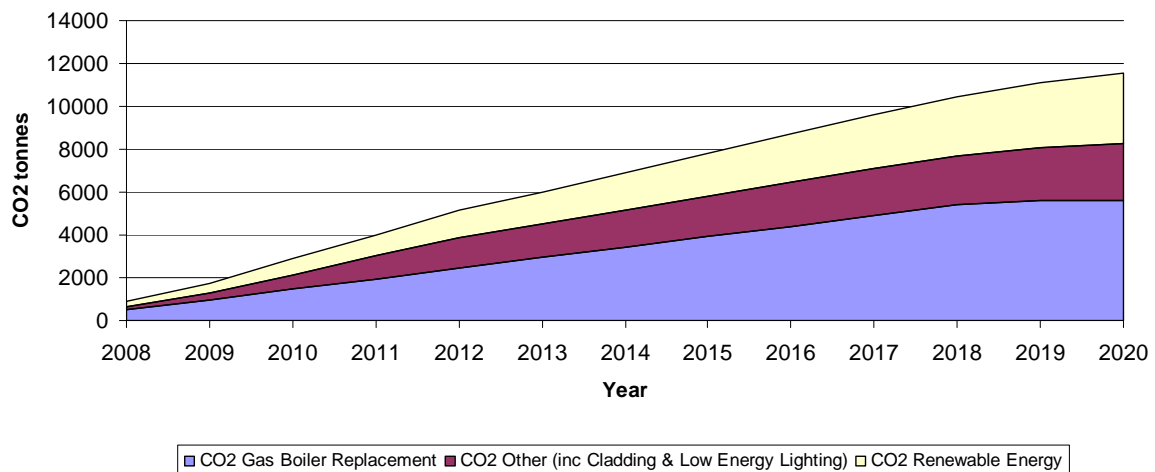
The city, although mostly rural and including part of the Peak District National Park, has a very strong industrial and manufacturing base, with many nationally important industries. Good communication links by road and by rail provide fast and efficient links to the main commercial and industrial centres of Northern England.



Sustainable energy development approach

The **Kirklees Green Ambition** is : *'to be a beacon of green living in the United Kingdom by enabling the Council to continue to place its Environment work at the forefront of action in the UK and to mainstream sustainability into decision making'*. This ambition underpins all municipal policies and activities, and is incorporated in all projects and reports. In particular, the council has set ambitious targets for the further development of renewable energy. By 2010, all new council buildings will meet 30% of their energy demand from on-site renewable energy sources. The city also aims to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by greater than 30% (via a 3% annual decrease) over the next 15 years (2005 -2020) against a 2005 baseline.

Kirklees Green Ambition - CO₂ reduction target for 2020 (Source: Kirklees Council)



To meet these commitments, two units have been formed as '**Green Ambition Board**' in the Environment, Transportation and Property Directorate to govern the Energy issues: the Energy Management Unit, who manages and maintains the energy for all council properties, and the Environment Unit, who develops green policy both internally and externally to the council. This board primarily operates on a local level with other services and other public sector partners. It also forms partnerships with similar organisations on a national and sometimes European level such as Energie-Cités, to share best practice and achieve a common goal.

How Kirklees started:

In order to make significant reductions in the emissions arising from council operations, a number of initiatives have been put in place. Energy audits were carried out for council buildings to identify issues and suggest improvements. An **Energy and Water Conservation Fund** was set up in 1998 to help finance initiatives which will save on electricity, gas and water consumption in council buildings.

In March 2002, Kirklees was the only local authority to join the newly established **UK Emissions Trading Scheme**. The council was allocated a maximum amount of CO₂ that it was allowed to emit per year. This process required an improvement in the corporate management of energy, resulting in an estimated saving of up to 5% of consumption (equating to approximately €32,000) and a reduction of 1,000 tonnes (12%) in CO₂ emissions over the five year scheme.

Current situation of Kirklees:

Kirklees Council delivers its green ambition through innovative energy management:

- Green Design Guidance : raising the environmental standards of both municipal and domestic buildings (offices, schools, shops and homes);
- Low waste and high recycling: new bin collection timetables and recycling opportunities for residents;
- Carbon reduced services: energy savings via new heating systems (biomass, solar, district heating, biofuels);
- Adaptation measures: existing working practices adapted to combat the impacts of Climate Change;
- Awareness raising campaign: several summer events for the general public with information on greener living and saving energy.

Main achievements

Kirklees Council has introduced many changes and new concepts which have impacted its energy consumptions and emissions. The following are some of the steps that have been taken:

- Kirklees Council has committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions not only from its corporate buildings but also across the district. Hence, the Council has firstly begun an **EMAS** (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certification procedure: each department has the objective of reducing the CO₂ emissions it engenders by 4% per year. Besides, the energy efficiency of the municipal buildings is monitoring through energy performance badge and 'Smart Meters'. Secondly, the council is currently delivering a **Warm Zone project** in the domestic sector between 2007-2010. This wide insulation project covers all 140,000 homes in Kirklees. Funding of unto €19m has been assigned for major low carbon technology investment up to 2012.
- A network of "Green Champions" has been formed throughout the Council in order to raise environmental awareness. These officers cascade send regularly environmental information according to several themes (energy, waste, transport, biodiversity, purchasing and water) to all staff across the Council.
- Renewable Energy Projects have been implemented, such as "Suncities". Through this European project starting in 2000, solar panels have been installed on to 268 council owned homes, two 40-bed residential care homes, four 8-bed care homes and luxury apartments. Consequently, Kirklees represents 4.9% of the total solar electricity installed in the UK, making "SunCities" the largest domestic solar project in the UK.
- Different funds have been adopted as new capital funding in order to install measures to combat carbon emissions in council buildings. The Energy and Water Conservation Fund has financed over €1,3million of improvements with a financial saving of €637,000 and over 5,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions saved.



As a result, the work on energy management has kept energy bills low within the Council and has helped achieve corporate and regional energy targets. A 34% reduction on CO₂ emissions has already been achieved in 2006 from 1990 levels. Moreover, the Council is well placed to respond to its next target of reducing emissions by a further 30% by 2020.

Suggestions for other municipalities

- Ensure political and executive support are captured to enable this area of work to move forward and meet the global targets set for a reduction in climate change emissions.
- Close the gap between potential and actual building energy use through a permanent consumption monitoring.
- Motivate communities to reduce their Carbon Footprint and change their behaviour, both at home and at work.

MODEL PARTNER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CASE STUDY

Energie-Cités

Energie-Cités is the association of European local authorities for the promotion of local sustainable energy policies. This network has over 150 members in 26 countries representing more than 1000 towns and cities. Energie-Cités builds European projects for helping its different members. Its main objectives are :

- to develop initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know-how and the organisation of joint projects,
- to allow partners to benefit from shared expertise in local energy strategies,
- to strengthen its partners' role and skills in the sphere of energy efficiency, in the promotion of renewable and decentralized energy sources and in protection of the environment,
- to influence the policies and proposals made by European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy.



Visit the web page: www.energie-cites.eu

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