

KNOWLEDGE IS MONEY! AUTOMATIC ENERGY MONITORING AND TARGETING SAVE MONEY IN LEICESTER

LEICESTER
(United Kingdom)

Summary

Leicester has a long history of action on environmental issues and has particularly focused on sustainable energy use and identifying the non-energy benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies. The municipal Energy and Climate Change Strategies set a very positive local policy framework in order to achieve high standards of energy management in new development. In addition, Leicester has engaged in national and international programmes aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions.

Nowadays, the city is recognised as Britain's first Environment City and has attained the title of European Sustainable City.



Short presentation of Leicester

Leicester is one of the largest cities in the East Midlands region of the United Kingdom and is located around 160 kilometres north of London. With a population of about 300,000, it is situated on the River Soar at the heart of the rural County of Leicestershire. It is a multi-racial city, with over a third of the population being of ethnic minority origin. Historically, industry was a major force in Leicester. Today, most activity takes place within the tertiary sector. The most important activities are: public administration, textiles, small-scale distribution, service companies, health and leisure.



Sustainable energy development approach

Leicester became the UK's first Environment City in 1990, and was invited to attend the World Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. 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.

In 2007, a **Climate Change Action Plan** was accepted by the Cabinet of Leicester City Council in order to complete the previous strategies. Leicester's Climate Change – What's Your Plan Forum, and then the Climate Change Board, were established to help drive forward this action plan. 2008 has seen the development of a **Climate Change Adaptation Plan**, making Leicester City Council a leading local authority.

The **energy management unit** is located within Leicester City Council and consists of 6 members of staff. Some of the staff are members of the UK's Energy Institute, which is an organisation set up to support people working in the energy field by providing information, newsletters, and organising events and training. Leicester City Council is one of a select group of local authorities in the UK to subscribe to EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). It is also part of the international Energy Cites network, and was vice-president in 2007.

How Leicester started:

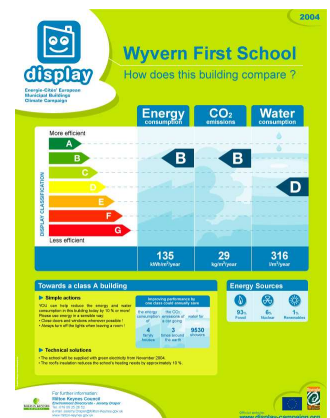


The city has been very forward thinking in identifying the non-energy benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies. In the 1970's Leicester has built low energy houses and incorporated passive solar heating into some buildings. In the 1980's, Leicester was a lead city for the development of combined heat and power. In 1990s, Leicester City Council produced its Energy Strategy. This was a result of several years work funded from a variety of different sources, to quantify the benefits of reducing energy and identify identified the actions to assist in meeting the CO₂ reduction targets in the city.

Current situation of Leicester:

As part of both strategies, Leicester has taken actions in many areas such as Combined Heat and Power, energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy, municipal energy management, education and training and transportation. Municipal 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, participation to the Display campaign and promotion of Fair Trade produce.

Leicester City signed up the Covenant of Mayors on 13th January 2009, committing itself to go beyond the objectives of the EU energy policy in terms of CO₂ saving through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.



Main achievements

In 2005, Leicester City Council was awarded Beacon Status for Sustainable Energy, giving the city national recognition for the excellent progress we have made.

By 2006 the Council had reduced its overall emissions by an estimated 25%, based on 1990 levels.

Other key achievements made to date include: Energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses 280 sites with Intelligent Metering (gas, electricity and/or water), adoption of Leycroft Road Travel Plan, implementation of the City Combined Heat and Power (CHP) scheme and the Car-sharing scheme etc.

Suggestions for other municipalities

- Make sure that climate change is addressed at the highest level of policy making and that politicians attend any events you hold.
- Make use of existing Forums and networks to share best practice and ideas, and avoid duplication of work.
- Create a common brand or logo that is easily identifiable and that will enable everyone to work collectively under a common umbrella to tackle climate change.
- Develop an effective, targeted marketing campaign - talk to local media and get them on board
- Don't use jargon and negative language to describe climate change. Research has shown that people respond better to positive messages that empower local action.
- Identify achievable projects that deliver real savings in greenhouse gas emissions, and set up auditable methods of measuring, monitoring and evaluating results.
- Focus on changing attitudes to climate change as well as promoting pro-environmental behaviour.
- Look for innovative ways of sourcing energy requirements from locally produced renewable energy. Leicester, for example, has a district heating scheme, and small-scale wind turbines.
- Ensure that new developments are built to high standards of energy efficiency.
- Establish an Energy Services Company (ESCo) to supply heat and power.

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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