

Coventry City Council

Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy

Scope

This policy covers energy and water use in the City Council's operational buildings, street lighting and transport fleet. It sets out a framework for the management of energy, water and carbon including the setting of targets against which performance will be measured.

Statement of Commitment

The City Council is committed to the responsible use and procurement of energy and water in all its activities and will promote the use and development of appropriate sources of renewable energy.

The City Council recognises that it has a responsibility to continually reduce consumption and carbon emissions not only in its own buildings, public lighting and transport, but also in the wider community of Coventry through its influence and example.

The City Council is committed to providing the necessary resources and making available information to enable our energy, water and carbon reduction objectives to be achieved.

The City Council's Carbon Management Plan (CMP) sets out the energy and carbon reduction objectives, and details specific projects that are to be undertaken in order to meet the targets. The CMP and its objectives and targets are reviewed by the Carbon Management Board at least annually. A report detailing progress in meeting these objectives, the City Council's energy usage and carbon emissions will be published to support the review.

There are internal policies and external legislative drivers that will influence the actions to reduce consumption over the next 5-10 years. It is anticipated that over the next few years existing legislation will be tightened and new legislation introduced to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. The City Council is committed to comply with applicable legal and other requirements related to energy use, consumption and efficiency.

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To deliver on our commitments we will

- ensure that all operational buildings are properly and adequately metered and that regular readings are taken
- ensure that we hold reliable, up-to-date information on the performance, efficiency and running costs of property portfolio and seek to address costs which are above average
- monitor cost and consumption and develop effective performance feedback and communication systems
- maintain a behavioural change campaign to encourage employees to conserve energy and resources
- survey and rate our buildings for energy efficiency in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and seek to carry out improvements to reduce carbon dioxide emissions based on sound business case assessments
- aim to avoid or minimise the cost to the City Council of any current or future tax or levies related to energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.
- make carbon and carbon mitigation key considerations within all future City Council committee reports and decision making
- develop sources of finance and partnership working, in order to increase investment to reduce energy and carbon
- ensure that property investment proposals involve the more formal use of business cases with clear benefit assessments, carbon assessment & mitigation strategies, and whole life costing
- use Whole Life Cost and Life Cycle Analysis as standard methodologies for assessing and supporting major procurement decisions. Major procurement decisions being those related to works on buildings with a floor space greater than 500m² or an expenditure of greater than £1 million.
- aim to achieve the BREEAM excellent rating for all new buildings and major refurbishments and achieve the highest category of energy performance rating
- explore the potential for developing our own renewable sources of energy, such as biomass, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic and any other appropriate technologies
- aim to increase energy security by diversification away from fossil fuels