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## tackling climate change

After implementing a Climate Change Action Plan, Aberdeen City Council has seen substantial benefits – both environmentally and financially...

**A**berdeen City has a population of around 203,000 and is leading the City in tackling climate change. In October 2002, the Council became the first Scottish local authority to publish a Climate Change Action Plan. At this time we also started work with The Carbon Trust and developed a Carbon Management Plan, which set targets for the council to reduce carbon by 10 per cent by 2010 and 15 per cent by 2015 against a 2002/03 baseline.

The plan details the practical measures the City is implementing to help reduce the process of climate change and adapt for it. Within Aberdeen City Council, a dedicated Energy Management Team has rolled out an energy savings programme to all council public buildings.

### COST REDUCTIONS

To date a contract programme with Energy Savers for insulation of schools and public buildings has been installed in over 57 properties, this has resulted in savings of over £100,000 on heating bills since work started in June 2005. The process has helped to save energy and reduce maintenance by eliminating draughts, heat loss and noise problems. Other basic measures such as insulation of exposed pipes and valves in boiler houses has resulted in savings of over £11,000 per annum with a payback of only two years.

A lamp replacement programme to the Town House in Aberdeen has seen the replacement of around 500 tungsten lamps with low energy lamps. Savings of over £5,500 per year have been achieved and the project has a payback of only eight months.

In other buildings boiler controls have been installed to reduce boiler run time and

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improve efficiency, this has resulted in savings of over £8,000 and has paid back in less than two years.

As fuel costs continue to rise, the city council have made a conscious decision to invest in renewable energy, the contract for the supply of electricity to all council buildings specifies that 100 per cent of the electricity has been generated from new renewable sources such as wind and hydro-power.

In May 2005 a project to heat the swimming pool at a large secondary school in Aberdeen using solar thermal heating was completed. Savings of around 15 per cent have been achieved and as a result two further projects to install solar water heating in social care properties is currently underway.

### VALUABLE RESOURCE

We have also thought about water. Water is a valuable natural resource and we have developed a programme to review water use in council properties and carry out water saving measures implemented as a result. In the past five years a number of instantaneous hot water boilers have been installed as well as water saving devices such as urinal controls, in some cases waterless urinals and

presence detection to lighting. A meter rightsizing and leak detection project has also been carried out and has resulted in substantial savings for the council.

To ensure that all new and refurbished buildings are sustainable, the council has developed a Sustainable Construction Policy, this ensures that when we are carrying out any work we consider all factors including the life cycle of the project and not just the capital costs.

### SETTING THE STANDARD

The council has a number of roles to play, first as a community leader by raising awareness, encouraging and co-ordinating action across communities and organisations. But second, and just as important, as a major organisation and consumer of resources itself. Aberdeen City Council is the biggest employer in the area. As a community leader the council should lead by example, setting the standard for other local organisations to follow. □

### ► FOR MORE INFORMATION

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