

## Energy update

### CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme

The CRC is a mandatory emissions trading scheme and requires qualifying participants to purchase allowances to cover their actual carbon emissions each year. It imposes legal obligations on approximately 4,000 private and public sector organisations throughout the UK, including schools and local authorities.

Money in the scheme will be recycled to participants, but the amount they receive may be more or less than the cost of allowances purchased. This recycling payment is dependant on each participant's effectiveness at reducing their energy use (measured against others in the scheme).

***Local Authorities will be responsible for the energy use emissions for most schools in their area. As a result, these schools will have legal and administrative responsibilities within the CRC. Lincolnshire County Council is registering on behalf of its schools.***

About 60% of the councils' CRC emissions come from schools and schools' performance in terms of energy consumption has a significant impact not only on the league table position and its financial impact, but also the ability to forecast emissions for carbon allowance purchasing if access to consumption data is hard to come by.

### Automated Meter Reading

(AMR – often referred to as smart metering) is the term used to describe the use of a device that remotely collects meter readings, normally from electricity and gas meters. It allows meters to be read accurately and more frequently and these readings can be provided to both suppliers and consumers.

If the information is used appropriately it can result in savings of 5-12% (Carbon Trust pilot).

As part of its energy policy, LCC is in the process of implementing AMR in its buildings and schools. This provides some benefit to an organisation's position in the CRC league table (see above).

At its June meeting the Lincolnshire Schools Forum supported the implementation of AMR. Schools affected will be contacted in due course.

### Clean Energy Cashback scheme (feed in tariffs)

In April this year the Government introduced a new scheme to incentivise the installation of what is called microgeneration (generating electricity on a small scale at individual premises, schools, etc).

Given the incentives now on offer you may find there are firms coming to you with a variety of offers. The County Council is supportive of schools installing microgeneration but, as with all things in life, it is not straightforward and you should understand the full implications of any decisions. We are examining a number of ways in which we could support schools in getting greatest benefit out of the scheme and will report to the Schools Forum and others as soon as possible.

In the meantime I commend the attached note prepared by Centre for Sustainable Energy. We would be happy to help any school interested in looking at proposals that come to them and in knowing of any schools that have already taken up opportunities for microgeneration. Information will be put on George that schools can access.

### **Support and advice**

If you want advice on any of the above, or to let us know what you have done/are doing please contact the Sustainability & climate change team [sustainability@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@lincolnshire.gov.uk) (01522 554595)

The authority has a revolving fund to assist investment in energy efficiency. For more information see the Guide.