

Open Report on behalf of Director for Communities

Report to:	Schools' Forum
Date:	23 January 2013
Subject:	Energy and Sustainability update

Summary:

This report updates on activity supporting schools to reduce energy use, bills and in meeting council obligations and commitments. Updates are provided on:

- The SCoRE programme
- Automatic metering
- Changes to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme with particular reference to schools

Recommendation(s):

That the information is noted by Schools Forum

Background

- 1.1 Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) spends around £11 million annually on electricity, gas and oil. £8.2m (75%) of this energy usage is associated with buildings. Of this £2.84m can be attributed to energy use in council buildings and £5.26m in schools.
- 1.2 The county council has a number of high level commitments relating to climate change, carbon management and environmental performance.
 - Signed Climate Local in September 2012
 - Carbon management plan is currently being reviewed for approval by Executive Council in February 2013The scope of these commitments includes schools
- 1.3 The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a mandatory emissions allowance scheme that aims to improve energy efficiency and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted in the UK. From April 2010 organisations meeting the criteria (Lincolnshire County Council does) have been obliged to participate and have to monitor emissions and purchase allowances on an annual basis (£12 per tonne in the first phase).

Emissions from state funded schools in Great Britain are currently included in the scheme through their local authority and this includes all academies and foundation schools.

- 1.4 Government has recently responded to their consultation on simplifying the CRC scheme, the details are reported below.
- 1.5 Attention is drawn to the following strands of action that support schools in reducing energy consumption and bills.
- 2 **Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency (SCoRE)** – The SCoRE programme is now being rolled out across the county. The first 30 schools have signed up from clusters in Gainsborough, Lincoln and Boston (Appendix A). They begin the active phase of work this spring term, which includes a building audit and action planning before implementing quick win actions immediately after the half-term break. The second wave of clusters is soon to be recruited most likely from Lincoln, Alford, Spalding, Stamford and Market Deeping.
- 2.1 Two SCoRE officers are employed by Keep Britain Tidy and seconded to the county council. They work full time on recruiting, training and supporting Lincolnshire schools with the elements of the SCoRE programme.
- 2.2 There are three strands to the programme
- Behavioural and low cost savings
 - Strategic investment in boiler room improvements
 - Supporting investment in proven technologies
- Each strand has the potential to deliver ~10% savings on energy consumption and spend. Schools need to remain committed with energy consumption high on their agenda to maintain these potential savings long-term as direct support from their SCoRE officer is withdrawn. There is confidence that 20% reductions can be maintained with investment of appropriate technologies and improved energy management behaviour in the school.
- 2.3 SCoRE is funded through the DSG underspend and therefore available to all schools, including academies. The programme works with geographic clusters centred on a secondary and their key feeder primaries. Students are essential to delivering the programme. Consideration has been given to how the programme can be modified for special schools, although none have yet been recruited.
- 2.4 The procurement process for boiler optimisation and boiler room insulation is well underway, PQQs will be issued soon. It is hoped that installations will begin before the end of the academic year.
- 2.5 It has been agreed that LCC School Loans are utilised for further investment in proven technologies. The interest will be subsidised by the DSG underspend, effectively making the loan interest free to the school. A similar process for investment in academies is still being explored.

- 3 **Automatic metering, monitoring and targeting** – 99.9% of suitable schools have had gas and electricity meters installed (only Grimoldby Primary School [e] and Sutton on Sea Primary School [g] are outstanding).
- 3.1 Once all outstanding sites are completed, the data will be uploaded and the system will go live. It is proposed that schools receive energy reports monthly.
- 4 **Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC)** – A consultation to revise and simplify the CRC has recently concluded with a response from government (Appendix B). “Government will withdraw all state funded schools in England from CRC participation and implement alternative robust measures that will incentivise and support schools to obtain both energy cost and emission savings.”
- 4.1 These proposals will not be introduced until the beginning of the next phase, which starts on April 1st 2014.

Conclusion

SCoRE is continuing to progress as planned; further reports will be given to Schools Forum throughout the programme. This is a rapidly changing field and further updates will be provided as necessary.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	SCoRE spring newsletter
Appendix B	Excerpt from government response to CRC simplification consultation

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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